



# A MATTER OF SUBSTANCE: AT-A-GLANCE

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DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

## DIVISION QUICK FACTS

### Warnings Issued on Re-Emerging Synthetic Drugs:

The American Association of Poison Control Centers ([AAPCC](#)) and the National Institute on Drug Abuse ([NIDA](#)) have released alerts regarding a dramatic spike nationally in poison control center exposure calls involving synthetic drugs. From January 1 through April 22, 2015, poison control centers received 1,900 exposure calls from people seeking help for adverse reactions to these drugs; almost four times the rate of calls received in 2014. Locally, the Iowa Poison Control Center reports that after receiving two synthetic drug exposure calls during the previous three months, in April alone it received 10 such calls, plus a report of one synthetic drug-related death of a teen. For more information, go to the IDPH Division of Behavioral Health informational fact sheet at: [Drug Facts: Synthetic Cannabinoids](#).

### IDPH Welcomes New Staff:

**Jennifer Robertson** has joined IDPH as the **Access to Recovery (ATR) project coordinator**. Jennifer has 6 years of experience in the behavioral health field. She comes to IDPH from House of Mercy, where she worked in their Newton location as a mental health therapist. As project coordinator for ATR, Jennifer's primary responsibilities will be conducting site visits and providing technical assistance. **Welcome Jennifer!**

### National Women's Health Week Celebrations:

Last month the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and IDPH encouraged contracted Women and Children programs to participate in the National Women's Health Week (May 10-16). Providers were asked to promote activities such as a health fair, highlighting women's health, through their website or newsletter, or partnering with local providers to offer critical women's health services. Below is an overview of the activities conducted by the **Center for Alcohol and Drug Services (CADS)**, in Davenport:



Veronika Nelson and Brandy Avants, CADS Family Services Case Managers

"Our Family Services staff organized an event to promote awareness of women's health issues and provide referrals in connection with National Women's Health Week. They created a poster and invited women to receive information related to maintaining or improving their health at their current age, an awareness ribbon, and a slip they could opt to complete if they wished to take the pledge toward a healthier lifestyle. In addition, they focused several group topics on women's health issues throughout that week. Women were provided with referrals for health insurance and/or doctors as needed. By engaging women who were in outpatient services as well as residential and halfway house clients, Center staff were able to reach nearly 75% of our female clients! Overall, the event was quite successful and the women appeared to enjoy it as well."

### IDPH Contract Extensions and RFP:

IDPH will extend contracts for *Comprehensive Substance Abuse Prevention*, *IDPH-Funded Substance Abuse Treatment Services*, and *Problem Gambling Treatment, Prevention and Recovery Support Services* by six months, from their original end date of June 30, 2015 through a revised end date of December 31, 2015. For more information, contact Sherry Frizell at [sherry.frizell@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:sherry.frizell@idph.iowa.gov).

IDPH intends to release an integrated RFP for substance use disorder and problem gambling prevention and treatment providers. Watch for more information under General Links; *Funding Opportunities*, at <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/>.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**31st Annual National Rural Institute on Alcohol and Drug Abuse** June 14-17, Menomonie, WI.  
For more information, go to <http://www.uwstout.edu/profed/nri/reg.cfm>

**Emerging Drug Trends** June 19  
Cedar Rapids - ASAC Prevention Office  
For more information, call 319-390-1883

**Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling & Substance Abuse** June 24-26, Kansas City, MO.  
For more information, click [here](#)

**Advanced Dialectical Behavior Therapy** July 31  
Peter Waitt Education Center - Jackson Recovery Centers, Sioux City  
For more information, call 712-234-2300

For more information about the Division of Behavioral Health, visit [www.idph.state.ia.us/bh](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/bh)

For questions related to "A Matter of Substance," contact the editors:  
Kevin Gabbert [kevin.gabbert@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:kevin.gabbert@idph.iowa.gov) or Julie Hibben [julie.hibben@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:julie.hibben@idph.iowa.gov)