

# Physician and Federation Involvement in Activities of the Office of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse National Programs

## Overview

The Office of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse was created in 1996 with two purposes:

1. To re-emphasize AMA and Federation concerns for and involvement with alcohol and other drug abuse issues affecting patients and the public's health.
2. To create state and university coalitions to reduce underage and high risk drinking through the involvement of community leaders, physicians and their organizations.

This report is to provide AMA staff and Federation members with an update on our efforts in the area of physician and Federation involvement in our activities. Future reports will examine the specific activities undertaken by the coalitions and the role of physicians in them.

Physician involvement has occurred in a number of areas, especially through state medical society, individual physician and AMA Alliance involvement in the projects participating in our two National Program Offices funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation ("A Matter of Degree" and "Reducing Underage Drinking").

## I. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation National Program Offices Activities

- Each grantee has been strongly encouraged and assisted by our staff in contacting their state medical society and Alliance chapter. Consequently, there has been active Federation involvement in most of the projects. Similarly grantees became involved with the Academy of Pediatrics Child Health Month activities which we brokered for them with the AAP. Many of the coalitions worked with their AAP state chapters to distribute campaign materials, sponsor speakers and conduct other awareness activities.
- The American Society of Addiction Medicine conducted outreach among its members to encourage participation in the state coalitions. In addition, many pediatricians, emergency room physicians, medical school faculty, psychiatrists and family practice physicians have been personally active in each of the projects.
- Physicians have also been involved in the National Advisory Committees of the two projects.
- The NPO Newsletter will regularly feature individual physicians and medical society activities in alcohol policy work.
- State medical societies have been invited to participate in the activities surrounding the awarding of A Matter of Degree grants to four more state universities (Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Nebraska). Dr. Smoak was a speaker at the Nebraska Medical Society's announcement of the University grant.

### A. "Reducing Underage Drinking Through Coalitions"

#### 1. *Examples of Federation Activities in Coalitions to Reduce Underage Drinking:*

- **Connecticut**  
The coalition, in collaboration with the state chapter of the Academy of Pediatrics and the Connecticut State Medical Society, sponsored a statewide meeting of health care professionals (including major health plans, hospitals and government). This group has begun developing a medical initiative to reduce underage drinking. Likely activities will be continuing medical education, awareness campaign and examination of screening and intervention policies for implementation in health care settings.
- **District of Columbia**  
The Medical Society of DC provides in kind lobbying activities and in tracking legislation covering underage drinking in public transportation, sales and advertising.

- **Indiana**  
The coalition presented its plans to the State Medical Association, which then adopted the coalition's plan as its own and has since worked with the coalition in a number of activities. It is likely that the next coalition chair will be from the medical association.
- **Louisiana**  
The coalition, in collaboration with the state chapter of the Academy of Pediatrics and the LSU School of Medicine, has begun a variety of activities to create public awareness of underage drinking problems. Together they have conducted research regarding underage drinking and alcohol promotion in the state, and promoted new state policies to curb underage drinking.
- **Minnesota**  
The Minnesota Medical Association is on the coalition governing board, public relations staff serves on the coalition public relations committee. The Council of Preventive Medicine and the coalition are meeting to identify possible joint activities.
- **Missouri**  
The Missouri Medical Association is a coalition member and one of its staff has served as chair. The Association has hosted several meetings and was instrumental in helping change state legislation governing underage drinking. They've also been helping to try to raise the state alcohol excise tax.
- **North Carolina**  
The State Medical Society has joined the coalition and passed a policy that they would work with and support coalition efforts. The lead agency is directed by a physician. The medical schools in the state have provided ongoing assistance in research, surveys, and policy analysis.
- **Oregon**  
The state Medical Association is a member of the coalition and helping to ensure that existing policies are enforced.
- **Puerto Rico**  
The Puerto Rico Medical Association and American Academy of pediatrics are active members of the commonwealth coalition as well as its Regional councils. In addition, many individual members physicians are active members as is Dr. Carmen Feliciano de Melecio, Secretary of the Puerto Rico Health Department. These groups have been active in helping to secure major changes in alcohol policy on the island.
- **Texas**  
The chair of the coalition is Sandra Gilfillin, MD, chair of the Texas Medical Association (TMA) Task Force on Underage Drinking. The TMA was an original co-sponsor of the project (now housed at Texas MADD). The TMA has provided meeting space for the coalition, assisted in media collection, partnered with regional coalition projects, and participated in media advocacy training. The TMA Task Force on Underage Drinking has worked closely with the coalition and the TMA has made reduction of underage drinking a major priority. In 1998 the coalition and TMA jointly held their annual meetings to allow for common attendance (Dr. Dickey was the keynote speaker) and continue to work on common policy agendas.
- **Georgia and Pennsylvania**  
The state medical societies and coalitions have begun meeting to explore future collaboration.
- **AMA Alliance** chapters have also been contacted in each state and many members are working on shared medical society and coalition activities.

