

Florida Office of Drug Control



2010 Transition Report November 10, 2010

Office of Drug Control
Bruce D. Grant, Director
400 South Monroe Street
2105 Capitol Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001
(850) 488-9557

Florida Office of Drug Control 2010 Transition Report

History of the Office of Drug Control

- A November 1998 Senate report identified the need for greater coordination of statewide substance abuse policy and planning
- Recommended establishing a state drug control office in the Governor's Office
- Recommended establishing a statewide drug policy advisory council
- In 1999, the Legislature created the Office of Drug Control and the Drug Policy Advisory Council (DPAC) in Florida Statute 397.332 & 397.333
- First statewide drug control strategy published in September 1999 built on the pillars of prevention, treatment, and law enforcement
- Director of the Office of Drug Control chairs the Drug Policy Advisory Council, Seaport Security Standards Advisory Council, the 28-member Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council and the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Oversight and Implementation Task Force.

Mission

Reduce substance abuse in Florida. Coordinate statewide efforts and implement policies to protect our youth from substance abuse, reduce the supply of drugs, reduce the demand for drugs, and treat those addicted. Additional duties include suicide prevention and seaport security.

Strategy

The overarching strategic vision of Florida's Drug Control Strategy is a future characterized by safe and healthy families and communities. To attain this vision, the four broad goals of the strategy are to:

- Goal 1: Protect Florida's youth.
- Goal 2: Reduce the demand for drugs.
- Goal 3: Reduce the supply of drugs.
- Goal 4: Reduce the human suffering, moral degradation, and harmful social, health, and economic consequences of drug abuse and addiction in Florida.

Advantages of the Office of Drug Control as Part of the Governor's Office

- Provide continuous leadership for statewide strategy to prevent and address alcohol and drug problems
- Single coordinating agency for substance abuse issues in Florida
- Able to effect interagency collaboration in reducing substance abuse
- Visible, vocal representative of the Governor for all substance abuse issues
- Able to accomplish significant policy and legislative initiatives efficiently employing very few staff

Staffing and Budget

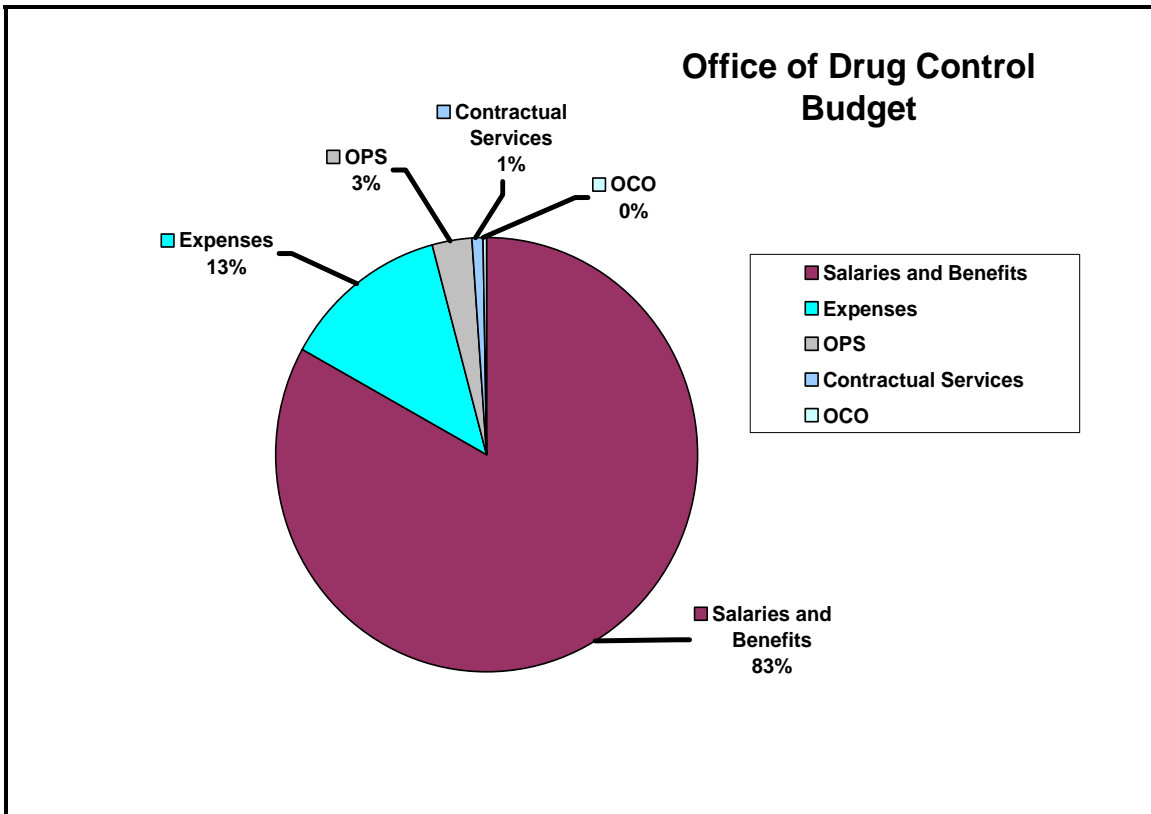
The Office of Drug Control is allocated seven (7) full-time employees (FTE) of which five (5) FTEs comprise the Office of Drug Control and 2 FTEs comprise the subordinate Office of Suicide Prevention.

