

Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services
Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency (SAPTA)

White Paper: Substance Abuse Prevention Services in Nevada
February 08, 2013

Coalitions: A Powerful Strategy for Sustaining Impact

Introduction: The purpose of this paper is to present basic information on substance abuse prevention services through Nevada’s coalition system.

Mission: The mission of the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency (SAPTA) is to reduce the impact of substance abuse in Nevada.

Purpose: SAPTA is the designated Single State Authority (SSA) for the purpose of applying for and expending the federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant issued through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). SAPTA also receives State Prevention Infrastructure and Methamphetamine Prevention and Education funds through the Nevada State Legislature. Although the Agency does not provide direct substance abuse prevention or treatment services, it plans and coordinates statewide substance abuse service delivery. It also oversees compliance and provides technical assistance to programs and other State agencies to ensure that resources are used in the most effective and efficient manner.

Prevention: Prevention is defined as “a proactive process of helping individuals, families, and communities to develop the resources needed to develop and maintain healthy lifestyles.” (International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium) Prevention is broad based in the sense that it is intended to alleviate a wide range of at-risk behaviors including, but not limited to, alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse, crime and delinquency, violence, vandalism, mental health problems, family conflict, parenting problems, stress and burnout, child abuse, learning problems, school failure, school drop outs, teenage pregnancy, depression, and suicide.

Statewide Epidemiology Workgroup (SEW): The Statewide Epidemiology Workgroup (SEW), a SAPTA workgroup, gathers behavioral health data, including substance abuse and its relationship with mental health, depression, suicide, domestic violence, traffic safety, law enforcement, and the justice system. The purpose is to identify trends and emerging issues that can be used by coalitions, direct service providers, and the general public. A focus of the data is also to identify those of highest risk, including adolescents, women, and minority populations.

Funding: SAPTA has established a system whereby the Agency purchases substance abuse prevention services through a coalition system that covers all 17 Nevada counties in a three-year competitive cycle. Once coalitions are identified they must fund local providers to conduct direct service activities, also in three- year competitive cycles. Coalition applications are reviewed by Agency staff and outside independent review panels. Funds are awarded on the basis of the Coalitions’ ability to provide the requested service. As stated in NRS 458.025, only

agencies which have received SAPTA certification are eligible for funding that includes coalitions and the direct service providers. In addition to certification each agency has to meet the SAPTA Deeming Process criteria which includes proof of 501(c)3 status, sufficient infrastructure in place, an agreement to conduct program evaluation, and complete a template of a Coalition Request for Application (RFA) process. Coalitions must not conduct direct service activities, but can provide environmental strategies. Environmental strategies focus on changing aspects of the environment that contribute to the use of alcohol and other drugs, including, but not limited to decreases the social and health consequences of substance abuse by limiting access to substances and changing social norms that are accepting and permissive of substance abuse. Changing public laws, policies and practices to create environments that decrease the probability of substance abuse are goals of environmental strategies.

After awards are made, the Agency monitors compliance with the programmatic and fiscal terms of the subgrants. Also, the Agency provides programs with technical assistance to ensure that appropriate services are provided, including:

- Verifying that state and federal funds are being used to purchase services that achieve state and federal goals;
- Requiring the assessment of priority risk and protective factors for individual communities;
- Requiring the assessment of individual communities in identifying target populations;
- Supporting evidence-based programs. These programs must be based on research or prior program findings that demonstrate the programs will prevent or reduce substance use by youth.

Priorities: The SAPT Block Grant requires states to develop a 3-year plan. As part of the plan the states have to determine the priorities for both prevention and treatment and, when appropriate, demonstrate where and how there will be integration of substance abuse prevention and treatment with mental health services. Nevada's prevention priorities were updated for the FY 2012-2013 SAPT BG submittal and will be included in the FY 2014-2015 submittal. They were determined through the data gathering process. They include:

- Enhance current strategic partnerships and develop new partnerships with behavior health agencies, including, but not limited to, adult and children's mental health agencies; primary care organizations; the State Division of Welfare; the Board of Pharmacy; public health, including maternal and child health; Department of Education; organizations representing special populations; and the Office of the Attorney General.
- Target substance abuse prevention in Native American communities among youth and in association with suicide;
- Develop and/or increase collaboration and partnership with the military; active service, veterans, reservists, National Guard, and families;
- Target alcohol and drug use among women of child-bearing years and women currently pregnant;
- Prevent the onset of childhood and underage drinking and drug use, reduce the progression of substance abuse, including prescription drugs used illicitly and marijuana; and prevent the relapse of substance abuse of those in recovery.
- Research and develop a performance-based funding mechanism.

