



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **West Virginia Awarded Multi-Million Dollar Federal Grant for Prevention**

CHARLESTON, W.VA.— West Virginia has been awarded **more than 11 million dollars** for community-based prevention. The five-year **Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG)**, administered by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's (SAMHSA)**, is intended to **prevent substance abuse** and reduce substance abuse-related problems in communities. The grant provides funding to **build prevention capacity and infrastructure** at the state and local levels so communities can deliver and sustain effective substance abuse prevention and early intervention services. Additional information about the SPF SIG and SAMHSA is available at: <http://alt.samhsa.gov/hottopics/spf.html>.

West Virginia's Office of the Governor is the official recipient of the SPF SIG. The **Division on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse (DADA)** will support the grant, and the **West Virginia Prevention Resource Center (WVPRC)** will provide staff to implement grant funded activities. The DADA is housed within the Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities under the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources. Additional information about the DADA is available at [www.wvdhhr.org/bhhf/ada.asp](http://www.wvdhhr.org/bhhf/ada.asp). Additional information about the WVPRC is available at [www.prevnet.org](http://www.prevnet.org).

West Virginia will receive \$2,350,965 of the SPF SIG funds each year for five years. Eighty-five percent of the funds will be used to support community sub-grantees in developing and delivering prevention activities. The SPF SIG will also fund: collection and analysis of data on population needs, resources, and readiness to address needs and gaps in service delivery; the building of teams of already existing prevention specialists to facilitate professional development and activity coordination; the expansion of the annual Share The Vision prevention conference, which provides training and networking opportunities for prevention professionals; the expansion of computer and technology training for prevention professionals and community members; and resources for youth leadership development at the community level.

In addition to having more money for prevention, West Virginia now has a collaborative substance abuse prevention and intervention planning body. Officially created by Executive Order #8-04 in May 2004, West Virginia's Partnership to Promote Community Well-Being (Partnership) consists of representatives from state and community entities who have come together in the name of community well-being. A complete listing of Partnership members is listed on page 2.

"This is truly an exciting time!" said Helena Lee, Partnership Co-Chair and Safe & Drug Free Communities Administrator at the Division of Criminal Justice Services. "Many of us on the Partnership have been involved with prevention for a long time. This is the first time West Virginia has had adequate funding and involvement from all the

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necessary sectors pulled together for prevention. Now we can truly develop a comprehensive plan for prevention that can impact the well-being of all West Virginians.”

The Partnership has been meeting quarterly since December 2003. To better coordinate current prevention efforts in West Virginia, the Partnership formed with the following goals: developing a comprehensive, statewide plan for the improvement of the substance abuse prevention system; coordinating planning with other interrelated systems; and identifying and leveraging prevention funding to fill needs and gaps in service. Additional information about the Partnership and the planning grant is available at [www.prevnet.org/projects/partnership/](http://www.prevnet.org/projects/partnership/). The Partnership will function as the principle advisory body throughout the duration of the 5 year effort as well as making funding recommendations to the Governor.

**The following entities are represented on the Partnership:**

**List Updated 8-9-2005**

- **Office of The Governor – WV Commission for National & Community Service** (Jean Ambrose)
- **WV Department of Tax and Revenue – Alcohol Beverage Control Administration** (Gig Robinson)
- **WV Department of Education – Office of Student Services & Health Promotion** (Don Chapman)
- **WV Department of Education and The Arts – Library Commission** (Karen Eskew, RADAR)
- **WV Department of Health & Human Resources**
  - **Bureau for Behavioral Health & Health Facilities**
    - **Division on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse** (Steve Mason)
  - **Bureau for Children & Families** (Sue Hage)
  - **Bureau for Public Health**
    - **Office of Epidemiology & Health Promotion** (Joe Barker)
    - **Office of Maternal, Child & Family Health** (Denise Smith)
- **WV Department of Military Affairs & Public Safety**
  - **Division of Criminal Justice Services** (Jason Carlson & Helena Lee)
  - **Division of Juvenile Services** (Cindy Largent-Hill)
- **WV Supreme Court of Appeals – Administrative Office of the Courts –**
  - **Probation Services Division** (Mike Lacy)
- **Youth** (Andrew Gillette & Rudi Raynes)
- **Law Enforcement and/or Community Corrections** (Dave Harris, Westwood Middle School Prevention Resource Officer)
- **WV Extension** (Bill Woodrum)
- **Public/Private Non-Profit Organizations** (Michelle Foster, Kanawha Institute for Social Research & Action; Judy Crabtree, Kanawha Coalition for Community Health Improvement; Lew Holloway, Northern WV Rural Health Education Center; Judith Russell, Corporation for National & Community Service)
- **Community-At-Large** (Steve Heasley – Private Consultant; Gayle Manchin - First Lady, State of WV; Keith Adkins - Drug Enforcement Agency Demand Reduction Coordinator; Brenda Thompson - WV Legislature Legal Counsel)
- **Mental Health/Substance Abuse Treatment/Suicide Prevention Services** (Bob Musick)
- **Faith-Based Initiatives** (Chris Wood, Mission WV)
- **C.R.E.A.T.E.** (Helena Lee)
- **REQUIRED BY CSAP**
  - **Drug Enforcement Administration** (Keith Adkins - Demand Reduction Initiative Officer for WV)
  - **EX-Officio Member:** Center for Substance Abuse (Karen Salem - Prevention Project Officer for WV)