



FACT SHEET

GOVERNOR'S PREVENTION ADVISORY COUNCIL (GPAC)

Governor's Interagency Coordinating Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Other Drug Problems

Overview

The Governor's Interagency Coordinating Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Other Drug Problems, also known as the Governor's Prevention Advisory Council (GPAC), coordinates California's strategic efforts to reduce the incidence and prevalence of inappropriate alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) use. This high-level Council provides California with leadership and continuity to advance ATOD prevention. The Council's permanence and historical perspective are important to attain deliberative, sustainable results rather than resorting to short-term solutions on a case-by-case basis. Council members reinforce each others' efforts, reduce redundancies, and align organizational resources to achieve specific collective objectives.

Structure/Composition

The organizations appointed to the GPAC vary in their missions but all benefit from reducing and preventing public health, safety and economic harm related to ATOD use/abuse. The GPAC operates collectively with a shared mission yet members maintain autonomy by carrying out Council prevention objectives through their respective organizations.

The GPAC consists of two members from each of the following State agencies:

1. Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs

2. Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
3. Attorney General's Office
4. California Community Colleges
5. California Department of Education
6. Department of Public Health
7. California Highway Patrol
8. Department of Social Services
9. California Emergency Management Agency
10. Office of Traffic Safety
11. Office of the Chancellor, California State University
12. Office of the President, University of California
13. Department of Rehabilitation
14. California National Guard
15. Department of Mental Health
16. California Conservation Corps

Membership from each agency includes a "policy" representative who is either the agency director or someone at a high policy-making level that can speak on behalf of their agency about prevention-related issues and a "workgroup" representative who is an individual with prevention expertise that can participate in workgroups.

The Director of the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) chairs the GPAC; ADP staff provide administrative support. A representative from the Governor's Office of Planning and Research also participates on the GPAC.

Guiding Principles

The Council's focus is on ATOD prevention to reduce adverse personal, social, health and economic consequences resulting from problematic ATOD availability, manufacture, distribution, promotion, and sales, as well as individual use. The desired result is collaborative action to promote safe and healthy environments for individuals, families and communities using data-informed planning, evidence-based strategy selections, effective delivery, and evaluation.

Responsibilities

In addition to collaborating on ATOD issues of common concern, the Council:

- Develops and implements unified and integrated statewide ATOD prevention coordination plans
- Identifies more efficient ways to use ATOD prevention-related resources to reduce fragmentation and redundancy

GPAC Operations

GPAC members provide information from their organizations and advisory sources about the impact of ATOD. Workgroups prepare recommendations for the GPAC on topics such as underage drinking; evidence-based prevention; high rates of underage ATOD use; Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT); and alcohol policy. The GPAC also serves as the State Policy Steering Committee for the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant.

Products created by the GPAC include:

- A resource guide for California communities on building and sustaining a methamphetamine community coalition
- "Tips for Parents: Underage Drinking in California" — A publication providing

parents with information on underage drinking

- A strategic plan to reduce adolescent and binge drinking among youth in California
- A website to raise awareness about the health and safety risks of Alcoholic Energy Drinks
- A toolkit of available resources for SBIRT and Town Hall Meetings on Underage Drinking

To access this information, visit the GPAC web page at

<http://www.adp.ca.gov/Prevention/gpac/>.

For additional information, contact the Program Services Division, Prevention Services Branch, at (916) 324-4398.