

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
REPORT ON INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION ON
SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES**

(Per Section 423 of Public Act 60 of 2001)

March 14, 2003

During FY 03, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) has worked collaboratively with the Family Independence Agency (FIA), the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC), Michigan State Police (MSP), Michigan Department of Education (MDE), Military and Veterans Affairs (MVA) and Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services (CIS). These collaborative efforts are intended to coordinate and improve the delivery of substance abuse prevention, education and treatment programs. Below is a listing of projects where cooperation between state agencies is substantial.

Child Welfare/Substance Abuse Task Force

Through a collaborative effort with FIA and SCAO, MDCH continues to participate in the Child Welfare/Substance Abuse Task Force. This is an interagency effort aimed at identifying and addressing substance abuse issues within the child welfare system. The Task Force issued recommendations that included piloting family drug courts, training for child welfare workers, interaction with multi-purpose collaborative bodies and piloting protocols for referrals from child welfare workers to local substance abuse coordinating agencies. Activities that have taken place include:

- Providing assistance for two educational community forums held in Lansing for Ingham County and Grayling for Crawford, Otsego and Kalkaska Counties. Over 150 local FIA, court, school and treatment staff participated in the forums.
- Collaborating with FIA in the presentation of a training on Women and Substance Abuse. Seventy-five court staff, FIA workers, substance abuse treatment staff, educators and substance abuse coordinating agency staff attended the training.
- Planning for a spring conference with FIA to be held in May 2003 with Nancy Young from Children and Family Futures in Irvine, California who will speak on cross-system collaboration.
- Bi-annual meetings of the Task Force are held to inform the original group on the progress of the State Work Team in implementing the task force recommendations.

Substance Abuse Treatment for Prisoners, Probationers and Parolees

MDCH continues to collaborate with MDOC for the provision of substance abuse testing and treatment services to persons in the criminal justice system. MDCH and MDOC staffs convene quarterly meetings for the purpose of identifying and addressing issues related to treatment services.

MDCH invited MDOC staff to a stakeholders meeting with the Great Lakes Addiction Technology Transfer Center (GLATTC). The purpose of the meeting was to determine training needs for the State of Michigan.

Michigan Alcohol Forum

In FY 03, MSP, MDCH, SCAO, MDOC, Secretary of State and other agencies served on the steering committee for planning and implementing the Michigan Alcohol Forum that was held on November 6, 2001. The forum, funded by MSP, was designed to investigate Michigan's current status in addressing impaired driving. Three areas were investigated in depth. The areas included youth alcohol issues, treatment issues and alcohol server issues.

The Treatment Workgroup, which includes MDCH substance abuse staff, has been working with the Michigan Association of Substance Abuse Coordinating Agencies to address improving collaboration and communication between treatment services and courts.

Michigan's Impaired Driving Interagency Workgroup

MDCH, MSP, MDOC, MDE, Secretary of State, FIA and other agencies participate in the Impaired Driving Interagency Workgroup. In addition, a subcommittee of that group serves as a workgroup addressing issues for repeat (drunk driving) offenders. This group has been instrumental in many initiatives that have reduced the number of drunk driving fatalities in Michigan.

Substance Abuse Licensing

MDCH and CIS continue to collaborate on joint substance abuse licensing issues. A formal reporting system is used to ensure continued client care as providers move or close. CIS continues to provide assistance in training substance abuse professionals on recipient rights.

Prevention Network

MDCH and MSP work together to fund Prevention Network (PN). Through these funding sources PN is able to build capacity for prevention at the local level by working with groups to form and strengthen coalitions. PN provides technical assistance, training and materials to community groups. They use state funding to provide grants to

community groups for a broad range of prevention activities. PN has a campus coordinator that oversees the development of a coalition to strengthen prevention efforts at the post-secondary level. This position also oversees the Campus Connections social mentoring project that helps high school seniors make the transition to college without the use of drugs or alcohol.

Methamphetamine Forum/Workgroup

A group of over 100 leaders from around the state met on March 12, 2002 to develop a strategy to combat methamphetamine in Michigan. Led by the MDCH Office of Drug Control Policy, the group included representatives from the MSP, MDCH, FIA, SCAO, Attorney General's Office, US Attorney's Office, multi-jurisdictional drug teams, SEM HIDTA (Southeast Michigan High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area), prosecutors, sheriffs, local police chiefs, education officials and others. The attendees were placed in six workgroups to work on the following topics: media, prevention/treatment, law enforcement, prosecution/judicial, retailers/commercial and environmental. Input from the workgroups is being used to develop a statewide strategy to stem the tide of methamphetamine in Michigan. Workgroups have continued to meet to refine and implement the strategy.

State Incentive Grant

In September of 2002, the MDCH - ODCP was notified that Michigan would be receiving a State Incentive Grant (SIG). The purpose of the SIG is to strengthen the prevention infrastructure and improve the level and quality of services. The grant totals \$9 million over three years. Part of the implementation of the SIG is developing a SIG advisory board which includes many departments and agencies. The SIG Advisory Board began meeting in December of 2002.

Drug Treatment Courts

In FY 02 a first time collaboration developed around the drug treatment court issue. MDCH, FIA and SCAO pooled resources to ensure that effective drug courts received the funding needed to assist drug-using offenders in breaking the cycle of drug abuse. Funds provided will allow for the expansion of the drug court concept in Michigan and will also allow the existing courts to provide services to additional offenders. Collaboration on drug courts has expanded to include the Michigan Department of Corrections. Drug court expansion in FY03 will focus on offenders that are "straddle cell" offenders that could potentially be prison bound. In focusing on this population, the need for prison beds will be reduced.