## 2. ***Examples of Medical Societies/Other Medical Organizations in Reducing Underage Drinking Coalitions***

### **Connecticut**

Connecticut State Medical Society  
Bristol Hospital, Bristol  
Connecticut Children's Medical  
Center and Foundation  
ConnectiCare, Inc.  
Stamford Health System  
Milford Hospital  
Johnson Memorial Hospital  
Charlotte Hungerford Hospital  
Westside Medical Group  
William Backus Hospital  
Hospital of Saint Raphael  
Elmcrest Hospital  
St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center

Connecticut chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Community Mental Health Affiliates, Bristol  
State Insurance Department

Eastern Connecticut Health Network  
Oxford Health Plans  
St. Mary's Hospital  
Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services  
MedSpann, Inc.  
BlueRidge Health Services, Inc.  
Rushford Center, Inc.  
Connecticut Mental Health Affiliates  
Waterbury Hospital Health Center  
John Dempsey Hospital

### **Georgia**

CORK Inst., Morehouse School of Medicine

Health Coordinator, Gwinnett Co. Schools

### **Indiana**

Indiana State Medical Association  
Department of health  
Clarian Health Services

### **Louisiana**

LSU Medical Center, New Orleans  
Medical Center of Louisiana, New Orleans  
LSU Medical Center, Shreveport

School Health Centers, Baton Rouge  
Cutoff  
Academy of Pediatrics

### **Minnesota**

Minnesota Medical Association  
St. Cloud Hospital, St. Cloud  
Hazelden Foundation, Center City  
Northwest Recovery Center, Inc.

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis  
Central Minnesota Mental Health Center, Buffalo  
First Street Center, Waconia  
Blue Cross /Blue Shield

### **Missouri**

Missouri State Medical Association

### **North Carolina**

North Carolina Medical Society

### **Oregon**

Oregon Medical Association  
Legacy Emanuel Hospital

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

### **Pennsylvania**

Pennsylvania Medical Society  
American Trauma Society

American Academy of Pediatrics

### **Puerto Rico**

Fund. Clinica de Salud en Adolescentes, Bayamon	Family Planning Program
Recinto de Ciencias Medicas, San Juan	Instituto Nuero - Psiquiatrico, Humacao
Depto. de Pediatria - Escuela de Medicina UPR, Bayamon	American Academy of Pediatrics, Dorado, Mayaguez
Fund. Puertorriquena Pro Salud Mental, Viejo San Juan	Depto. de Salud /Gobierno de Puerto Rico
Fund. Puertorriquena para la Investigacion y Prevencion del Suicidio, San Juan	

**Texas**

Texas Medical Association

**Washington, DC**

Medical Society of DC	American Cancer Society
American Lung Association, DC	American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association	Metropolitan Washington Public Health Association
National Association of Black Nurses	National Association of Hispanic Nurses

**Project National Advisory Committee:**

Timothy Fischer, DO, President South Carolina Society of Addiction Medicine

**B. "A Matter of Degree" Campus/Community Partnerships to Reduce High Risk Drinking**

University of Colorado	—	City of Boulder
University of Delaware	—	City of Newark
Florida State University	—	City of Tallahassee
Georgia Institute of Tech	—	City of Atlanta
University of Iowa	—	Iowa City
Lehigh University	—	City of Bethlehem
Louisiana State University	—	City of Baton Rouge
University of Nebraska	—	City of Lincoln
University of Vermont	—	City of Burlington
University of Wisconsin	—	City of Madison

**1. *Examples of Physician Involvement in Projects***

- The student health service at each campus has been an active part of the project and provides clinical services for students. This has enabled the projects to emphasize the public health aspects of binge drinking and to insert the project as part of a continuum of activities designed to address bingeing. The campuses plan to be active participants in the National Alcoholism Screening Day to be cosponsored by the AMA.
- Typically the local hospital's emergency room provides services for students injured or overdosing from alcohol use. Consequently, the emergency room staff, local police and campus enforcement have been devising systems to:
  - a. share incident data and information
  - b. identify, refer or intervene with students who have alcohol related problems so that they do not get lost between these systems



