

COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK - 2001	SUBSTANCE ABUSE URGENT ISSUES AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	PREPARED BY THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE PLANNING PARTNERSHIP
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Urgent Issue I: Persons who use, abuse, or are addicted to substances often cannot access the treatment they need and want.
Data: In 1998, substance abuse was directly related to 367 deaths in Travis County. TCADA estimates that 19,881 adults and 11,555 adolescents in Texas want substance abuse treatment and are medically indigent. In fiscal year 2000, TCADA met 19% of the adult need and 43% of the adolescent need.
Desired Result: Reduced wait time for persons asking for and needing treatment.

SOLUTIONS	ACTIONS	FINANCIAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES	HUMAN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES	EXAMPLES OF ONGOING EFFORTS
Increase treatment capacity to meet unmet needs.	Fully fund 24 detoxification beds (5-7 days).	\$130/day per bed \$47,450/year per bed	Substance Abuse Planning Partnership is initiating discussions and planning efforts to determine investment opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private sector businesses • State Legislature • Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (TCADA) • Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services • Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Services • Austin Travis County Mental Health Mental Retardation Center (ATCMHMR) • Foundations • Federal sources • Community Action Network (CAN) • Texas Department of Health • Travis County Adult Probation
	Fully fund 150 residential treatment beds (14-90 days).	\$50-\$70/day per bed \$18,250 - \$25,550/year per bed	Substance Abuse Planning Partnership is initiating discussions and planning efforts to determine investment opportunities.	
	Fully fund outpatient services for 300 (90-120 days).	\$18-\$47/hour per person	Substance Abuse Planning Partnership is initiating discussions and planning efforts to determine investment opportunities.	

Develop a strategy for crisis stabilization for substance abusers.	Establish a process to provide substance abuse crisis stabilization, assessment and referral services in lieu of emergency room and criminal justice alternatives.	Substance Abuse Planning Partnership is initiating discussions and planning efforts to determine investment opportunities.	Utilize interns to provide case management or other supportive services.	
Reduce the treatment waiting time for special populations*. Reduce substance abuse harm by incorporating effective intervention strategies.	Increase and/or develop capacity to ensure timely (to be defined) access to treatment services. Provide funding for brief interventions to reduce substance abuse harm.	Substance Abuse Planning Partnership is initiating discussions and planning efforts to determine investment opportunities.	Utilize students (i.e., nurses, medical students) and interns to deliver brief interventions in primary care settings.	

*Special populations are defined as dually diagnosed, elderly, HIV+, offenders, pregnant and parenting women, and youth.

Urgent Issue II: Residents of Travis County are not receiving coordinated, consistent and integrated services to PREVENT substance abuse.
Data: Research indicates for every dollar spent on drug use prevention, communities can save 4 to 5 dollars in costs for drug abuse treatment and counseling.
Desired Result: Increased coordination, quality, and utilization of prevention services.

SOLUTIONS	ACTIONS	FINANCIAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES	HUMAN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES	EXAMPLES OF ONGOING EFFORTS
Establish a process for ensuring coordinated delivery of prevention services.	Develop a coordinated community prevention plan, including relating plan items to root causes by establishing a local coordinator of prevention services position.	Estimated \$50,000-\$100,000	Utilize interns to assist with the development of a prevention plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private sector businesses • State Legislature • TCADA
Reduce gaps for prevention services.	Add prevention services to address the gaps identified in the prevention plan.	Substance Abuse Planning Partnership is initiating discussions and planning efforts to determine investment opportunities.	Substance Abuse Planning Partnership is initiating discussions and planning efforts to determine investment opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services • Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Services • ATCMHMR • Foundations • Federal sources • CAN • Prevention Providers • College/University community • Safe and Drug Free Schools
	Increase after school activities at various locations.	Substance Abuse Planning Partnership is initiating discussions and planning efforts to determine investment opportunities.	Substance Abuse Planning Partnership is initiating discussions and planning efforts to determine investment opportunities.	

Urgent Issue III: Our community is not consistently receiving substance abuse services based upon the most effective principles, strategies, approaches and models.

Data: Research indicates the consistent use of and investment in best practices results in improved outcomes and increased cost-effectiveness of substance abuse services.

Desired Result:

- 1. Increased funding based upon criteria that support the implementation and maintenance of best practices.**
- 2. Increased utilization of best practices by service providers in our community**
- 3. Streamlined processes to ensure client qualification for multiple services completed at one time.**

SOLUTIONS	ACTIONS	FINANCIAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES	HUMAN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES	EXAMPLES OF ONGOING EFFORTS
Increase the number of providers utilizing best practices.	Identify prevention and treatment best practices and their costs.	Substance Abuse Planning Partnership is initiating discussions and planning efforts to determine investment opportunities.	Participate in outreach teams (business to business mentoring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ATCMHMR • Travis County HHS and Veterans Services • Texas Addiction Technology Transfer Center • Center for Substance Abuse Prevention • CAN • Safe and Drug Free Schools • Travis County Adult Probation • VA
Develop community-based strategies for disseminating information on best practices.	Educate funding entities, policy makers, and service providers on best practices.	Estimated cost for a part-time position - \$30,000/year.	Substance Abuse Planning Partnership is initiating discussions and planning efforts to determine investment opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ATCMHMR • Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Services • Substance abuse providers • High-tech community

	Establish a substance abuse web site to include best practice information.	Substance Abuse Planning Partnership is initiating discussions and planning efforts to determine investment opportunities.	Substance Abuse Planning Partnership is initiating discussions and planning efforts to determine investment opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAN • HHS service providers • College/University community • Safe and Drug Free Schools
	Host a best practice conference to address local needs and current efforts.	Substance Abuse Planning Partnership is initiating discussions and planning efforts to determine investment opportunities.	Substance Abuse Planning Partnership is initiating discussions and planning efforts to determine investment opportunities.	
Educate state funding entities on local funding needs and benefits.	Develop a proposal for establishing a mechanism to allow funding decisions to be made on a local level rather than regional or state levels.	Substance Abuse Planning Partnership is initiating discussions and planning efforts to determine investment opportunities.	Substance Abuse Planning Partnership is initiating discussions and planning efforts to determine investment opportunities.	
Decrease the number of eligibility applications for persons seeking multiple services.	Develop a common intake, eligibility and referral data set.	Estimated cost - \$1,000 - \$100,000	Substance Abuse Planning Partnership is initiating discussions and planning efforts to determine investment opportunities.	