

Date: August 22, 2011

To: Governor's Prevention Advisory Council (GPAC)

From: SPF SIG Work Group Recommendation to GPAC

RE: Recommended Strategic Focus Area for the SPF SIG grant:
Underage and Excessive Youth Drinking

REVISED

Background:

The Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) received a Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG) Cooperative Agreement grant for \$1.94 million from SAMHSA on October 4, 2010. At its February 24, 2011 meeting, the Governor's Prevention Advisory Council (GPAC) agreed to serve as the Advisory Council for the SPF-SIG. The Council will be involved in every aspect of the implementation of the grant. A workgroup was established to work collaboratively with the State Epidemiological Workgroup (SEW) to carry out SPF SIG objectives.

Recommendation:

After a review of available data, the SPF SIG Workgroup recommends that the strategic focus area for the SPF SIG grant be **underage and excessive youth drinking addressing youth ages 12-25.**

Rationale:

The SPF SIG workgroup met on June 16, 2011 to hear presentations from both the SEW and the Pacific Institute of Research Evaluation's, Prevention Research Center (PRC), the SPF SIG statewide implementation subrecipient. Along with input from ADP staff, these presentations and the discussions that followed served as the basis for the current recommendation.

Steve Wirtz Ph.D. and Stephen Bright, Ph.D. presented a brief history of ADP's efforts to build an ongoing alcohol and other drug (AOD) surveillance system to monitor trends and patterns of alcohol and other drug consumption and consequences. They also presented data from the most recent California Needs Assessment Report (CNAR, September 2010) (Power Point presentation attached). This report includes the following:

- Summary of statewide AOD consumption and consequences data based on the previous statewide Epidemiological Profiles
- Baseline data against which progress and outcomes for the SPF SIG can be measured
- Assessment of state assets and resources
- Identification of gaps in services and capacity
- Assessment of the continuum of need
- Identification of eleven priority need areas

The CNAR report documents the consistent finding that alcohol remains the primary substance of choice in California for both youth and adults and is related to substantial social, health, criminal justice and economic consequences. Risky and excessive drinking starts early among underage youth and peaks in the young adult age group 21-25.

Finally, workgroup reviewed ADP's department wide strategic planning process. Under the guidance of the Statewide Needs Assessment and Planning Unit, ADP undertook a systematic, data-informed prioritization process that identified three equal department-wide priorities for the current three-year strategic planning cycle: 1) Prepare ADP for implementation of Health Care Reform; 2) Sustain and expand implementation of early intervention strategies (e.g. SBIRT); and 3) Expand implementation and funding of evidence-based primary prevention strategies (e.g., focus on SFP SIG). The prioritization process and criteria were based on published research. ADP also expanded the role of outside partners during this process by involving the County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrators' Association of California (CADPAAC) whose members participated in the selection of the priorities.

Dr. Robert Saltz, Pacific Research Center, presented a summary of the research literature on how to address underage and excessive drinking problems at the community and policy levels (See Attachment). He highlighted the challenges of translating research findings into practice and proposed a strategic approach for helping communities jump start their planning processes to move more quickly to community action.

After discussion, the SPF SIG Work Group was guided by the same prioritization framework used by both GPAC and ADP in their strategic planning processes to make its decision. This led to the current recommendation to GPAC that the SPF SIG efforts should focus its limited resources on a single target substance, i.e., alcohol as the most prominent drug of choice with the broadest and most harmful societal impacts, and use a more prescriptive approach to select and guide communities toward environmental and policy strategies to address underage and excessive youth drinking. This was seen as the most likely way to produce effective programs and meaningful outcomes.