

IDAHO OFFICE OF DRUG POLICY



SEPTEMBER 2018



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SPF-SIG Wrap-Up

And Farewell from Grant Project Director, Sharlene Johnson

As I close-out the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG), I am reflecting on all the hard work and effort to prevent youth substance use put forth by our prevention coalitions and law enforcement agencies across the state. One of the primary goals of the SPF SIG is to help communities strengthen local prevention infrastructure and capacity. The Office of Drug Policy was able to fund 17 community coalitions to develop strong substance use prevention strategic plans. The SPF SIG also funded law enforcement agencies in several communities to implement activities to reduce youth use and access to drugs and alcohol.

SPF SIG-funded coalition activities reached an estimated 1.5 million non-unique individuals. The majority of successes reported by coalitions fell into 3 categories: planning or conducting SPF activities or strategies; building coalition capacity; and forming or maintaining meaningful partnerships or community contacts.

Law enforcement spent many hours dedicated to SPF activities, which included party patrols, maintaining an officer presence at schools or school events, making contacts with local alcohol suppliers, and managing prescription drug takeback events or drop boxes. Overall, law enforcement grantees reported the greatest successes came from new staffing opportunities afforded with additional funds and building and maintaining relationships in the community. Combined, these factors helped reduce underage drinking incidents. Law enforcement grantees also identified the SPF-SIG helped them to develop infrastructure through the formation and maintenance of partnerships with schools and school districts, neighboring law enforcement agencies, and state and local health agencies. New partnerships meant expanded staff, new prevention activities and additional funding opportunities.

I am happy to report that these efforts have begun to move the prevention needle in the right direction. Three out of four youth alcohol outcomes changed in the desired direction, including past 30-day alcohol use, perceptions of risk of harm of alcohol use, and perceptions of peer disapproval of alcohol use. Most notable, peer disapproval of alcohol use increased significantly suggesting social norms around alcohol are changing in Idaho. For those communities that also targeted marijuana use, past 30-day marijuana use among youth decreased and peer disapproval of marijuana use also significantly increased.

As we transition from SPF SIG to the Partnerships for Success (PFS) grant, I am confident that these coalitions and law enforcement agencies will continue to be strong change agents in their communities. With this transition comes big changes for me personally. I will be leaving my role at the Office of Drug Policy to return to my prevention roots as a coalition director. The Upriver Youth Leadership Council in my home town of Kamiah offered me an Executive Director position and I have accepted and am looking forward to being back doing coalition work where my prevention passion first began. I am sad to leave ODP as I have been offered many great opportunities and made great friends over the years, but ultimately my health, my family and my community are my priorities. My last day with ODP will be September 28th, but I hope to stay involved at the state level on the various work groups we have formed through the SPF SIG grant. I hope to still work with you all and to stay in contact, my new contact information is upriverylc@gmail.com or (208)-743-0392.

In 2017, Idaho had almost 100 opioid related deaths, which is a significant increase from the single death in 2013 ([Idaho Leaders Unveil Plan, 2018](#)). The prescribing rate for opioids in Idaho is 77.6 opioids per 100 persons, compared to the national rate of 66.5 ([CDC, 2017](#)). While many people associate this epidemic with large cities, opioids are a problem across the country, in both rural towns and urban areas.

Several individual states have created policies that limit opioid prescriptions to a certain amount or number of days, which started in 2016 when Massachusetts passed the first law restricting opioids. Although Idaho doesn't have a specific law addressing a limitation on the number of opioids a patient can receive, it has several groups and coalitions working to end this epidemic in Idaho. The Office of Drug Policy has worked with other groups and individuals to create a strategic plan, detailing how to stop the epidemic in Idaho. Additionally, about half of the states have other laws that recognize the epidemic, require continuing education, or attempt to reduce substance abuse.

Recently, the Idaho State Legislature passed bills regarding opioid antagonists, which went into effect July 1st. Opioid antagonists can reverse the effects of an overdose by attaching to opioid receptors in the brain and stopping the drug from reaching them. Naloxone is a common antagonist that can be administered nasally or injected. The first new law allows people, including prescribers and pharmacists, to administer the antagonist and protects them from being liable for injuries that occurred when the antagonist was given. It also requires that the Department of Health and Welfare and the Office of Drug Policy to create and maintain online education programs, hoping to increase the public's knowledge on prescription opioids. The second bill, sponsored by Representative Christy Perry, specifies that pharmacies that dispense opioid antagonists must file them with the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP). The PMP is used to reduce substance abuse by collecting data from prescribers.

