



PREVENTION

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November is Military Family Month

President Barack Obama has signed a proclamation designating this month as Military Family Appreciation Month, which coincides with the recognition of Veterans Day on 11 November of each year. As stated in his proclamation, "We owe each day of security and freedom that we enjoy to the members of our Armed Forces and their families. Behind our brave service men and women, there are family members and loved ones who share in their sacrifice and provide unending support."

Throughout November, the Department of Defense and the nation will honor the commitment and sacrifices made by the families of the nation's service members.

More service members have families today than in any time in history. According to the latest report by the Office of Army Demographics (2009), 58 percent of Soldiers are married, and another 6.7 percent are single with children. The Army counted more than 850,000 family members.

"They are serving side-by-side with our Soldiers, enduring their hardships, providing the unconditional love and support that truly makes our [military] strong," said Gen. George W. Casey Jr., chief of staff of the Army, recently.

The month provides an opportunity to recognize and address the mental health promotion and substance abuse prevention needs of today's military families, many of whom endure multiple combat deployments and face a variety of challenges that accompany those deployments.



Relief Sculpture in Chicago, Illinois

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REMINDERS FOR NPN MEMBERS

NPN Public Information and Media Committee Conference Call
Tuesday December 14, 2010 3:00 PM EST

2011 NPN Research Conference Planning Committee Conference Call
Thursday December 16, 2010 2:00 PM EST

NPN Workforce Development Committee Conference Call
Thursday December 16, 2010 3:00 PM EST

NPN Research and Evaluation Committee Conference Call
Wednesday December 22, 2010 3:00 PM EST

NPN Executive Committee Conference Call
Monday January 3, 2011 2:00 PM EST

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FDA Warns Makers of Caffeinated Alcoholic Beverages

From an FDA News Release, 17 November 2010

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned four companies that the caffeine added to their malt alcoholic beverages is an “unsafe food additive” and said that further action, including seizure of their products, is possible under federal law. Warning letters were sent to the following manufacturers (products in parenthesis):

- Charge Beverages Corp.(Core High Gravity HG, Core High Gravity HG Orange, and Lemon Lime Core Spiked)
- New Century Brewing Co., LLC (Moonshot)
- Phusion Projects, LLC Four Loko United Brands Company Inc. (Joose and Max)

FDA’s action follows a scientific review by the Agency. FDA examined the published peer-reviewed literature on the co-consumption of caffeine and alcohol, consulted with experts in the fields of toxicology, neuropharmacology, emergency medicine, and epidemiology, and reviewed information provided by product manufacturers. FDA also performed its own independent laboratory analysis of these products.

“FDA does not find support for the claim that the addition of caffeine to these alcoholic beverages is ‘generally recognized as safe,’ which is the legal standard,” said Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Principal Deputy Commissioner. “To the contrary, there is evidence that the combinations of caffeine and alcohol in these products pose a public health concern.”

Experts have raised concerns that caffeine can mask some of the sensory cues individuals might normally rely on to determine their level of intoxication.

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Michigan and Washington Ban Alcoholic Energy Drinks

From a CADCA News Release, 10 November 2010

Several alcoholic energy drinks from small and large distributors have been removed from store shelves in Michigan and Washington. Two years ago, Anheuser-Busch and MillerCoors dropped premixed, sweetened alcohol energy drinks from their product lines. Last week, the more than year-long efforts of 50 coalitions of youth and adults helped ban the sale of alcoholic energy drinks in Michigan. In addition, high caffeine alcoholic energy drinks, like the ones that sickened Central Washington University students last month, have been banned in Washington state. The state Liquor Control Board adopted that rule Wednesday morning. It takes effect Nov. 18.

Perhaps the tipping point for The Michigan Liquor Control Commission’s 2:1 decision to ban the drinks was the recent national media attention to one particular product line, Four Loko, and its links to dozens of recent alcohol poisoning cases. Known as “blackout-in-a-can” for its combination of caffeine and 12 percent alcohol, Four Loko is one of 55 drinks that the state banned.

However, while Michigan and Washington have now banned these products and other states are moving quickly to do the same, in Utah drinks like Four Loko have never been allowed on store shelves, according to the *Deseret News*.

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New Resources to Build Competitive Health Insurance Marketplaces

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded nearly \$49 million to help 48 states and the District of Columbia plan for the establishment of health insurance exchanges. A key part of the Affordable Care Act, starting in 2014, health insurance exchanges – new, competitive, consumer-centered private health insurance marketplaces – will put greater control and greater choice in the hands of individuals and small businesses.

