



Philosophy of Prevention

It is the belief of the PACDAA membership that “*prevention*” is one of the primary mechanisms that Pennsylvania can utilize to decrease drug and alcohol abuse and addiction. Members believe in a process that guides the selection, implementation and evaluation of effective, culturally appropriate and sustainable prevention activities.

The following comprises the basic tenants of the “*PACDAA Philosophy of Prevention*” and it is the belief of the membership, that the implementation of these tenants will improve the overall quality of life for Pennsylvania residents:

- The membership believes that Pennsylvania must build its overall “prevention plan” on a firm foundation based on a five-step planning process that includes: Assessment of Need; Capacity-Building; Planning; Implementation and Evaluation.
- PACDAA members endorse the completion of a statewide needs assessment conducted by the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs that will provide Single County Authorities with the groundwork for local planning that include all six federal strategies: Education; Information Dissemination; Community-Based; Problem Identification; Alternative Activities; and Environmental Strategies.
- PACDAA members endorse DDAP’s leadership in the coordination of all state and federal resources available to Pennsylvania for alcohol, tobacco, other drug and gambling prevention through the network of Single County Authorities at the local level.
- PACDAA members endorse the development of a population-based, risk-based comprehensive plan that includes evidence-based, evidence-informed and supplemental programs.
- PACDAA members believe that incorporating the Seven Strategies for Community Change (Providing Information; Enhancing Skills; Providing Support; Enhancing Access/Reducing Barriers; Changing Consequences; Physical Design and Modifying/Changing Policies) into comprehensive prevention plans, will create the attitudinal shifts needed to produce effective and lasting change at the local, county and statewide level.