Due to current budget constraints, one FTE position is currently unfunded and is vacant.

Office of Drug Control FY 2010-11 Budget	
Salaries and Benefits	\$458,405.00
Expenses	\$69,898.00
OPS	\$17,000.00
Contractual Services	\$5,000.00
OCO	\$1,000.00
Total Budget	\$551,303.00

- Two full-time Florida National Guard Counterdrug officers are assigned to the office.
- The office also has two liaisons from other agencies – one from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and one from the Department of Health

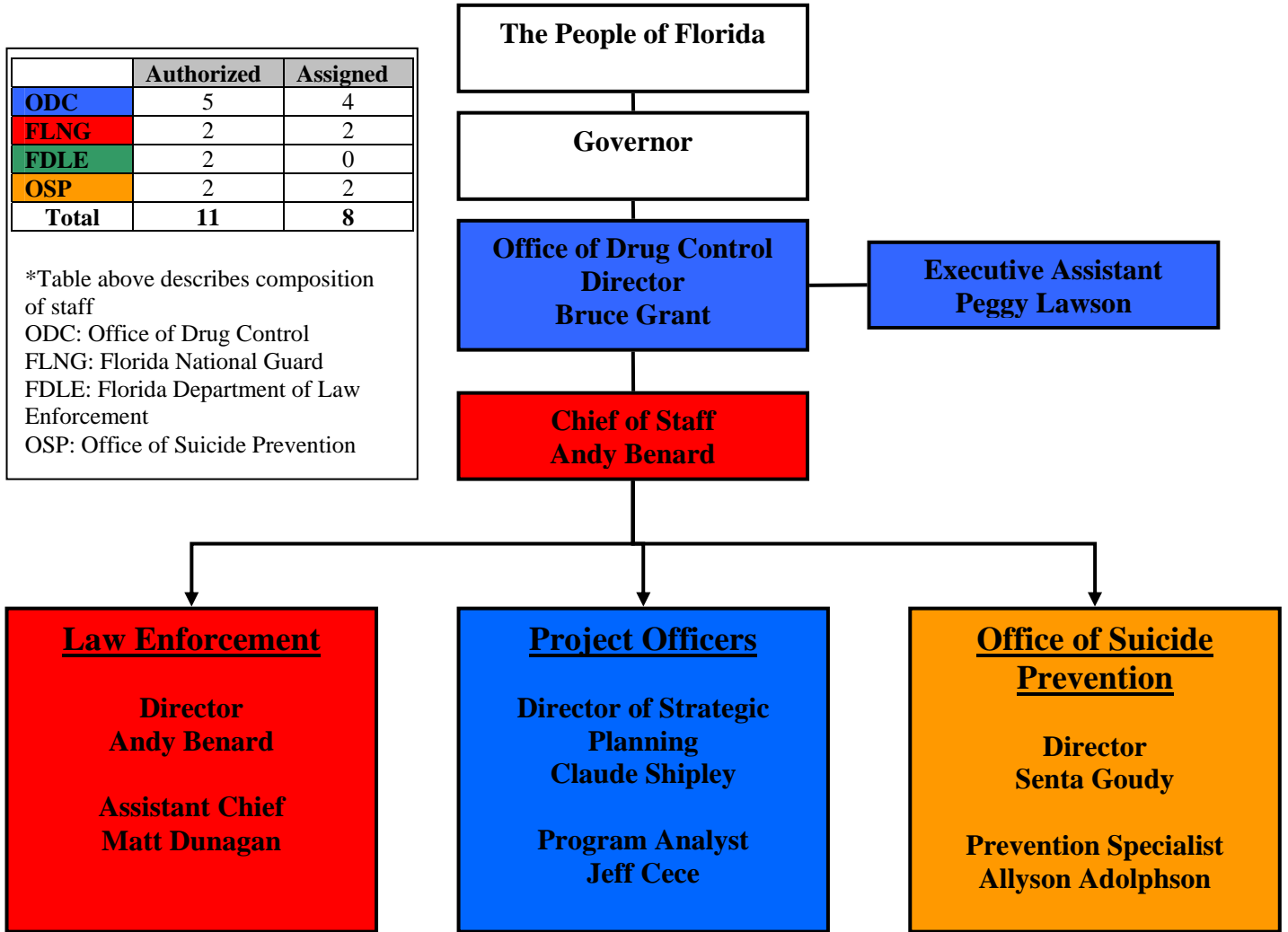
These two accompanying charts provide a breakdown of the Office of Drug Control’s funding for fiscal year 2010-11.



