

## **PREVENTION OPERATING AND ACCESS STANDARDS (POAS)**

### **Introduction**

Reflected in both the SAPTA Strategic Plan and the Prevention Operating and Access Standards are a commitment by the agency to strengthening both the state and local level prevention systems. Nevada has made a long standing commitment to support community-based substance abuse prevention coalitions and local direct services providers. Through ongoing training, technical assistance, and documents such as the SAPTA Prevention Strategic Plan and the Access and Operating Standards, SAPTA seeks to collaborate with and support all of its partners to create state, regional, and local systems of effective prevention services and activities.

Nevada has a well-established system of local prevention providers and highly effective substance abuse coalitions that strive for excellence on an ongoing basis. The purpose of this document is to provide those coalitions and service providers that make up the foundation of substance abuse prevention in Nevada with guidance on how to continue to move toward achieving excellence in their work.

### **The Five-Year Prevention Strategic Plan**

The Nevada Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency (SAPTA) developed a strategic plan in order to meet state and federal requirements and establish a guide for the Agency for the next five years. The plan was developed under the combined leadership of the SAPTA Advisory Board and its Strategic Planning Subcommittee. The Prevention Plan outlines the goals and objectives for Nevada's substance abuse prevention services delivery system, as well as the strategies and activities for achieving the goals and objectives. It is currently being reviewed, revised, and updated and will be available by February 2015.

### **What are the Prevention Operating and Access Standards (POAS)**

The POAS are a set of standards that provide guidance to the state's prevention providers and coalitions as they conduct the activities for achieving the goals and objectives of the SAPTA Prevention Strategic Plan. The POAS are also intended to assist prevention providers and coalitions as they work to foster an effective prevention system throughout Nevada.

The POAS address the five sections of the Strategic Plan, which include Assessment, Capacity, Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation. Where applicable, the POAS embody the guidelines and standards established by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), and the Institute of Medicine (IOM). These standards will be applied as providers and coalitions develop, plan, and implement evidence-based prevention programs, practices, policies, and strategies.

The POAS are intended to respond to the goals and recommendations addressed in the SAPTA Prevention Strategic Plan. The goals and recommendations are:

1. SAPTA activities and decisions are guided by data that indicate the status of health and well-being of Nevada's diverse communities.
2. Develop and maintain a repository of data published by SAPTA, as part of the agency website that is accessible to stakeholders and agencies.
3. Nevada's diverse communities demonstrate expanding capacity to successfully address identified prevention needs.
4. Develop a strong prevention workforce by supporting access to professional skill development, other higher education credentials, and career-sustaining salaries and benefits for prevention professionals.
5. Increase the diversity and participation of target groups in prevention planning, selection of services, and programming decisions.
6. Create protocols for working with diverse communities, including tribal nations, to establish consistent outcome-based prevention services across the continuum in Nevada.
7. Encourage participation in the planning and implementation of services statewide by a comprehensive group of stakeholders, including but not limited to target populations, schools, youth, law enforcement, businesses, faith communities, and state, federal, and community agencies.
8. Develop a single comprehensive statewide prevention strategic plan that encompasses all SAPTA and local prevention plans, to guide all substance abuse prevention efforts in Nevada's diverse communities.
9. Nevada's diverse communities will implement evidence-based prevention programs, policies, practices, and strategies to prevent and reduce substance abuse and its negative consequences for youth, adults, families, and communities.

10. Improve prevention activities in Nevada and its communities through the use of and response to research and evaluation activities.
11. Collaborate with coalitions to create a planning document based on data that will allow primary prevention providers to select programs based on needs that have been identified through the assessment process.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN SECTION I: ASSESSMENT**

**Goal:** SAPTA activities and decisions are guided by data that indicate the status of health and well-being of Nevada's diverse communities.

**Objective(s) relevant to prevention providers and coalitions:**

Local and statewide assessments of the problem burden and severity, resources, collaboration, and other areas of community readiness will be used to allocate resources and plan prevention efforts.

**POAS:**

- Using epidemiologically sound methods, identify problem and consequence data, consumption data, intervening variables, and risk and protective factors.
- Use systematic and standardized processes in assessment activities (e.g., data collection and synthesis).
- Develop logic models in a sequential manner, starting with consequence and consumption factors.
- Participate in the development and collection of uniform data sets.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN SECTION II: CAPACITY**

**Goal:** Nevada's diverse communities demonstrate expanding capacity to successfully address identified prevention needs.

