
Cecil County Alcohol and Drug Council
Strategic Plan for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Services
July 2007

Vision: A community free from substance abuse and dependence.

Mission: To reduce substance abuse and dependence and related consequences through development and implementation of a plan, strategies and priorities for meeting the identified needs of the general public and the criminal justice system, for alcohol and drug evaluation, prevention and treatment services.

Data Driven Analysis of Jurisdictional Needs: In 2004, a large number of Cecil County residents reported that they were “very concerned” about their children using alcohol (47.7%) or drugs (51.1%).¹ These concerns were substantiated by data collected in the 2006 Maryland Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey which showed that, among Maryland jurisdictions, Cecil County has the 3rd highest number of residents reporting chronic drinking, and the 4th highest number of residents reporting binge drinking. Further, over 43% of Cecil County households with children have reported the presence of at least one binge drinking adult annually.²

Similarly, illicit drug use in the county ranks among the highest in the state of Maryland. The average number of people reporting current illicit drug abuse or dependence in Cecil County (3.04%) exceeds the state average (2.88%)³ and nearly 29% of young adults, aged 18 to 24, report a history of illegal drug use.⁴ The 16 drug-related deaths in Cecil County in 2005 accounted for 2.2% of all deaths in the county that year. The only jurisdiction in Maryland with a higher percentage of deaths attributed to illicit drug use was Baltimore City. Similarly, Cecil County has the 3rd highest drug-induced death rate in Maryland at a rate of 16.4 per 100,000 fatalities. Cecil County also ranks high among Maryland jurisdictions in other consequences of illicit drug use: drug-related burglaries in Cecil County was 868.5 per 100,000 population (the 4th highest in Maryland), and the rate of drug-related motor vehicle thefts in Cecil County was 288.8 per 100,000 population (6th highest in Maryland). The rate of drug-related public school suspension in Cecil County is the 8th highest in the state of Maryland (302.4 per 100,000 students).⁵

1 The Cecil County Community Health Survey 2004 Report. Cecil County Health Department, Elkton, Maryland, May 2005.

2 Maryland Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2006.

3 Maryland Epidemiological Profile: Consequences of Illicit Drug Use, Alcohol Abuse, and Smoking. The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration and the Center for Substance Abuse Research, University of Maryland, College Park, June 14, 2007.

4 The Cecil County Community Health Survey 2004 Report, op. cit.

5 Maryland Epidemiological Profile, op. cit.

Reducing substance abuse and related consequences, and preventing the onset or escalation of substance use by adolescents are critical goals for many members of the Cecil County community. The strategic plan identified below is the result of work from the Cecil County Alcohol and Drug Council, a local group consisting of the major players across the spectrum of substance abuse service demands and providers. The plan, developed by the local group, identifies the service needs of the general public and the criminal justice system, and is in response to the Council's review of available federal, state, local, and private funds used for evaluation, prevention, and treatment services.

In general, the Council's goals include establishing an integrated continuum of substance abuse treatment services for adults and adolescents, enhancing resources and programs for individuals referred by the criminal justice system, extending prevention and treatment education and assistance to families, and decreasing perceived obstacles to prevention and treatment programs. Successfully implementing the following plan is contingent upon receiving sufficient funding.

Goal 1: Establish an accessible and integrated continuum of substance abuse treatment services for adult residents of Cecil County.

Objective A: Improve access to residential treatment services.

Action Plan: Diminish delays between referral and admission to residential treatment services as measured by a reduction in the number of days patients remain on the residential treatment waiting lists.

Objective B: Improve existing community-based treatment to allow for increased intensity and contact with patients.

Action Plan: Initiate intensive outpatient programming within Cecil County.

Objective C: Improve transitional housing services for individuals in need of ongoing long-term substance abuse care.

Action Plan: Establish a transitional recovery house for women.

Objective D: Divert emergency room admissions of individuals experiencing mental health crises with or without coexisting substance abuse concerns.

Action Plan: Implement an emergency room diversion program.

Goal 1 - Performance Target: Improve access for Cecil County residents to integrated treatment services.

Goal 2: Establish and enhance resources and programs to address the substance abuse concerns among individuals referred by the criminal justice system.

Objective A: Enhance the Adult Drug Treatment Court Program.

Action Plan: Continue and expand the Circuit Court Drug Court program to 60 participants during FY 2008 with a 10% growth each year thereafter.

Objective B: Enhance jail-based treatment services at the Cecil County Detention Center and Community Adult Rehabilitation Center Units.

Action Plan: Expand detention center and re-entry aftercare programs.

Objective C: Improve existing community based treatment to allow for increased intensity and contact with clients referred through the criminal justice system.

Action Plan: Initiate intensive outpatient programming within Cecil County.

Goal 2 - Performance Target: Improved substance abuse related resources for individuals involved with the criminal justice system.

Goal 3: Establish an accessible and integrated continuum of substance abuse prevention, intervention and treatment services for the adolescents and families of Cecil County.

Objective A: Improve access for adolescents and families to residential treatment services

Action Plan: Implement an adolescent residential treatment program within, or in close proximity to, Cecil County.

Objective B: Expand and enhance services for the families of adolescents in substance abuse treatment.

Action Plan: Implement an evidenced-based education, counseling and case management program for the families of substance abusing adolescents.

Objective C: Extend the benefits of the drug court treatment model to adolescent offenders and their families.

Action Plan: Complete feasibility study for an adolescent diversion-model drug court. If warranted, obtain funding to begin a court program.

Objective D: Expand access to criminal justice diversion programs for youth.

Action Plan: Implement additional neighborhood youth panel / teen court programs within Cecil County.

Objective E: Use appropriate evidenced-based prevention programs in all settings.

Action Plan: Reduce the prevalence of substance abuse among adolescents as evidenced by the Maryland Adolescent Survey, Department of Juvenile Justice referrals and school suspensions related to substance abuse.

Goal 3 - Performance Target: Improve access for Cecil County adolescents and their families to integrated prevention, intervention and treatment services.

Goal 4: Educate and assist families in Cecil County to live healthy and drug free lives.

Objective A: Increase awareness among healthcare providers as to the importance of screening their patients for substance abuse as well as resources for treatment and intervention in the community.

Action Plan: Increase the percentage of healthcare providers who routinely screen and refer patients experiencing substance abuse concerns.

Objective B: Reduce the prevalence of high risk substance abusing behaviors among residents as indicated by Cecil County Community Health Survey and Maryland Adolescent Survey.

Action Plan: Utilize multi-media initiatives to change individual and community norms.

Goal 4 - Performance Target: Increased awareness of substance abuse related concerns among Cecil County residents.

Goal 5: Decrease perceived obstacles to prevention and treatment programs.

Objective A: Improve transportation resources for clients.

Action Plan: Establish new transportation resources for Cecil County residents seeking prevention and treatment services.

Objective B: Decrease distance between the County residents who need services and treatment locations.

Action Plan: Evaluate viable locations for new satellite community based programming.

Objective C: Improve services for non-English speaking community members.

Action Plan: Implement a Spanish-speaking outpatient treatment program.

Goal 5 - Performance Target: Increased participation of community members in need of services.