Florida Office of Drug Control – Organizational Chart

	Authorized	Assigned
ODC	5	4
FLNG	2	2
FDLE	2	0
OSP	2	2
Total	11	8

*Table above describes composition of staff
 ODC: Office of Drug Control
 FLNG: Florida National Guard
 FDLE: Florida Department of Law Enforcement
 OSP: Office of Suicide Prevention

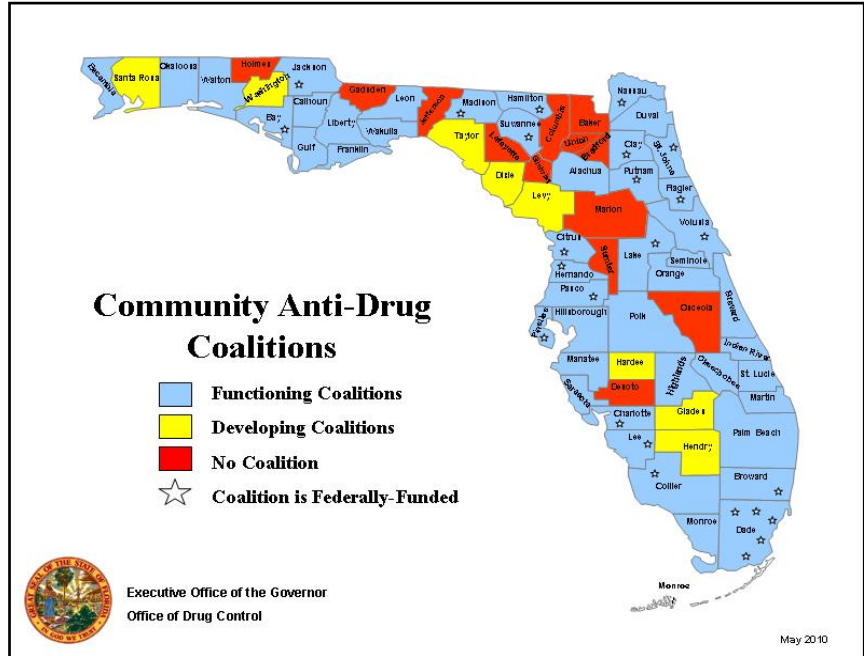


The Strategy: Prevention, Treatment & Law Enforcement

Florida's prevention, treatment, and law enforcement resources have been integrated through a coordinated, comprehensive drug control strategy.