The state-based exchanges will make purchasing health insurance easier by providing eligible consumers and businesses with “one-stop-shopping” where they can compare and purchase health insurance coverage. Americans will have the same health care choices as members of Congress – who will also purchase coverage through the exchanges.

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HHS Awards Prevention Grants

From an HHS Press Release, 24 September 2010

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced nearly \$100 million in grants made possible primarily by the new Affordable Care Act Prevention and Public Health Fund. The grants will support a variety of critical public health programs in states and local communities; everything from tobacco quit lines to HIV testing to programs that help address and tackle substance abuse and mental health issues.

The grants represent proven programs run by divisions and centers across the Department of Health and Human Services. Nearly \$68 million will go to fund key state and local public health programs supported through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Another \$26.2 will go to state and community substance abuse and mental health programs from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). One grant from the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) will go toward launching the Healthy Weight Collaborative at the Prevention Center for Healthy Weight.

For more information and a list of grants by state, see the following link: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/09/20100924a.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS

ON THE PREVENTION CALENDAR

8th National Harm Reduction Conference

“Harm Reduction Beyond Borders”

HOST: Harm Reduction Coalition

DATE: November 18-21, 2010

LOC: Austin, TX

INFO: <http://www.8thnationalharmreductionconference.com/>

Alcohol Policy 15

“Policies for Reducing Problems Associated with Alcohol Availability”

HOST: Silver Gate Group

DATE: December 5-7, 2010

LOC: Washington, DC

INFO: <http://www.silvergategroup.com/ap15/index.htm>

HIV Prevention Leadership Summit

HOST: National Minority AIDS Council

DATE: December 12-15, 2010

LOC: Washington, DC

INFO: <http://nmac.org>

AOD Abuse Prevention and Intervention Conference

HOST: Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education

DATE: January 13-15, 2011

LOC: Miami, FL

INFO: <http://www.naspa.org>

21st Annual National Leadership Forum

HOST: CADCA

DATE: February 7-10, 2011

LOC: National Harbor, MD

INFO: <http://www.cadca.org/events/detail/forum2011>

National Summit on Smokeless and Spit Tobacco

HOST: Texas Department of State Health Services

DATE: May 10-12, 2011

LOC: Austin, TX

INFO: <http://www.smokelesstobaccosummit.com>

19th Annual Meeting

HOST: Society for Prevention Research

DATE: May 31– June 3, 2011

LOC: Washington, DC

INFO: <http://www.wix.com/sprmeeting/2011>

NASADAD/NPN/NTN Annual Meeting

HOST: NASADAD

DATE: June 7-10, 2011

LOC: Indianapolis, IN

INFO: <http://www.nasadad.org>

24th Annual NPN Research Conference

HOST: National Prevention Network

DATE: September 20-23

LOC: Atlanta, GA

INFO: <http://swpc.ou.edu/npn>

Up to \$22.4 Million Awarded for Suicide Prevention

*From a SAMHSA Press Release,
3 November 2010*

In the United States, suicide claims over 34,000 lives annually, the equivalent of 94 suicides per day; one suicide every 15 minutes. To address this national crisis the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is awarding a total of up to \$22.4 million in additional funds over the course of the next five years to the Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC). The center which is operated by the Education Development Center, Inc., in Massachusetts, provides state-of-the-art suicide prevention expertise to states, tribes, and communities throughout the country.

This new funding will allow the SPRC to increase its focus on populations at high risk for suicide or suicide attempts, such as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender youth, young Latinas, youth in the foster care and juvenile justice systems, and American Indian/Alaska natives. The funding will also allow an increased focus on increasing the suicide prevention capacity of health and mental health providers to assess and manage suicide risk and to improve quality and continuity of care for persons at high risk of suicide, including individuals who have attempted suicide, those afflicted with mental illness and those with substance use disorders.

In addition, the funds will help enhance suicide prevention capacities in critical care settings such as primary care, hospital emergency departments, and substance abuse treatment programs.

"Suicide is a preventable tragedy with the potential to touch every American," said Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. "Every life is important, so we must confront suicide, suicidal thoughts openly and honestly and use every opportunity to make a difference."

The grant, part of SAMHSA's strategic initiative on prevention of mental illness and substance abuse, will provide training and resources to organizations and individuals implementing suicide prevention programs, interventions, and policies. It will also support the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention's efforts to update and advance the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention. The work of the Action Alliance will be supported by several other federal government agencies represented on the Federal Partners Working Group on Suicide Prevention.