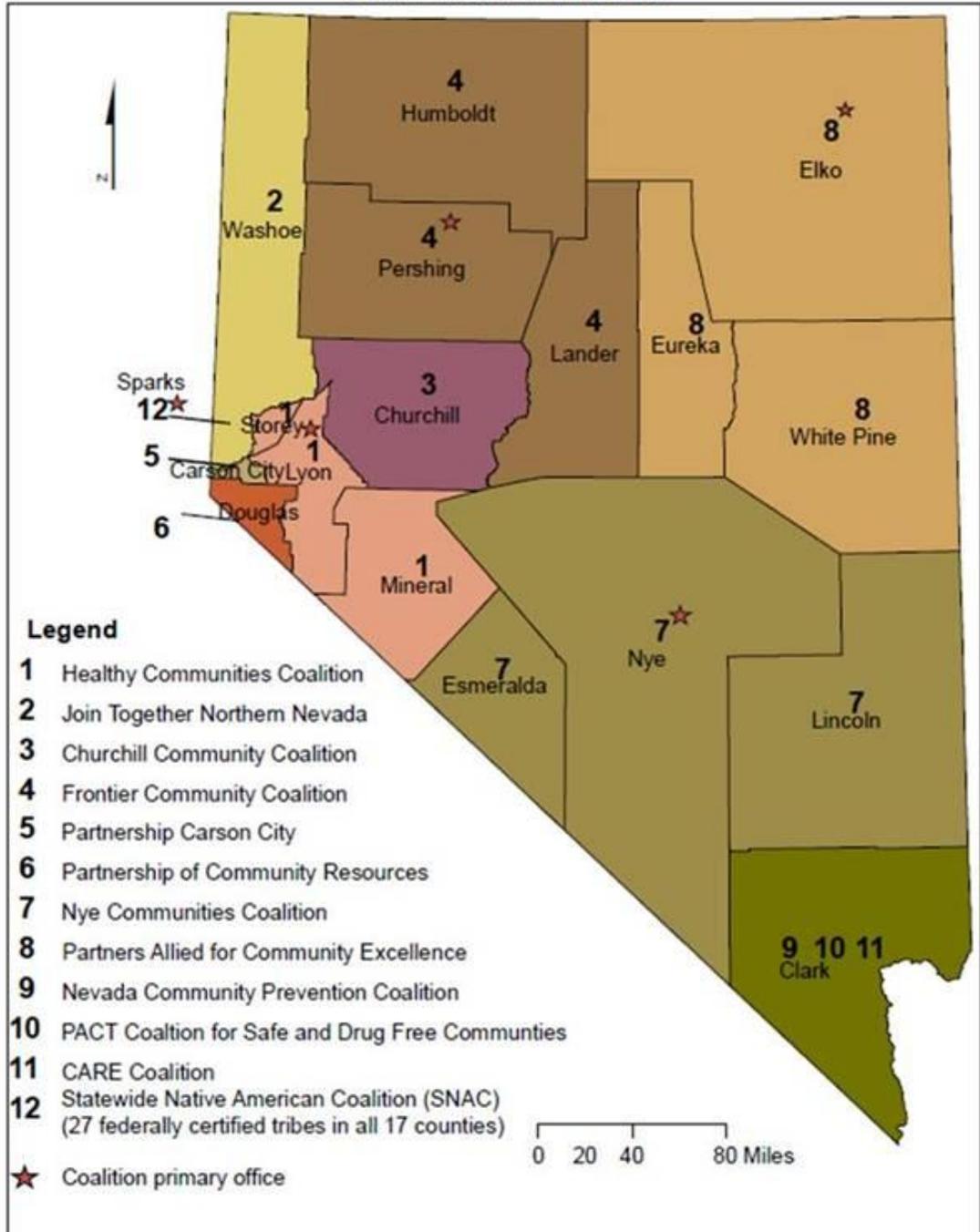
Coalition Structure: Currently there are twelve (12) certified substance abuse prevention coalitions in Nevada. Eleven of them have geographically-based service areas which cover every county in the state. In addition, the Statewide Native American Coalition serves the 27 federally qualified tribes in the state. The Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) noted that the Statewide Coalition Partnership, made up of all 12 coalitions, is a strong vehicle for representing the coalitions and for developing advocacy and is the voice of prevention for Nevada. A coalition is a place for multiple agencies and volunteers to shine and be recognized with multiple sectors represented; is a place to share resources that are gathered or obtained collectively; has well defined specific issue/issues and agreed upon goals; has solidarity among members; has strong shared leadership; is immersed in the community; and has a comprehensive strategic plan that addresses the root causes of multiple problems; is flexible; is community, not agency, driven; and develops both regional and statewide partnerships.