Prevention

- Prevention is the linchpin of Florida's drug control strategy.
- Current research indicates that for every dollar invested in research-based prevention, ten dollars are saved in up-front treatment costs alone.
- Our substance abuse prevention partnership with DCF is extensive.
- Since 2000, our office has partnered with DCF and the Department of Education to administer the Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) – the largest and most comprehensive annual survey of youth substance use in the nation.



- There are currently 55 Community Anti-Drug Coalitions in Florida.
- Our “*Be The Wall*” media campaign to prevent underage drinking has earned national recognition.

Treatment

- Florida has a large unmet need for treatment – approximately 400,000. We continue to work to reduce this treatment gap.
- Recognition of addiction as a chronic disease is the key to improving treatment in Florida.
- Substance abuse treatment is linked to mental health issues – co-occurring disorders.
- Department of Children & Families has developed an integrated system of care to ensure a “no wrong door” approach is achieved through co-occurring assessment and service delivery.
- Drug courts – a program that compels treatment with the threat of judicial sanctions – is Florida's most effective criminal justice treatment program.
- Our office coordinates efforts to preserve and increase funding for treatment through Department of Children & Families, Corrections, and Juvenile Justice.
- Substance abuse treatment is a key to criminal justice reform and increased public safety.

Law Enforcement

- Law enforcement works to reduce the supply of illegal drugs.
- The Office of Drug Control coordinates with federal, state and local law enforcement to organize task forces to conduct counter drug operations.
- Prescription drug diversion cases are a major threat to our public safety and are now a major priority for local law enforcement.
- Local law enforcement is augmented by Florida National Guard assets.

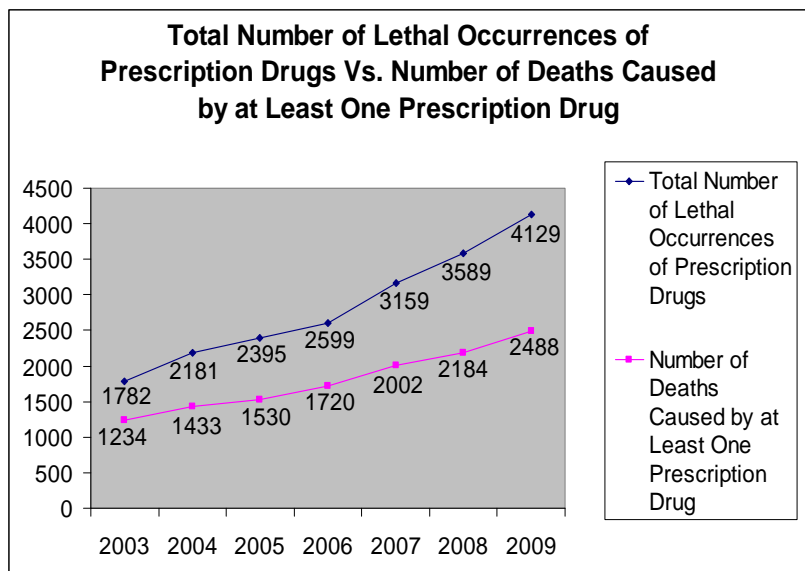
The Office of Suicide Prevention

- The mission of the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention is to reduce the suicide rate in Florida.
- The Suicide Prevention Strategy is a comprehensive framework for what needs to be done to reduce Florida's suicide rate.
- This Strategy calls for an integrated and long-term approach to lowering the state's current suicide rate. The goals of the Strategy are to:
 1. Promote awareness that suicide is a preventable public health problem.
 2. Reduce the stigma associated with being a consumer of mental health, substance abuse and suicide prevention services.
 3. Create collaborations and networks that support common goals in suicide prevention.
 4. Develop and implement evidence-based suicide prevention, intervention and 'postvention' programs.
 5. Develop and promote clinical and professional practices for delivery of effective treatment.
 6. Improve community access to mental health and substance abuse services.
 7. Reduce access to lethal means and methods of self-harm.
 8. Support suicide prevention research and improve surveillance systems.
- The Office of Suicide Prevention also oversees the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council, a 28-member council appointed by the Executive Office of the Governor.

