

Prevention...What's the 4-1-1?

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

The 4th National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is slated for April 28, 2012. This national program sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration is a great opportunity for community agencies, partners, and citizens to safely dispose of unwanted and unused prescription drugs. This program provides a convenient way to rid homes of these medications which in-turn dramatically reduces the risk of prescription drug diversion and abuse while increasing awareness of a critical public health issue. In 2011, 188.5 tons of unwanted or expired medications were safely disposed of nationally at 5,327 sites in all 50 states and U.S. territories. In Huntsville alone, last year's efforts resulted in 1,093 pounds of prescriptions being collected, which was an increase from the previous year's collection of 720 pounds. The continued success of this event is the result of community awareness and communities mobilizing toward one goal. It is essential that law enforcement agencies and communities participate in this initiative and increase participation in our state.

Click on the following link and go to "Collection Site Locator" to find an event that will be taking place in your community: http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html

To sign up to host an event in your community, please contact Louis G. Zook, Office of the Attorney General at 334-353-1082 or lzook@ago.state.al.us



Strategic Prevention

In the months to come, the 411 will build upon your existing foundational knowledge of the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF). The Office of Prevention believes that the principles of the SPF should guide our processes at the state and community level. The SPF can be utilized to plan strategic efforts for service provision, mobilization of community partners and to change community norms and practice. The SPF will be embedded into the Prevention Plan Guidelines template that will be used for providers to submit their FY2013-2014 plans that will be released to them within the next week. The SPF will also be apart of forthcoming Prevention Standards.

The SPF uses a five-step process known to promote youth development, reduce risk-taking behaviors, build assets and resilience, and prevent problem behaviors across the life span. The SPF is built on a community-based risk and protective factors approach to prevention and a series of guiding principles that can be utilized at the federal, State/tribal and community levels.

The idea behind SPF is to use the findings from public health research along with evidence-based prevention programs to build capacity within States/Tribes/Territories and the prevention field. This in turn will promote resilience and decrease risk factors in individuals, families, and communities. The SPF requires states, territories, federally recognized Tribes and Tribal organizations, and communities to systemically:

- **Assess** their prevention needs based on epidemiological data,
- Build their prevention **capacity**,
- Develop a strategic **plan**,
- **Implement** effective community prevention programs, policies and practices, and
- **Evaluate** their efforts for outcomes.

Throughout all five steps, implementers of the SPF must address issues of sustainability and cultural competence. Next month, look for a feature on the **Assessment** principle of the SPF.



It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver. ~Mahatma Gandhi



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April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	←		National Public Health Week (2-8)		→	
Alcohol-Free Weekend						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
National Public Health Week						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
						National Prescrip- tion Drug Take-Back Day
29	30	<i>April also holds recognition for:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Abuse Prevention Month http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preventionmonth/index.cfm • Sexual Assault Awareness Month http://www.nsvrc.org/saam 				



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Division of Mental Health
and Substance Abuse Services
Office of Prevention Services
www.mh.alabama.gov