In addition to laws that address opioid abuse, there are several grants in Idaho that aim to prevent and treat addiction. Idaho's Response to the Opioid Crisis (IROC) is a program funded by a federal grant and awarded to the Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Behavioral Health. IROC's goals include reducing unmet treatment and overdose deaths, as well as expanding access to treatment. Recovery resources are available to individuals who met certain criteria. One part of this program is Prescription Monitoring Program Prescriber

Reports. These reports are given to prescribers quarterly and include a summary of their prescribing history and how they compare to an average physician in their specialty. Also, IROC incorporates prescriber education, which focuses on teaching practitioners about Prescription Monitoring Programs, CDC Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain, and Naloxone.

The Naloxone Mini Grant used funds from IROC and was supervised by the Office of Drug Policy. This aspect of the grant was made to reduce overdose deaths in rural communities through the distribution of Naloxone. Naloxone kits were dispensed by ODP to first responders in during FY18. Almost 2200 kits were provided to 93 different agencies across Idaho, including law enforcement, fire departments, and recovery centers. These agencies reported that Naloxone was administered 97 times, which saved at least 36 lives. Almost half of the participants concluded that they would continue to keep Naloxone in emergency vehicles and train future first responders ([ODP, 2018](#)).

The Pharmacy Medication Disposal Mini Grant also addressed the opioid crisis in Idaho. It was financed by the Idaho Millennium Fund and involved starting pharmacy take back locations and marketing the program within the community. There are 25 take back boxes across Idaho where anyone can drop off unused prescription drugs.

Initiatives have been implemented across Idaho to put an end to the opioid epidemic, including work groups, grants, and new legislation. These measures are a step in the right direction, moving towards an Idaho free from the devastating social, health, and economic consequences of substance abuse.

DrugFree Idaho Presents at the NPN Conference

A Campaign to Keep Idaho Free from Marijuana

DrugFree Idaho (DFI) worked with a local marketing firm to develop an informative, inquisitive, and eye-catching marijuana education campaign that seeks to create transparency and conversation around the impacts of marijuana legalization. The campaign is called Keep Idaho.



Rob Stevenson and Monte Stiles of DFI presented the new campaign

to an audience of prevention professionals from around the United States at the 2018 National Prevention Network Conference in Boston, MA on August 28th. The two presented creative materials, such as PSAs and web ads, that highlight fact-based messaging with just the right twinge of humor and a simple website that cites its sources. The inviting campaign avoids finger wagging and instead provides insightful facts to make the audience stop and think about the realities of marijuana legalization in states like Washington and Colorado.

Those who attended the presentation were able to glean ideas and inspiration for steps they could take with media campaigns in their respective states. The response from audience members was overwhelmingly positive. Attending and presenting at National Conferences is a great way to showcase the work in our state and to share ideas and information with our substance abuse prevention partners from across the country.

The campaign will launch in Idaho in the next 4-6 weeks and the [Keep Idaho](#) website is already live.

Congratulations to Idaho's New DFC Coalitions Awards Announced for the 20th Anniversary of DFC

The Office of National Drug Control Policy's (ONDCP) [Drug-Free Communities \(DFC\) Support Program](#), created by the Drug-Free Communities Act of 1997, provides grants to community coalitions to strengthen the infrastructure among local partners to create and sustain a reduction in local youth substance use.

The following Idaho Coalitions applied and were awarded funding for FY 2018:

- Drug Free Idaho;
- Community Coalitions of Idaho;
- Salmon Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition;
- Bonneville Youth Development Council

They join current Idaho DFC coalitions Lapwai Community Coalition and Upriver Youth Leadership Council who were awarded continuation grants. Congratulations to all!

Upcoming DEA Take Back Day

Save the Date!

The next bi-annual DEA Prescription Drug Take Back Day will be October 27, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., locations to be announced. This event provides an opportunity for Americans to clean out their medicine cabinets and safely and anonymously turn in expired and unused prescription drugs.



In the meantime, you can find locations to drop off prescription drugs year-round using [ODP's web tool](#).

The Idaho Office of Drug Policy leads Idaho's substance abuse policy and prevention efforts by developing and implementing strategic action plans and collaborative partnerships to reduce drug use and related crime, thereby improving the health and safety of all Idahoans.



We envision an Idaho free from the devastating social, health, and economic consequences of substance abuse.



STAY IN TOUCH

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