Priority Projects

Prescription Drug Abuse

- Prescription drug abuse is one of the most threatening substance abuse issues in the State of Florida.
- The number of deaths caused by at least one prescription drug increased from 1,234 in 2003 to 2,488 in 2009 (a 102% increase).
- This translates to seven (7) Floridians dying per day.
- The illegal diversion of pharmaceutical drugs in Florida results in significant costs in terms of lives lost, increased crime, human



misery from addiction, and substantial costs connected to treatment, medical expenses, and Medicaid fraud.

- Fighting back against the tide of prescription drug abuse, the Office of Drug Control has taken the following steps:
 - Leading a Statewide Task Force that has significantly expanded and strengthened the partnership between local law enforcement and health officials, resulting in larger numbers of more effective pill mill investigations.
 - Passing new legislation that gives the Department of Health regulatory authority to shut down pill mills.
 - Bolstering community led local moratoriums on the opening of new pain clinics in battleground counties.
 - Implementing “Drug Take Back” programs at local pharmacies for the public to safely and securely return unused prescription medication.

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)

- The PDMP is the single most effective tool to reduce prescription drug diversion.
- Florida Statute 893.055 establishes Florida’s PDMP effective December 1, 2010. The Department of Health is the state agency responsible for the operation of the PDMP.
- Currently, no state funding is allowed for the PDMP. In order to implement this program, we have used Federal grants and privately-raised funds. The Florida PDMP Foundation is a private, non-profit, direct support organization established under law to elicit funds for PDMP implementation.

Seaport Security

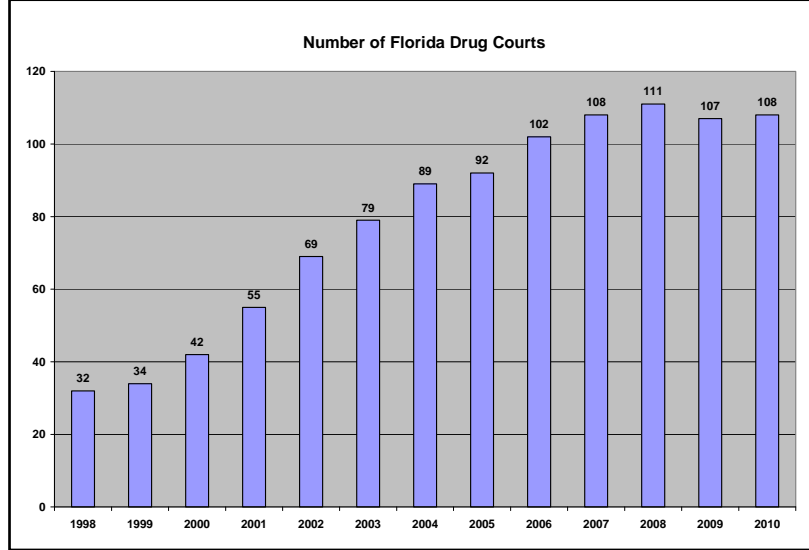
- The office worked with the Legislature to pass legislation (Florida Statute 311.12) requiring Florida’s Seaports to meet tough but reasonable security standards focused on reducing drug trafficking in and around our ports.
- These minimum security standards have made Florida safer by reducing crime, drug trafficking, and cargo theft.
- The Florida Department of Law Enforcement enforces these standards through unannounced annual seaport inspections.
- As the memories of the terrorist attacks of September 11th fade and Florida’s ports become acclimated to reduced criminal activity within their environs thanks to FS 311.12, it is critical to remember that undoing or significantly weakening current security standards at our ports will allow criminal elements to once again gain control of the docks, thereby exposing Floridians to increased safety risks.