Teen Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes Drops

From a CDC Press Release, 21 October 2010

The number of fatal crashes involving 16- and 17-year old drivers dropped by more than a third between 2004 and 2008, but this doesn't mean that parents and teens should be satisfied with the progress, according to a report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Crashes still remain the leading cause of death for teens in the United States, though most are preventable, the report says. Graduated driver licensing (GDL) programs, which help new drivers gain skills under low-risk conditions, are widely credited with contributing to the drop in deadly crashes involving teens, it says. GDL programs, which are used in 49 states and the District of Columbia, limit driving under conditions such as at night and while transporting other teen passengers. An earlier evaluation of GDL programs found that these systems can reduce crash risk by up to 40 percent among newly licensed drivers.

The overall decline in young drivers' fatal crash involvement is an extension of a longer-term downward trend. Rates of fatal crash involvement for 16- and 17-year-old drivers have fallen by more than 50 percent since 1996 (from 36 per 100,000 persons in 1996 to 16.7 per 100,000 in 2008). Despite this downward trend, young drivers' fatal crash rates are still high in some areas of the country.

"These trends show both how much progress we have made—and how much more we can make—to reduce motor vehicle crashes, which remain the number one cause of death for teens in the United States," said CDC Director Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.

CDC is launching a new campaign, "Parents Are the Key," to inform parents across the nation about the key role they can play in keeping teen drivers safe. CDC is also releasing "Policy Impact: Teen Driver Safety," the first in a series of briefs highlighting a key public health issue and science-based policy actions to address it.

For a complete copy of the study, please visit www.cdc.gov/mmwr.



CADCA National Leadership Forum

CADCA will host its 21st annual National Leadership Forum 7-10 February 2011 in National Harbor, MD. The theme, titled *Coalitions Moving Forward: Mapping the Future*, will encompass the widespread and fast moving change that has been building within the public health sector since the passage of the Affordable Care Act.

The National Prevention Network, building on its relationship with CADCA, will be presenting five workshops during the forum. These workshops are scheduled to cover the following topics:

- The intersection of prevention and recovery
- Current issues for the prevention workforce
- Youth taking the lead
- Drug Free Communities and the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grants
- The prevention of prescription drug abuse

Also, CADCA has graciously offered a limited number of scholarships to National Prevention Network members. To take advantage of this opportunity, applications must be received by 1 December and are awarded on a first come, first served basis.

For more information on the forum, please visit www.cadca.org/events/forum21.

Prevention Trivia

National Outcome Measures, 2008 Data

1. What percentage of those ages 12-17 perceive moderate or great risk of harm from having five or more drinks of an alcoholic beverage once or twice a week?
A. 78.5
B. 85.3
C. 61.7
D. 47.9
2. What is the average age of first use among those ages 12-17 who report using alcohol?
A. 13.3
B. 11.4
C. 14.5
D. 14.9
3. What is the average number of days of alcohol use during the past 30 days among users ages 12-17?
A. 9.8
B. 4.2
C. 1.6
D. 6.0

Answers: A, A, B

OJJDP Campaign Urges Mentoring

From an OJJDP Press Release, 27 October 2010

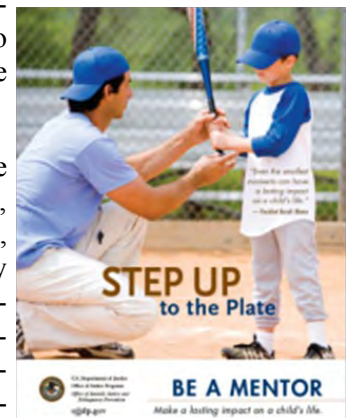
Mentoring programs have been shown to build self-esteem, enhance academic performance, and improve behavior. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has long supported mentoring as an effective way to prevent at-risk youth from becoming involved in delinquency.

Continuing its "Be a Mentor" campaign, OJJDP expected to reach some 3.5 million people through its ad in the game programs for Major League Baseball's 2010 American League and National League Championship Series and the World Series. The ad, which invites adults to "Step Up to the Plate" by becoming a mentor, will also appear in the program for the 2011 All-Star game.

OJJDP, a component of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, accomplishes its mission by supporting states, local communities, and tribal jurisdictions in their efforts to develop and implement effective programs for juveniles. The Office strives to strengthen the juvenile justice system's efforts to protect public safety, hold offenders accountable, and provide services that address the needs of youth and their families.

A newly created page on the OJJDP Web site provides visitors with an array of resources related to mentoring.

For information about mentoring-related resources, visit www.ojjdp.gov/programs/mentoring.html.



SAMHSA Accepting NREPP Submissions

SAMHSA has announced that it will be accepting nominations for the National Registry of Evidence Based Programs and Practices (NREPP) for Fiscal Year 2011. The open submission period commenced on 1 November 2010 and will end on 1 February 2011.

