

Caroline County, Maryland
Local Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council
FY 2012/2014-STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS REPORT
October 11, 2012

Vision Statement: To create and promote a Caroline County where individuals live free from drug and alcohol abuse.

Mission Statement: To provide quality prevention, intervention, and treatment services to the residents of Caroline County, and to address the effects of drug and alcohol abuse and addiction.

Strategic Goal #1: Expansion of juvenile drug court and the creation of an adult drug court in Caroline County Circuit Court.

Progress Update: Adult drug court has started and is fully staffed. Participants have been screened and entered. Possible participants are still being screened and a one-year evaluation of screening is being done to ensure optimal eligibility. Capacity is capped at 10 for the first year to allow for controlled growth. Capacity has been achieved and will increase to 25 for the second year. Juvenile program numbers remain low, although enrollment is steady. The State change to make participation in Juvenile Drug Court voluntary is still a hindrance to achieving capacity. A new directive from DJS allows for screening of more participants.

Strategic Goal #2: Education of stakeholders within the community concerning the full implementation of the Recovery Oriented Systems of Care. Provision of access to a continuum of care related to substance abuse treatment and education.

Progress Update: Agencies and individuals represented on the LDAAC continue to educate their community advisory boards, stakeholder groups, and the public regarding ROSC.

Strategic Goal #3: Increase prevention efforts to educate youth and families to live healthy, free of drug and alcohol abuse and addiction.

Progress Update: The Drug Free Caroline Coalition continues to work on addressing the abuse of prescription drugs. In July, the Coalition was able to place a

permanent Rx Drop Box at the Denton Police Department, thanks to the "Tri-County Prevention Project" funded by the Maryland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration. To date, reports from the Denton Police Department indicate that this effort is a great success. A new Super Walmart is also slated to open in the county at the end of the month, and while the LDAAC has not yet obtained a firm commitment, the store manager has been receptive to locating a prescription drug return box in the pharmacy area. This would greatly increase the convenience of prescription drug disposal, as the store expects to receive 3,500 visitors daily and is open 24 hours a day.

The Drug Free Communities (DFC) Support Program Grant funding ended on September 30th and the Coalition did not receive a second five-year round of funding. However, the Coalition plans to apply again next year. The grant saw the successful implementation of a more robust alcohol enforcement and education program. This grant cycle, 163 individuals were trained in TiPS (responsible alcohol beverage sales/service training) which has been provided to licensees and their employees at no cost through the DFC grant. This brings the total for the five years of the DFC grant to 493 individuals trained.

The Coalition continued to fund alcohol law compliance efforts in the county in this grant cycle. Three compliance checks were conducted through the Sheriff's Office, resulting in a number of violations. In addition, two "Shoulder-Tap Operations" were conducted for the first time through the Sheriff's Office. These involved an underage cadet attempting to get adults outside of an establishment to go in and purchase alcohol for them. In the first operation, 16 adults were cited for agreeing to purchase alcohol for the underage cadet.

All of the LDACC partners involved agreed that the positive changes resulting from the employment of a Liquor Inspector (training, education, and compliance) must continue. Therefore, even though the funding stream has ended, the Caroline County Health Department has agreed to fund the position through the end of the calendar year. Additionally, the local Board of License Commissioners (Liquor Board) and the Coalition recently met with the County Commissioners and obtained their commitment to continuing the programs by hiring a County-funded Liquor Inspector. County staff is working on a job description and budget, which will include both inspection activities, as well as funding for the Sheriff's Office/Drug Task Force to conduct at least two compliance checks a year.

The LDAAC and Coalition have also worked successfully with the County Commissioners and State legislative delegation to pursue State policy changes to strengthen alcohol laws and regulations. One change involved the requirement regarding TiPS certified staffing. Previously, the

requirement was only that one person on the license had to be TiPS certified. The law now requires that a TiPS certified person must be on duty any time alcohol is being sold/served. The other major legislative change was to require one-day license holders to have a TiPS trained person present at all events involving the serving or sale of alcohol.

The Coalition is currently working on a prevention plan through the Maryland Strategic Prevention Framework (MSPF) State Incentive Grant (SIG). In conjunction with Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration, the State is focusing on three primary areas: underage drinking, ages 12 to 20; binge drinking, ages 16 to 24; and alcohol related crashes, ages 16 to 25. The Coalition is currently in the strategic planning process to determine area of focus and goals/strategies. At this point, this is the primary funding for any prevention efforts the Coalition will conduct.

Strategic Goal #4: To continue to forge partnerships among the courts, public agencies and community-based organizations to impact the effects of substance abuse.

Progress Update: The Juvenile and Adult Drug Courts bring together the circuit court, parole and probation, juvenile services, the local addictions services, State's Attorney's Office, and Office of the Public Defender to collaboratively work to intervene in the life of substance abusing individuals. With the expansion into Adult Drug Court, a new partnership with local Mental Health Services has emerged. New and renewed collaborations are a continuing goal.