



A MATTER OF SUBSTANCE: At-a-Glance

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DIVISION QUICK FACTS

Recovery Peer Coaching: Last month, 30 Access to Recovery (ATR) contractors participated in a week-long training to become Recovery Peer Coaches. Through an ATR technical assistance request, SAMHSA and its contractor, Altarum, funded the Connecticut Communities for Addiction Recovery (CCAR) to conduct training in Iowa. This is the first time CCAR, an organization operated by and for recovering persons, has provided this training on-site for an ATR grantee. By completing the training, participants became qualified to provide ATR Recovery Peer Coaching at their agencies. Ten of the training participants also attended an additional 1.5 day Training of Trainers, making these individuals qualified to train others in Recovery Peer Coaching. For more information, contact Kevin Gabbert at kgabbert@idph.state.ia.us or at 515/281-7080.

Jail Based Treatment: IDPH will receive an 8th year of funding for the Jail-Based Substance Abuse Treatment (J-BT) project. Iowa receives this funding from the Department of Justice through the efforts of Senators Chuck Grassley and Tom Harkin. Over the last seven years, J-BT in Polk, Scott, Story and Woodbury Counties has provided offenders with in-jail and in the community treatment. The project's treatment providers — United Community Services, Des Moines, Center for Alcohol and Drug Services, Davenport, Community and Family Resources, Ames, and Jackson Recovery, Sioux City — use proven therapeutic strategies to reduce both substance abuse and criminal behavior. The positive impact of J-BT was clear when Gil Kerlikowske, director of the National Office of Drug Control Policy, toured the Polk County Jail program in November and talked directly with participating offenders. The Iowa Consortium for Substance Abuse Research and Evaluation will continue to evaluate J-BT, which has demonstrated both clinical and cost effectiveness. For more information, contact Lonnie Cleland at lcleland@idph.state.ia.us or at 515/281-3763.

Substance Abuse and Child Welfare: In 2008, the Iowa Legislature passed House File 2310, directing IDPH and the Department of Human Services (DHS) to identify effective means of reducing child abuse related to parent/guardian substance use. IDPH, DHS, and a statewide stakeholders group, working through a larger family drug court project with the Iowa Judicial Branch, conducted an initial pilot in Scott and Wapello counties of shared protocols for families in both the substance abuse and child welfare systems. Some of the protocols included:

- In child abuse assessments, DHS caseworkers screened children and family members for substance abuse and assessed future maltreatment probability. During medical exams for children going to out-of-home placements, doctors used a Physician Screening to identify possible substance use problems. Those who screened positive were referred to substance abuse treatment programs for full evaluation.
- In routine substance abuse evaluations, treatment program staff asked about children residing in the home and identified client involvement with DHS and/or court services.
- A Multi-Party Release of Information Form was used to facilitate communication across all involved agencies.

A report will be delivered to the Legislature this month, including a recommendation to expand effective protocols to other areas of the state. For more information, contact Michele Tilotta at mtilotta@idph.state.ia.us or at 515/281-4816.

Director's Corner: I was planning to write about healthcare reform and how to connect our Recovery-Oriented System of Care model with the Medical Home concept and Federally Qualified Behavioral Health Centers, etc. — a lot of policy talk! However, since this is the last newsletter for 2009, I will save the policy stuff for 2010 and, instead, extend best wishes to you for the holidays and coming year. It's a pleasure to work with you. Thanks, Kathy Stone

UPCOMING EVENTS

Moving from Them to Us: Challenges in Reframing Violence Among Youth

December 10 webinar.

For more information, go to

<https://calcasa.ilinc.com/public/preventioninstitute>

Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist Ethics

January 20 in Johnston.

For more information, go to www.counterdrugtraining.com.

For more information about the Division of Behavioral Health, visit

www.idph.state.ia.us/bh

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