

**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, 2002**

During FY 02, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) has worked collaboratively with the Family Independence Agency (FIA), State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC), Michigan State Police (MSP), Michigan Department of Education (MDE), Military and Veterans Affairs 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 partial listing of projects where the 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 the multi-purpose collaborative bodies and piloting protocols for referrals from child welfare workers to local substance abuse coordinating agencies. Recommendations that have been implemented include:

- Providing substance abuse access and treatment workshops in conjunction with community forums in FIA regional offices in Iron Mountain, Houghton, Sault Saint Marie, Charlotte, Owosso, Hastings and Howell. Similar trainings were also held for district court personnel in Eaton and Oakland Counties. Over 185 local FIA, court and substance abuse treatment staff participated in the workshops.
- Collaborating with the State Court Administrative Office in planning Family Drug Court training for judges, court administrators, substance abuse coordinating agencies, substance abuse providers, and FIA workers.

Substance Abuse Prevention Services for Needy Children

MDCH and FIA have worked together to plan and implement a mechanism to provide substance abuse prevention services to children within the FIA and Family Drug Court systems. Children within the FIA system are at great risk for substance abuse.

FIA/BJJ “Going Home” Project

MDCH staff is participating in a workgroup that will be developing a grant application to the Bureau of Juvenile Justice. The grant entitled: *Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative “Going Home,”* would provide funding for the provision of effective reintegration services for serious and violent offenders participating in reentry programs. The reentry project will include substance abuse prevention, education and treatment components as well as other services intended to reduce recidivism of juvenile offenders.

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.

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. For FY02, MDCH has implemented an interdepartmental agreement with MDOC. During the first quarter of FY 02, fifty-three (53) prisoners, two hundred fifteen (215) parolees and forty five (45) probationers received substance abuse treatment services. MDCH and MDOC staff continue to convene quarterly meetings for the purpose of identifying and addressing issues related to treatment services funded by the agreement.

MDCH also collaborates with MDOC to provide residential substance abuse treatment (RSAT) for prisoners through the USDOJ – RSAT grant program. These grant funds allow prisoners to receive substance abuse treatment prior to release.

Michigan Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking (MCRUD)

Many agencies work together to support the Michigan Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking (MCRUD). MCRUD is a network of 101 local, regional and statewide organizations engaged in the prevention of underage drinking. MSP and MDCH provide funds to support the MCRUD coalition. In addition, MDCH also contributes funding from the U.S. Department of Education, Title IV Safe and Drug Free Schools program for the provision of grants to individual MCRUD coalitions and community groups. In FY 2001, thirty-two MCRUD grant projects were funded statewide.

Additional Underage Drinking Projects

Working together, MSP, FIA, MDE and MDCH applied for grant funds from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to address underage drinking prevention. As a result of this ongoing collaboration, funds are available for improved law enforcement, judicial and prosecutor training. These funds also support public information and education campaigns aimed at reducing underage drinking.

Michigan Resource Center

MDCH and MSP also jointly fund the Michigan Resource Center (MRC) which serves as the State's primary clearinghouse and distribution center for alcohol, tobacco, and other drug materials, as well as highway safety information. These materials target businesses, community groups, churches, health professionals, law enforcement agencies, traffic safety programs, treatment providers, volunteers and all other Michigan citizens. In FY 2001, MRC distributed 3,159,429 printed materials and 1,184 videos. Materials were also displayed and distributed at 103 conferences throughout the state during this period. During the first quarter of FY 02, MRC distributed over 500,000 substance abuse and traffic safety materials.

Michigan Alcohol Forum

In FY 02, 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. Currently, there are workgroups charged with implementing the plan of action developed at the forum.

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 program issues. A formal reporting system is functioning to ensure continued client care as providers move or close. CIS continues to provide assistance in training substance abuse professionals on recipient rights. A recipient rights workshop was held in November 2001 and another is planned for July 2002.

Michigan Model for Comprehensive School Health

A state steering committee comprised of representatives from MDCH, MDE, FIA, MSP and the Comprehensive School Health Coordinator's Association oversees the development and delivery of curriculum for the Michigan Model. The Michigan Model has been designated as a promising program by the USDOE Expert Panel for Safe and Drug Free Schools. It is taught to over one million students in Michigan and in many other states and countries. In FY 02, funding for the Michigan Model is a collaborative effort between MDCH and MDE.

Student Surveys on Substance Abuse Issues

A subgroup of the Michigan Model Steering Committee coordinates the surveying of students in Michigan schools. This group looks at the need for survey information and coordinates the timing and content to reduce the burden on school districts and students. In recent years, MDCH and MDE have collaborated to combine the Western Michigan ATOD data collection with that of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). The YRBS for high school students is given on alternate years from the YRBS for middle school students. The Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) was also coordinated with the YRBS to reduce the survey burden on school districts.

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

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.