



## **Interagency Council on Substance Abuse & Prevention**

### **Interagency Council on Substance Abuse and Prevention (ICSAP) Accomplishments**

Massachusetts is among leading states in its efforts to treat and prevent alcoholism and illegal and non-prescription drug abuse. Several of the Commonwealth's programs including recovery high schools, screening and brief intervention in medical settings, and opioid overdose prevention education and Narcan distribution have been highlighted in the National Drug Control Strategy promulgated by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Achievements under Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray's leadership as Chair of the Interagency Council on Substance Abuse and Prevention:

1. In July 2010 the ICSAP issued an update to its five-year Substance Abuse Strategic Plan. The Council sought input from stakeholders across the Commonwealth through an extensive engagement process.
2. With the administration's leadership the Commonwealth's Prescription monitoring program was enhanced by legislation twice in 2010 and 2012, mandating education of prescribers and enrollment in order to decrease "doctor shopping" and prescription abuse and foster timely reporting and new patient drug history review.
3. Legislation signed by Governor Patrick in 2012 made it easier to prescribe Naloxone, also know as Narcan, an opiate overdose antidote, to a person at risk of opiate overdose or a family member or friend. This legislation also protects bystanders from criminal prosecution for possession because they remain at the scene of an opiate overdose.
4. The Administration launched a groundbreaking pilot program to distribute nasal Narcan and educate on opiate overdose prevention in fifteen high-use communities. This program has saved over 1900 lives since its inception.
5. The Commonwealth has supported and fostered the growth of the four Recovery High Schools in Beverly, Boston and Springfield and the newest, Independence Academy in Brockton, which opened in January of 2012.

6. The commitment period for those who present a danger to themselves or others by virtue of their alcohol and drug use has been expanded from 30 days to 90 days with significant additional resources allocated for continued treatment.
7. Lieutenant Governor Murray has been a leader in the effort to prevent underage drinking, keynoting State House events, writing editorials, and producing videos to educate parents and teens of the dangers of underage drinking and drug abuse.
8. Funding to communities to implement local responses to fatal and non-fatal opioid overdoses has been expanded and is now being regionalized.
9. With expanded funding the Department of Public Health Bureau of Substance Abuse Services has increased access to crucial substance abuse treatment programs including detox and post-detox services, long-term residential and recovery support services and medication assisted treatment.
10. In cooperation with the U. S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration the Administration has collaborated to host semiannual local Drug Take Back events when residents can safely dispose of expired or unused medications lowering the prospect of diversion. Also, in cooperation with several District Attorneys and local prevention coalitions, numerous permanent drug disposal kiosks have been installed throughout the state in local police stations.

## **Action Steps for 2013 – 2014**

- Monitor and foster progress on the FY 2011 – FY 2016 Substance Abuse Strategic Plan.
- Coordinate with the Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness on reducing substance abuse, particularly opiate abuse, among those who are homeless.
- Continue to work with the Steering Committee on Statewide Drug Court Enhancement to expand drug court programs, disseminate best practices and coordinate data collection.
- In partnership with the Department of Corrections, the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and Houses of Correction, enhance services for reentering citizens.
- Expand the availability of Narcan and opiate overdose prevention.
- Continue to collaborate with the Department of Public Health on the implementation of regulations regarding Registered Marijuana Dispensaries to minimize diversion and promote prevention.
- Collaborate with partner agencies to maximize federal grants.
- Increase coordination and care among existing programs that provide treatment and prevention services for opioid abuse especially in high need communities across the state.
- Expand the availability of trauma-informed care.
- Cooperate with the Task Force on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder to enhance education, treatment and services.
- Expand the use of Town Hall meetings to promote underage drinking prevention.
- Advocate for the inclusion of peer-provided substance abuse services in primary care.
- In partnership with the Department of Veterans' Services, expand substance abuse programs for veterans.
- Continue to work with the City of Worcester to explore the feasibility of establishing a recovery school program to serve students in Central Massachusetts, a region currently underserved by the state's four existing recovery school programs.
- Celebrate success!