**Objective(s) relevant to prevention providers and coalitions:**

- Increase the capacity, infrastructure, and sustainability of Nevada's local prevention system.
- Improve the capacity to meet the prevention needs of Nevada's diverse communities.
- Maintain a collaborative prevention training and workforce development system that is responsive to the needs of prevention professionals and advocates across prevention disciplines and agencies.
- Encourage career-sustaining salaries and benefits for prevention professionals in order to attract and retain trained and skilled workers.

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- Consider capacity-building as an ongoing process. In order to institutionalize change in the state infrastructure, the capacity of independent agencies as well as the state and community system must be continuously evaluated and enhanced.
- Essential to effective prevention are up-to-date data systems, technology, Internet access, and accounting functions.
- Ensure the most recent and state-of-the-art information on prevention research and theory is applied, where appropriate.
- Utilize CSAP's Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist Training Curriculum as an accepted and commonly utilized skill set for prevention service delivery.
- Policies should reflect the importance of attracting and retaining competent staff.
- Salaries and benefit levels should be competitive and in line with industry standards.
- Develop leadership and direction for prevention at the community level.
- Recruit culturally diverse staff members that are responsive to cultural needs of the communities served.
- Encourage and support increased capacity of boards of directors of community agencies and coalitions through training on subjects including but not limited to:
  - ◆ Prevention programs, policies, practices, and strategies
  - ◆ Sustaining agencies financially and operationally
  - ◆ Board liabilities
  - ◆ Building board involvement
  - ◆ Boards as fundraising mechanisms
  - ◆ Building board structure
  - ◆ Evidence-based prevention activities
- Create working relationships and implement strategies with tribal nations that establish and sustain consistent outcome-based prevention services.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN SECTION III: PLANNING**

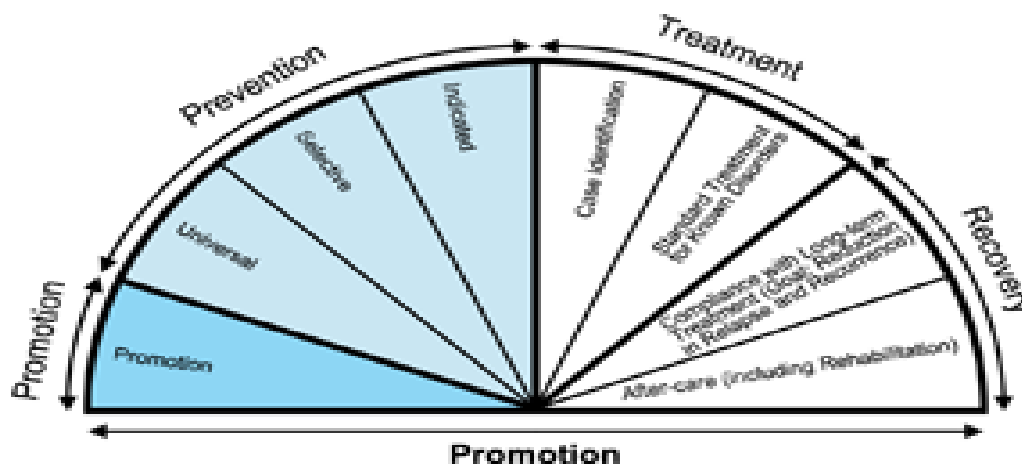
**Goal:** Develop a single comprehensive statewide prevention strategic plan that encompasses all SAPTA and local prevention plans, to guide all substance abuse prevention efforts in Nevada's diverse communities.

### **Objective(s) relevant to prevention providers and coalitions:**

- Data-driven decision-making will be reflected in the following: 1) state and local substance abuse prevention strategic plans, and 2) resource allocation activities. Data will also drive the prioritization of social indicators and their associated consequence, risk, and protective factors.
- Evidence-based prevention programs, policies, practices, and strategies addressing multiple high-risk behaviors and substances will: 1) reflect intervening variables identified through data-driven processes, and 2) be linked through a continuum of prevention activity.