Veterans’ Substance Abuse, Mental Health, and Suicide Prevention

- The Office of Drug Control is partnering with the Department of Children & Families and the state Department of Veteran Affairs to improve conditions for veterans by:
 - Linking veterans to behavioral health treatment services
 - Preventing veteran suicide
 - Preventing and reducing veteran’s homelessness
- Promote the creation of veterans’ courts as an approach to identifying veterans within the judicial system who may benefit from a coordinated treatment program in lieu of expensive incarceration.
- Promote identification and treatment of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Supporting Florida Drug Courts

- Drug courts are the “crown jewel” in the drug treatment realm, with the most sustained success in reducing substance abuse.
- There are currently 108 Florida drug courts in operation
- In 2009, there were more than 10,000 admissions statewide to drug courts.
- Drug courts represent a coordinated approach to addressing criminal cases with a substance abuse nexus; more than 60% of all cases entering the criminal justice system have a substance abuse nexus.



Economic impact of underage drinking and adult alcohol misuse

- To create jobs in Florida, businesses need several critical elements to be in place, to include a productive, sober, ready-to-work labor force. Alcohol abuse and misuse remains a significant business concern in Florida because besides the human tragedy of lives lost to alcohol abuse, countless worker productivity hours lost every year due to binge drinking and alcoholism.
- Chronic (long-term) alcohol use causes an average of 2,757 deaths per year in Florida. In 2007, alcohol-related vehicle crashes caused 1,244 deaths in Florida.
- The combined economic impact of underage drinking and adult alcohol misuse in Florida is estimated at \$15.3 billion per year (in 2007 dollars).
 - About 40% of these costs (or \$6.12 billion) are incurred by the government. Over the past decade, alcohol excises taxes have contributed an average of about \$570 million per year to Florida’s general revenue, which is less than 10% of the \$6 billion expended by government to cover the costs of underage drinking and alcohol abuse.

Key Contacts

National:

- White House Office of National Drug Control Policy
- U.S. Department of Justice (federal law enforcement agencies, such as DEA)
- Health & Human Services (Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration; National Institute on Drug Abuse; Centers for Substance Abuse Treatment-‘CSAT’-and Prevention-‘CSAP’)
- Department of Homeland Security (Coast Guard; Customs and Border Patrol; ICE)
- Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (‘CADCA’)
- National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws

State:

- Office of the Attorney General
- Florida Department of Law Enforcement
- Florida State Agencies, especially DOH, DCF, DOC & AHCA
- Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association
- Florida Sheriff's Association
- Florida Police Chiefs Association
- National Alliance on Mental Illness-Florida
- Florida Association of Drug Court Professionals
- Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition
- Florida Initiative for Suicide Prevention
- Florida Partners in Crisis
- Florida Ports Council

Local:

- Broward Sheriff's Office
- Pinellas Sheriff's Office
- Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
- Behavioral Health Treatment Providers
- Medical Examiners
- Local Community Prevention Coalitions (55 active community coalitions in Florida)

2010 Legislation

During the 2010 legislative session the following Office of Drug Control sponsored bills were passed and signed into law:

SB 1050: Meth Block Bill requires the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to establish a real time, electronic recordkeeping system to block or prevent the sales of excess amount of the precursors (ephedrine and pseudoephedrine) required to manufacture methamphetamine.

SB 2272: Anti Pill Mill Bill provides legal authority for the Department of Health to shut down pain clinics in violation of the law. Prohibits dispensing of more than 72 hours of controlled substances to cash paying customers, restricts disciplined physicians and felons from owning pain clinics, and strengthens the PDMP by providing information to law enforcement regarding potential "doctor shoppers" and those medical professionals possibly colluding with patients to violate prescription drug laws.

SB 1068: Enhance Penalties for Serving Alcohol to Underage increases the penalty imposed for a second or subsequent offense of selling, giving, or serving alcoholic beverages to a person less than 21 years of age.