NREPP is a voluntary rating system designed to provide the public with reliable information about interventions that promote mental health or prevent or treat mental illness, substance use disorders, or co-occurring disorders. Programs and practices that are accepted for inclusion in the registry undergo two independent review processes in which their quality of research and readiness for dissemination are evaluated and rated.

To be considered for review, interventions must meet four minimum requirements:

1. The intervention has produced one or more positive behavioral outcomes in mental health or substance use among individuals, communities, or populations. 2. Evidence of these outcomes has been demonstrated in at least one study using an experimental or quasi-experimental design. 3. The results of these studies have been published in a peer-reviewed journal or other technical publication, or documented in a comprehensive evaluation report. 4. Implementation materials, training and support resources, and quality assurance procedures have been developed and are ready for use by the public.

For more information visit <http://nrepp.samhsa.gov>.

SAMHSA Awards Prevention Grants *From a SAMHSA Press Release, 13 October 2010*

SAMHSA has announced that it is awarding up to \$53.4 million in new Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grants (SPF-SIG) for up to five years. These grants are used by states or tribes to implement a strategic approach in communities across the state for substance abuse prevention.

Under the program 85 percent of grant funding received by the states and tribes must be directed to community-level organizations such as community coalitions. Local organizations identify priorities and use proven programs and practices to prevent and reduce the consequences associated with substance abuse.

The grantees are:

- Oglala Sioux Tribe, Pine Ridge, SD
- OKC Area Inter-Tribal Health Board, Oklahoma City, OK
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Pablo, MT
- First Nations Community Health Source, Albuquerque, NM
- Office of the Governor, Montgomery, AL
- Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Cass Lake, MN
- Nooksack Indian Tribe, Deming, WA
- Office of the Governor, Sacramento, CA
- Pueblo of Acoma, Acoma, NM.
- Department of Human Services, Bismarck, ND

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Coordinator of AOD Prevention, University of Connecticut

The University of Connecticut is seeking applicants for a Coordinator of Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Prevention. This is a mid-level professional position reporting to the Director of Wellness and Prevention Services, the Coordinator of AOD Prevention must be able to apply evidence informed methods as well as creative and innovative approaches to reach the student population. This position will work collaboratively with the health and mental professionals, student affairs colleagues, police, cultural center directors, university students, faculty and staff and surrounding community members to achieve the goals of the department and University. http://jobs.uconn.edu/cg_interim.html

Program Coordinator 2, University of Houston

The successful candidate assists in the coordination and implementation of a research project which focuses upon alcohol prevention among college students. This is a grant funded position. Prefer knowledge of and experience with alcohol prevention, as well as the ability to work independently. An understanding of the importance of research protocols and data management is also preferable. Experience presenting to groups, specifically to college students would be beneficial. Apply at <http://www.uh.edu/hr/employment> (posting number 065680)

The FDA said peer-reviewed studies suggest that the consumption of beverages containing added caffeine and alcohol is associated with risky behaviors that may lead to hazardous and life-threatening situations.

The agency said the products named in the Warning Letters are being marketed in violation of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the FFDCA). Each Warning Letter requests that the recipient inform the FDA in writing within 15 days of the specific steps that will be taken to remedy the violation and prevent its recurrence. If a company does not believe its products are in violation of the FFDCA, it may present its reasoning and any supporting information as well.

If the FDA believes that the violation continues to exist, the agency may pursue an enforcement action that could include seizure of the products or an injunction to prevent the firm from continuing to produce the product until the violation has been corrected.

FDA's action follows a November 2009 request to manufacturers to provide information on the safety of adding caffeine to their products.

FDA is aware that on November 16, Phusion Projects, LLC, the maker of Four Loko, announced its intention to remove caffeine and other stimulants from its drinks. FDA has not yet heard officially from the company about this announcement, including how quickly it will remove present product from circulation and how quickly it will reformulate its product. FDA intends to work with Phusion Projects, LLC and the other manufacturers to assure their products meet safety standards.

First Lady Michelle Obama expressed her gratitude to military families in a July 4 message, stating that, "Military families are proud, patriotic Americans. They are some of the most selfless people that I've met. I want to thank those families for their dedication and sacrifice and service."

President Obama also reiterated that America's military families are strong, and continue to endure, but we should all be willing to provide our support to them.

"As America asks ever more of military families, they have a right to expect more of us -- it is our national challenge and moral obligation to uphold that promise. If we hold ourselves to the same high standard of excellence our military families live by every day, we will realize the vision of an America that supports and engages these heroes now and for decades to come."

