

Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council

2013 Annual Report



December 1, 2013

**Florida Department of Health
4052 Bald Cypress Way A00
Tallahassee, FL 32399**

**John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
Surgeon General & Secretary
Florida Department of Health**

**Rick Scott
Governor**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The devastating consequences of drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking on Florida's citizens and visitors include adverse effects on health; an upsurge in crime, violence and corruption; the draining of human, natural and financial resources that might otherwise be used for social and economic development; the destruction of individuals, families and communities; and the undermining of cultural, social and economic structures.

A rapidly changing social and economic climate, coupled with increased availability and promotion of drugs and the demand for them, have contributed to the increasing magnitude of the drug abuse problem. The complexity of the problem has been compounded by changing patterns of drug abuse, supply and distribution. There has been an increase in social and economic factors which make people, especially the young, more vulnerable and likely to engage in drug use and drug-related risk-taking behavior.

Efforts have been and continue to be made at all levels to suppress the illicit production, trafficking and distribution of drugs. Success will depend on a balanced approach of supply control and demand reduction, both reinforced through integrated state, county, and community efforts.

BACKGROUND

In 1999, the Legislature created the Office of Drug Control and the Drug Policy Advisory Council in the Executive Office of the Governor. The primary purposes of the office were to coordinate drug control efforts; provide information to the public about the problem of substance abuse and services available; and develop a strategic program and funding to coordinate state agency activities relating to drug control. In the Office of Drug Control there were three councils and one task force established: the Drug Policy Advisory Council, the Seaport Standards Advisory Council, the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council, and the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Oversight and Implementation Task Force.

Two actions effective on July 1, 2011, changed the Office of Drug Control and the Drug Policy Advisory Council:

1. Section 397.332, F.S., repealed the Office of Drug Control within the Executive Office of the Governor.
2. Section 397.333 F.S., became law which established the Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council under the Florida Department of Health (DOH) and states: "The Surgeon General or his or her designee shall be a nonvoting, ex officio member of the advisory council and shall act as chairperson. The director of the Office of Planning and Budgeting or his or her designee shall be a nonvoting, ex officio member of the advisory council."

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Drug Policy Advisory Council is to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the problem of substance abuse in this state and make recommendations to the governor and legislature for developing and implementing a state drug-control strategy.

DRIVERS OF ABUSE

No single factor determines whether a person will become addicted to drugs. The overall risk for addiction is impacted by the biological makeup of the individual.

Environmental factors increase the risk of addiction. The influence of the home environment is usually most important in childhood. Parents or older family members who abuse alcohol or drugs, or who engage in criminal behavior, can increase a child's risk of developing drug problems. Friends and acquaintances have the greatest influence during adolescence. Drug-abusing peers can sway those without risk factors to try drugs for the first time.

Although taking drugs at any age can lead to addiction, research shows that the earlier a person begins to use drugs, the more likely they are to progress to more serious abuse.

REDUCE DEMAND

Programs to reduce the demand for drugs should be part of a comprehensive strategy to reduce the demand for all substances of abuse. Such programs should be evidence-based, have integrated access between the public and private sector, and be inclusive of a wide variety of appropriate interventions. As programs promote health and social well-being among individuals, families, and communities, they should reduce the adverse consequences of drug abuse for the individual and society.

REDUCE SUPPLY

Federal, state, and local law enforcement continually track and adapt drug interdiction strategies to stop illicit drug trafficking. Treating addicts and preventing the onset of drug use can complement law enforcement efforts to reduce supply. Collaboration among law enforcement, health, and social service agencies may help reduce demand which may, in turn, reduce drug trafficking.

CONCLUSIONS

Under the goal area of eliminating the demand for drugs, the Drug Policy Advisory Council supports:

- Providing residential substance abuse treatment services to offenders on felony supervision who have been court-ordered to residential treatment.
- Revising the Department of Health's Healthy Start Standards and Guidelines to include an annual requirement for all care coordinators to be trained in basic motivational interviewing and substance abuse education.
- Reducing Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome in Florida by at least 10% from the baseline numbers established in the Attorney General's Statewide Task Force on Prescription Drug Abuse & Newborns report issued in February 2013 (1,563 instances estimated in CY 2011).

- Reducing the percentage of Florida high school students who try alcohol before age 13 from 25.4% to 15%. (NOTE: According to the Florida Youth Substance Abuse survey, this measure stands at 25.4% in 2012).

Under the goal area of eliminating the supply of drugs, the Drug Policy Advisory Council supports:

- Creating a voluntary statewide controlled substance agreement document for use by all prescribing Florida healthcare practitioners that identifies proper indications, alternatives, risks and benefits of prescribed controlled substances.
- Reducing the number of individuals visiting more than five pharmacies and five physicians to obtain controlled substances in Schedules II through IV within a 90-day period will decrease.
- Maintaining the Florida Highway Patrol staffing level of its Criminal Interdiction Units.
- Expanding the use of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) to 50% of the active medical practitioner population in Florida.
- Adopting statewide Methamphetamine cleanup protocols, to include a standard process for assessing responsibility for cleanup costs as well as promulgating environmental remediation standards.

Appendix A

Draft of Strategic Plan

Vision: A future without substance abuse in Florida.

Mission: Eliminate substance abuse in Florida by coordinating statewide efforts to protect individuals, families, and communities from substance abuse and to treat those with addiction.

Goals:

1. Eliminate the demand for drugs.
2. Eliminate the supply of drugs.

Appendix B

2013 DRUG POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dr. John Armstrong, Surgeon General
Jerry McDaniel, Office of Planning and Budgeting
Pam Bondi, Attorney General
Gerald Bailey, Department of Law Enforcement
Esther Jacobo, Department of Children and Families designee
Michael Crews, Department of Corrections
Wansley Walters, Department of Juvenile Justice
Pamela Stewart, Department of Education
Julie Jones, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
Major General Emmett Titshaw, Department of Military Affairs
Vacant, Senate President Appointee
Judge Melanie May, Florida Supreme Court
Representative Darryl Rouson, Speaker of the House Appointee

Governor Appointments:

Mark P. Fontaine, Tallahassee, Executive Director of the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association, reappointed for a term beginning November 4, 2011 and ending September 6, 2015.

Nancy Hamilton, Tarpon Springs, Chief Executive Officer of Operation PAR, Inc., reappointed for a term beginning November 4, 2011 and ending September 6, 2013.

Bobby Roberts, Tallahassee, media technician at Florida State University, reappointed for a term beginning November 4, 2011 and ending September 6, 2013.

Kimberly K. Spence, Panama City, Chief Executive Officer of Keeton Corrections, Inc., reappointed for a term beginning November 4, 2011 and ending September 6, 2015.

Dr. Lora L. Brown, St. Petersburg, Pain Management Specialist at Coastal Orthopedic and Sports Medicine appointed for a term beginning November 4, 2011 and ending September 6, 2015.

Additionally two Governor Appointments are vacant.