

April 7, 2006

Welcome to Indiana's State Epidemiology and Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW)! Thank you for agreeing to serve on this important committee. As part of the Center for Substance Abuse and Prevention's (CSAP) Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG) program, Indiana, along with the other participating states, has been challenged to move to a data-driven system for developing and funding substance abuse prevention programs.

The Governor has appointed a SPF SIG Advisory Commission (SAC) that is responsible for overseeing Indiana's SPF SIG initiative and coordinating it with the other substance abuse prevention initiatives. Sheriff Mark Frisbee has been appointed to Chair the SAC. While the SAC is responsible for all formal policy recommendations and funding decisions related to the SPF SIG, the SEOW will play a critical role in this process. Specifically, as required by CSAP, the SEOW is charged with the responsibility for collating and analyzing available data that can be used both to identify current and emergent prevention priorities and evaluate the broader impact of the SPF SIG initiative on substance use and abuse in Indiana. As Chair of the SEOW, my role is to guide our committee through a systematic review of the data and to summarize our discussions and conclusions in written reports that will be submitted to the SAC and made available to the public. To help me, I have assembled a small team of professional data analysts who will work closely with me.

Our charge represents a formidable challenge. There are many ways to identify priorities and analyze the data. For this reason, we will meet regularly over the next five years to regularly review data in order to evaluate the substance abuse prevention needs for Indiana. As part of the first SPF SIG award, Indiana developed a comprehensive strategic plan *Imagine Indiana Together*, and this document outlines critical concepts, principles, and challenges that will guide and inform our discussions.

Again, I thank you for agreeing to serve as a member of the SEOW. I look forward to working with you and reducing the devastating affects of substance abuse in our state.

Sincerely,



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