To view full text of the President Obama's Proclamation: <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=61489>

And for more information on other news related to Military Family Appreciation Month, visit:

http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2010/1010_militaryfamily/

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Innovative Exchange Information Technology Systems

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced competitive funding opportunities for States to design and implement the Information Technology (IT) infrastructure needed to operate Health Insurance Exchanges. The Exchanges represent new competitive insurance marketplaces that will help Americans and small businesses purchase affordable private health insurance starting in 2014. Two-year grants will be awarded by February 15, 2011, to up to five States or coalitions of States that have ambitious yet achievable proposals that can yield IT models and best practices that will benefit all States. The deadline for submissions is December 22. For more information, visit www.grants.gov, search for CFDA 93.525.

\$335 Million to Boost access to Primary Health Care

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius today announced the availability of up to \$335 million for existing community health centers across the country under the Expanded Services (ES) initiative. These funds are made possible by the Affordable Care Act and will increase access to preventive and primary health care, including dental health, behavioral health, pharmacy, vision, and/or enabling services, at existing health center sites. Health center grantees requesting ES funds must demonstrate how these funds will be used to expand medical capacity and services to underserved populations in their service areas. For grant application information, please visit bphc.hrsa.gov/es/. Applications are due January 6, 2011.

That's because Utah's Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control decided that these drinks are not to be listed for sale in any state-run liquor store or private retail establishment. So, while people in Utah may order the drinks for themselves through the division under certain rules, you can't find them in local stores.

In its news release, the regulator said it acted "in light of the several studies regarding alcohol energy drinks, the widespread community concerns aired by substance abuse prevention groups, parent groups and various members of the public, as well as the FDA's decision to further investigate these products."

CADCA and many coalitions have sent letters to Four Loko's Phusion Projects in Chicago as well as to the FDA calling for a national ban. Coalitions have influenced several attorneys general across the country, including in California and in Washington state, to ask the FDA to move quickly on a ban.

Last November, the FDA announced it was investigating the safety and legality of alcoholic energy drinks. It sent letters to nearly 30 manufacturers of alcoholic energy drinks demanding that these manufacturers produce evidence within 30 days that their products were safe and indicated that the FDA would take appropriate regulatory action, including possible product seizures if these manufacturers could not provide adequate proof of safety.

Coalitions in other states are cautioning students and others who might consider purchasing Four Loko or other alcoholic energy drinks to avoid these "candy-coated" beverages because they mask the flavor of alcohol, and the caffeine fuels a dangerous perception of being able to get drunk quickly and cheaply. Most 23 ½-ounce cans sell for around \$2.50 and are equivalent to drinking about four beers and three to four cups of coffee.

The Michigan Liquor Control Commission is giving manufacturers of the beverages 30 days to remove them from store shelves.

Coalitions and government officials in several other states are working on similar types of bans. For example, last year in Montana a new law reclassified alcoholic energy drinks as liquor and raised the price. Now you can only find them at State Liquor Stores or full service bars. Several colleges and universities have also banned the drinks from their campuses throughout the country.

To read the full story, visit the Coalitions Online section at www.cadca.org.

Individuals and families purchasing health insurance through exchanges may also qualify for tax credits and reduced cost-sharing depending on their income. These grants of up to \$1 million each will give states the resources they need to conduct the research and planning needed to build a better health insurance marketplace and determine how their exchanges will be operated and governed, including:

- Assessing current information technology (IT) systems and infrastructure and determining new requirements.
- Developing partnerships with community organizations to gain public input into the exchange planning process.
- Planning for consumer call centers to answer questions from their residents.
- Determining the statutory rules needed to build the exchanges.
- Hiring key staff and determining ongoing staffing needs.
- Planning the coordination of eligibility and enrollment systems across Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the exchanges.
- Developing performance metrics, milestones and ongoing evaluation.

Although state exchanges are not required to be operational until 2014, these planning grants begin the path toward 2014 when health insurance exchanges will take what is now a very complicated and confusing process and turn it into a simple, easy to navigate experience that benefits consumers, not insurance companies.

The Department of Health and Human Services is working closely with states in implementing the Affordable Care Act. This is just the first round of state planning and establishment grants, which are one of several resources available to states to help with implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Already, 46 states have received resources from the Affordable Care Act to help improve the oversight of proposed health insurance premium increases, take action against insurers seeking unreasonable rate hikes, and ensure consumers receive value for their premium dollars. A fact sheet and list of grant awards to states can be found at <http://www.healthcare.gov/news/factsheets/esthealthinsurexch.html>.