## POAS

- Ensure sound data collection and analysis creates the foundation of the planning process.
- Incorporate the unique characteristics of Nevada into the planning process, including:
  - ♦ Nevada’s rapidly growing, transitional, and highly mobile population.
  - ♦ Nevada is a geographically large state, with a diverse demographic and socio-economic makeup. It’s urban, rural, and frontier areas tend to have distinct needs.
- Integrate prevention planning activities across public and behavioral health areas including underage drinking enforcement activities, youth access to tobacco, driving under the influence (DUI) programs, suicide prevention, Perinatal substance abuse prevention, HIV prevention, teen pregnancy prevention, child abuse prevention, mental health disorder prevention, and domestic violence prevention programs.
- Develop logic models as an integral part of the planning process in order to maintain a focus on outcome-based prevention.
- Embrace evidence-based innovation when appropriate to specific community contexts and in cases when proven strategies do not exist.
- Apply the IOM Continuum of Care Model during planning activities. The Institute of Medicine developed a continuum of care for the provision and classification of substance abuse prevention and treatment services. Prevention services are classified as either universal, selective, or indicated. Universal services reach an entire population, selective services address the needs of an identified high risk group, and indicated services are designed for individuals at risk for the development of a substance abuse disorder diagnosis. (See universal, selective, and indicated for in depth definitions). Below is an illustration of the continuum of care for both prevention and treatment.

**STRATEGIC PLAN SECTION IV: IMPLEMENTATION**

**Goal:** Nevada’s diverse communities will implement evidence-based prevention programs, policies, practices, and strategies to prevent and reduce substance abuse and its negative consequences for youth, adults, families, and communities.

**Objective(s) relevant to prevention providers and coalitions:**

- Maintain a continuum of substance abuse services, which includes universal, selected, and indicated prevention services.
- Implement culturally appropriate and responsive evidence-based prevention services for individuals, families and communities to focus on needs identified and prioritized by state and community needs assessment and planning processes.
- Community prevention systems will develop and sustain positive community norms, policy changes, reduction in alcohol, tobacco, and other drug availability, and increased enforcement at the Tribal, state, county and city level through the implementation of evidence-based environmental strategies.
- In order to strengthen resiliency in youth, reduce high-risk behaviors, and break the intergenerational cycle of alcohol and drug dependency, prevention service providers will incorporate multiple strategies across multiple sectors.

**POAS**

- Increase emphasis on the selection and implementation of programs, policies, practices, and strategies that support positive community-wide outcomes.
- For direct service programs, the NIDA Principles for Prevention Programs should be applied. These principles are the result of research studies on effective prevention programming. The principles are listed at the end of this document.
- Match program type with the specific IOM population so that the needs of sub-populations are met appropriately (the IOM Continuum of Care is outlined in Section Three: Planning).
- Adapt programs, policies, practices, and strategies to meet the culturally-specific needs of local community populations in ways that maintain fidelity.
- Develop and build upon collaborative relationships with Drug Free Communities grantees, local departments of education, law enforcement agencies, policy makers, other government and non-government entities and others that have a stake in the prevention of substance abuse.

**STRATEGIC PLAN SECTION V: EVALUATION**

**Goal:** Improve prevention activities in Nevada’s communities through the use of and response to research and evaluation activities.

**Objective(s) relevant to prevention providers and coalitions:**

- Prevention programs, policies, practices, and strategies increasingly utilize evaluation for demonstration of effectiveness and support of ongoing improvement.
- State and local prevention entities demonstrate public accountability for the results of their prevention initiatives.
- Evaluation results are presented in ways that are accessible, culturally relevant, and comprehensible to all stakeholders. Process and quantitative evaluation activities are culturally responsive and well-documented.

**POAS**

- Develop, maintain, and communicate clear process and outcome evaluation methods and systems. These methods include protocols for confidentiality, conducting process and outcome evaluation, administering evaluation instruments, and collecting, entering, analyzing, and interpreting data.
- Work with diverse cultural groups to ensure that findings are presented in culturally responsive ways.
- Meet with local independent evaluators to discuss cultural and developmental concerns.
- Ensure compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
- Produce evidence of fidelity checks at each site for each program being delivered.