The Coalition system enhances local substance abuse prevention capacity by leveraging prevention dollars and puts in place evidence-based prevention programs and practices. The SAPTA certified coalitions involve key community stakeholders such as law enforcement, business leaders, mental health and primary care agencies, school districts, and other organizations in completing a comprehensive community prevention plan (CCPP). Using the CCPP, the Coalitions make decisions at the local level as to what services are needed based on local, regional, and statewide data. The coalitions also must address one or more of Nevada's SAPT Block Grant priorities that have also been determined by local, regional, and statewide data.

Fast Facts

- By 2020, behavioral health disorders will surpass all physical diseases as a major cause of disability world-wide.
- Alcohol is the most commonly used and abused drug among youth in the US, more than tobacco and illicit drugs and is responsible for more than 4,700 deaths of underage youth annually.
- In 2009, the use of illicit drugs in the past year was more likely among adults aged 18 or older with past year any mental illness (26.5%) than it was among adults who did not have mental illness (11.6%). This pattern was similar for most specific types of illicit drug use, including the use of marijuana, cocaine, hallucinogens, inhalants, or heroin and the nonmedical use of prescription type psychotherapeutics. (National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2009-2010).
- Adults who began drinking alcohol before age 21 were more likely to be later classified with alcohol dependence or abuse than those who had their first drink at or after age 21.
- In 2010, the CDC reported that 38,364 people in the US committed suicide. The rate per 100,000 for the US was 12.4/100,000. The rate in Nevada was 20.3/100,000 and 547 Nevadans took their lives in 2010. The State ranked fourth in the country.
- One estimate puts the total economic costs of mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders among youth in the United States at approximately \$247 billion.
- In 2009, there were an estimated 45.1 million adults aged 18 or older in the US with any mental illness in the past year. This represents 19.9 percent of all adults in the country and is similar to the data from 2008.
- In 2009-2010, 4.9 percent of people 12 and older in the US used prescription type pain relievers non-medically. In Nevada, the percentage was 5.96. Nevada ranked in the top one fifth of the states in each of four age groups on this measure.

**NEVADA COALITION REGIONS
FOR THE
PREVENTION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE
STATE FISCAL YEAR 2013**



Sources: ESRI
Nevada Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency

January 2013

SAPTA FUNDED COMMUNITY COALITIONS

CARE Coalition is one of three new coalitions in Clark County. State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2013 is the second year that SAPTA has provided funding to CARE. The first year was a coalition-building year that included the first three steps of the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) - Assessment, Capacity Building, and Planning. They completed a Comprehensive Community Prevention Plan and during this second year are providing funding to two direct service providers as part of the Implementation step of the SPF process. The vision of CARE “is to reduce the number of first time drug users in the community and to provide a resource for at-risk individuals to build their capacity and resilience”. The CARE Coalition is starting a pilot program using the peer to peer Community Health Workers model for the Latino/Hispanic Community in Clark County.

Churchill Community Coalition covers the entire Churchill County area including Fallon and the county’s unincorporated areas. Target Populations include: Underage drinkers; Middle and high school students at risk to use methamphetamine and; Families with a history of abuse, neglect, divorce, and/or domestic violence. They have prioritized the risk factors focusing on: Alienation and Rebelliousness; Family history of the problem behavior/family management problems; Lack of Commitment to school and; Early initiation of the substance abuse.

Frontier Community Coalition is a community-based organization serving Humboldt, Lander, and Pershing Counties whose vision is to provide “*an opportunity for all citizens to contribute to the health and well being of our community’s youth and families*”. To this end, the efforts of Frontier are focused on preventing and reducing substance abuse and other problem behaviors in our communities.