SB 434: Suicide Prevention Education Bill provides access to suicide prevention educational resources for school personnel as part of their in-service training requirements.

SB 366: Drug Paraphernalia Bill makes it a first degree misdemeanor for any person to sell smoking devices unless they have a retail tobacco products dealer permit, they derive at least 75 percent of their annual gross revenues from the retail sale of cigarettes, cigars, and other tobacco products or they derive no more than 25 percent of their annual gross revenues from the retail sale of items listed as "smoking pipes and smoking devices."

Major Issues

Annual Drug Summit -- The Office of Drug Control, on behalf of the Governor and in concert with the Attorney General, will convene a statewide Drug Summit in the spring to review the current drug control strategy and identify best practices and efforts the state needs to undertake to reduce the burden caused by drug related crime and substance abuse to our state's economic health.

Statewide Prevention Conference -- Each year the Office of Drug Control coordinates a statewide prevention training conference. The event brings together the state agencies and other partners who are working on substance abuse, suicide, gang, bullying and gambling addiction prevention to share cross-cutting principles that support safe and healthy individuals and communities. The 2010 Prevention Conference trained 500 community based providers in evidenced based prevention strategies.

Leadership Development -- The Office of Drug Control has made the growth of leaders in the field of drug control a top priority. The office has created a leadership development website as a free resource for all those who serve to reduce substance abuse in prevention, treatment, and law enforcement.

Leaders must always remember that people are our most important and precious asset. Our strength resides in the values, self-reliance, resiliency, and character of our citizens. Citizens deserve good leadership in every facet of government. To that end, the website provides information and education to build more effective leaders and a cost-effective approach that can strengthen organizations so that they can better accomplish their respective missions in reducing substance abuse in Florida.

The Office of Drug Control's Leadership Development website can be found at:
http://www.flgov.com/drugcontrol/leadership/index.html#l_philosophy

Prevention

- Reduce underage drinking, marijuana use, and prescription drug abuse
- Strengthen prevention coalitions; improve leadership
- Reinforce media efforts
- Forward legislation and policy to reduce underage access to alcohol

Treatment

- Reduce the treatment gap
- Seek permanent funding for drug courts
- Establish statewide substance abuse survey
- Increase integration between primary care and substance abuse treatment

Law Enforcement

- Shut down pill mills
- Reduce diversion of prescription drugs through enforcement activities
- Pass legislation to better prosecute money laundering
- Implement anti-meth legislation to prevent excessive sales of precursors

Emerging Threats

- Medical marijuana
- Synthetic cannabis
- Rogue pharmacies
- Single pot meth manufacturing
- Indoor Marijuana grow houses
- Caffeinated alcoholic beverages

Summary

Substance abuse is a chronic, permanent problem that requires a sustained, coordinated effort to address. Although overall drug abuse among youth has steadily declined in Florida since 2000, as measured by the FYSAS, the ongoing epidemic of prescription drug abuse has presented us with the most serious public health and public safety crisis we have faced since the crack cocaine epidemic of the 1980's. The devastation, suffering, and costs associated with drug use still remain unacceptably high. Because new drug threats emerge each year, our response must always remain comprehensive and flexible enough to meet emerging challenges.

The Office of Drug Control is a model of small, but effective government. Using its power to convene, the office is winning new cost-savings for Florida's taxpayers by streamlining inter-agency approaches to the provision of drug prevention and treatment programs. The Office of Drug Control is also spearheading for the Lieutenant Governor an enormous anti-pill mill campaign that involves virtually every federal, state and local law enforcement entity in Florida in a fight against what has become the number one health and public safety problem confronting our state.

The Office of Drug Control should remain in the Governor's Office to ensure Florida effectively addresses the issue of substance abuse and continues to keep it as a top priority. As we get more Floridians back to work, we want our workforce to be drug-free. This office emphasizes cooperation, collaboration, funding, and implementing a holistic state effort against drug abuse. The strong support from the Governor's Office, the Florida Legislature, state agencies, and community partners is recognized and greatly appreciated.

Bruce D. Grant
Director, Florida Office of Drug Control