



Georgia Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Initiative

Abstract

The *Georgia Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Initiative* of The Council on Alcohol and Drugs (TCAD) is focusing on four priority areas (see below) to prevent prescription drug abuse in Georgia. These four areas have been identified in the Office of National Drug Control Policy's (ONDCP's) *Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan (EPIDEMIC: RESPONDING TO AMERICA'S PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE CRISIS, ONDCP, 2011)*. The Initiative will take action on the tasks listed below. TCAD will be working in collaboration with the Medical Association of Georgia Foundation's *Think About It Campaign*.

One of these tasks involves the formation of a statewide collaborative whose purpose will be to work on collaborative-related tasks (see reverse side) of the Initiative as set out by the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities/Division of Addictive Diseases/Office of Prevention Services and Programs (DBHDD/DAD/OPSP). DBHDD is providing funding for this Initiative via a contract to The Council on Alcohol and Drugs.

Four Priority Areas

- **Education.** A crucial first step in tackling the problem of prescription drug abuse is to educate parents, youth, and patients about the dangers of abusing prescription drugs while requiring prescribers to receive education on the appropriate and safe use, and proper storage and disposal of prescription drugs.
- **Monitoring.** Be a catalyst for the implementation of Georgia's prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP). Such education would include the rationale for an enhanced Patient Safety Act wherein Georgia could share data with other states and would be successfully utilized by Georgia's healthcare providers.
- **Proper Medication Disposal.** Encourage more convenient, environmentally responsible model prescription drug disposal programs in Georgia to help decrease the supply of unused prescription drugs in the home.
- **Enforcement.** Collaborate with law enforcement in Georgia to help provide it with the tools necessary to eliminate improper prescribing practices, stop "pill mills," "doctor shoppers" and drug-seeking behavior.

Please continue reading on the reverse side.

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Collaborative-Related Tasks

Year 01 (October 1, 2011 – September 30, 2012)

Education:

1. Provide training and technical assistance to a variety of populations around prescription drug abuse prevention on community, regional and statewide levels.
2. Work with preventionists, the medical community, community leaders, business leaders, youth, and others to provide various perspectives regarding prescription drug abuse awareness and education.
3. Develop and launch a statewide, multimedia campaign to educate parents, youth, and the general population about the dangers of abusing prescription drugs, including the importance of proper storage and disposal of prescription and over the counter drugs.

Monitoring:

4. Support policy education as a catalyst for successful implementation of Georgia's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), the Patient Safety Act (SB 36).

Disposal:

5. Work with the law enforcement, the business and medical communities and others to develop proper medication disposal procedures.

Enforcement:

6. Work with law enforcement, community leaders, and the medical community to help provide necessary tools to eliminate improper prescribing practices including activities involving "pill mills," "doctor shopping" and the like.

**Funded by the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities,
Division of Addictive Diseases, Office of Prevention Services and Programs**