Healthy Communities Coalition of Lyon, Storey and Esmeralda Counties is a grass roots based partnership whose vision is to mobilize, share, and collaborate for healthy communities for all to grow, live and learn. Our mission is to strive to promote and support sustainable, culturally inclusive prevention services, community initiatives, and capacity building systems that address all factions of a healthy community for all members.

Join Together Northern Nevada (JTNN) is a community based coalition in Washoe County whose mission is to “reduce the impact of substance abuse on the community by improving access to needed prevention, intervention, and treatment services.” JTNN accomplishes its mission through a community needs assessment, strategic planning, the funding of prevention strategies, and collaborative initiatives aimed at preventing the use and abuse of various substances.

Nevada Community Prevention Coalition (NCPC) is one of three new coalitions in Clark County. State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2013 is the second year that SAPTA has provided funding to NCPC. The first year was a coalition building year that included the first three steps of the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) - Assessment, Capacity Building, and Planning. They completed a Comprehensive Community Prevention Plan and during this second year are in the Implementation phase of the SPF process. The service area for NCPC is rural Clark County and has developed and funded task forces in Laughlin, Boulder City, Mesquite, and Moapa Valley, as well as funding three direct service providers.

NyE Communities Coalition (NyECC) is based in Pahrump and serves the rural frontier communities in Nye, Esmeralda and Lincoln counties. This huge service area sweeps across over 20,000 square miles of desert in Central and Southern Nevada and includes landmarks such as the Nevada Test Site and a small part of Death Valley National Park. In addition to SAPTA funding, the NyECC currently maintains United Way accreditation and receives funding from several local, state, and federal sources for a variety of healthy community initiatives. The coalition consists of numerous members and partner agencies, representing a wide variety of sectors and engaging youth and adults across three counties.

P.A.C.E. Coalition (Partners Allied for Community Excellence) is a coalition based in Elko County, but also covers Eureka, and White Pine counties. PACE works with private, civic, business and social service entities create and coordinate the application of community resources to prevent youth substance use and strengthen families. Funding comes from several sources including, but not limited to state and federal grants, private foundations, public corporations and public donations. They work with law enforcement, community leaders, adults, faith based leaders, school officials and youth to reduce underage alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and abuse. They create media campaigns to change attitudes and social norms about substance use and abuse, fund youth prevention programs and healthy alternative activities, and collaborate with other community organizations to promote safe, healthy, family friendly community programs.

PACT Coalition for Safe & Drug-Free Communities is one of three new coalitions in Clark County. State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2013 is the second year that SAPTA has provided funding to PACT. The first year was a coalition building year that included the first three steps of the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) - Assessment, Capacity Building, and Planning steps. They completed a Comprehensive Community Prevention Plan and during this second year are in the Implementation phase of the SPF process. They are funding 15 direct service providers during SFY 2013.

Partnership Carson City (PCC) is Carson City's community coalition that connects multiple sectors of the community, including families, businesses, media, law enforcement, schools, faith organizations, health providers, social service agencies, and our local government. Working as a team through the coalition, the partners each bring a piece of the puzzle together to gain a more

complete understanding of the community's challenges. Together, the partners organize and develop strategies to coordinate solutions. The result is a comprehensive, community-wide approach to ensuring the safety and health of our community.

Partnership of Community Resources is a non-profit community coalition founded in 1992 to support and strengthen networking amongst Douglas County residents and bring new programming into the community while attempting to eliminate duplicate services for the same target populations. Members include the Board, Staff, Advisory Teams, Agency Partners and Community Stakeholders who work together to: 1) address countywide health issues, 2) share information, 3) provide up-to-date training, 4) be consistent and strategic as a community, and 5) facilitate the development of countywide strategies to affect the issues of youth and family substance abuse, violence, mental health and economic challenges.

Statewide Native American Coalition (SNAC) formed in January 2006 with the purpose of providing a framework to collaborate on the coordination of programs, policies, and practices for Native populations in Nevada. Tribal entities recognized the importance of coalitions, understanding that an effective coalition provides for a coordinated process to address community problems. SNAC is an Inter-Tribal collaboration of agencies committed to enhancing prevention programs to reduce legal and illegal drug use, addictions, drug-related crimes, injury and death within Indian communities.

The Coalitions' contact information can be found at <http://mhds.state.nv.us>, and then go to the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency link. Once there, click on the Programs link, then click on the Prevention Programs.

The phone number for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency is 775-684-4190.