- **Louisiana State University – Baton Rouge**  
 Researchers from the LSU Medical School  
 University Student Health Center  
 Local alcohol/drug treatment center
- **University of Nebraska – Lincoln**  
 Executive Director of Lancaster Co. Medical Society  
 radiologist
- **University of Vermont**  
 Governor Dean, MD - supportive, project advocate  
 Commissioner of Health (has appointed the Director of Substance Abuse Services to the coalition)  
 emergency department physician, coalition member
- **University of Wisconsin**  
 Director of University Health Services, Project Co-principal Investigator

***Project National Advisory Committee:***

Pamela Bowen, MD, Director, Princeton Health Services and President, American College Health Association; Garrey Carruthers (former governor of New Mexico), President, Cimarron HMO, Inc., Las Cruces, NM; Barbara McCrady, PhD, Director of Clinical Research, Rutgers University Center of Alcohol Studies

## **II. Other Physician Activities**

### **A. Alcohol Policy XI Conference (Chicago, June 1998)**

- This was the first of this series of conferences to have AMA involvement and to include a focus on the role of medicine in alcohol policy.
- Consequently, there was a full program track designed to cover various medical-related policy and program concerns, and active recruitment of physician attendees. The conference was organized around a seminal alcohol policy book developed by Griffith Edwards, MD, National Addiction Centre, London, who was also the conference keynote speaker. Doctor Edwards held a special meeting with physicians in attendance to discuss common concerns.
- Federation members were part of the Conference Executive Committee: American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Emergency Physicians, American Society of Addiction Medicine. Other members included John Slade, MD of St. Peter's Medical Center (New Brunswick, NJ) and a liaison from the World Health Organization. The AMA Alliance has expressed a desire to join the Executive committee for the Alcohol Policy XII Conference in 2000.

### **B. AMA-ABA National Substance Abuse Coalition**

- AMA leadership has been represented by Percy Wootton, MD. A wide range of medical (AMA Federation and non-Federation) associations have participated in this coalition, staffed for the AMA by Richard Yoast, PhD. Members include:
  - American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
  - American College of Emergency Physicians
  - American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
  - American Psychiatric Association
  - American Society of Addiction Medicine
  - Inter-American College of Physicians & Surgeons

- Physician's Leadership in Substance Abuse.

In addition, a large number of other associations involved in health care and alcohol and other drug services have been involved.

- **National Alcohol & Drug Addiction Recovery Month** (September 1998) (partnered with the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment). The ABA-AMA coalition invited several state medical societies to sponsor forums in the targeted media cities for this national awareness month. In addition, all Federation representatives (state, local and specialty societies) received a campaign packet for the campaign. All Federation members were sent copies of campaign organizing kits - many conducted local activities or used the materials for their member newsletters. Staff also made a presentation to AMA Alliance officers to discuss the campaign and other upcoming activities.
- **Outreach and Other Office Activities**
  - Mailings to promote involvement and services to Federation members including:
    - Letter announcing opening of office
    - Invitation to submit applications for Reducing Underage Drinking coalition grants
    - Caucus to introduce Office to House of Delegates (spring 1996)
    - Packets of materials (program brochures, alcohol fact sheets, congressional briefing materials) provided for HOD members
    - Federation mailing of new program brochures and fact sheets
    - Promotion of Alcohol Policy XI Conference
  - Liaison with the AMA Alliance has included presentations at their Confluences, articles for their newsletters, and project a number of upcoming co-sponsorships of activities.
  - As part of starting up our new office, in the Fall of 1996 we held a forum on substance abuse for AMA staff and Board members to inform us about current activities and research, and to recommend possible policy directions. Presenters and respondents included representatives from the Academy of Pediatrics, ASAM, American Psychiatric Association and physicians involved in clinical research. This led to the development of two policy papers for the Council on Scientific Affairs:
    - "The Physician Role in Substance Abuse," by Norman Miller, MD (ASAM and APA member), University of Illinois Medical Center (paper in draft)
    - "Brief Physician Office Interventions in Alcohol Problems," by Michael Fleming, MD, (a family practice physician), University of Wisconsin (paper currently before the CSA).
  - Other ongoing interactions include regular contact with the Physician's Leadership on Substance Abuse group, liaisons from ASAM and handling of calls from members about substance abuse issues, policies, and resources.