

**KENORA  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE &  
MENTAL HEALTH**



**TASK FORCE**

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ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2012



# PREVENTION

Canada's National Anti-Drug Strategy's Prevention Action Plan focuses on preventing illicit drug use among young people. It provides information to those most affected by drug use, including parents & caregivers, young people, educators, law enforcement and communities.

The need for early intervention and family support is important. This includes both preventing problems before they occur and intervening as quickly as possible when problems arise. Prevention needs to start early within the family unit. Helping parents & caregivers understand their role in how children develop their attitudes and behaviours about the use of substances and providing them with effective strategies for communicating, monitoring and role modeling for their children is a key part of prevention work.

## Members:

**Judy Underwood**, Northwestern Health Unit  
**Randi Casey**, Northwestern Health Unit  
**Fay Clark**, Northwest Community Legal Clinic  
**Dave Cain**, Ontario Provincial Police  
**Alana Miller**, Wal-Mart Pharmacy  
**Patti Palson**, LCBO  
**Natacha Boulton**,  
Lake of the Woods District Hospital,  
Community Programs  
**Lee Anne Hando**, community member  
**Kati Heinrich**, FIREFLY  
**Lisa Doerksen**,  
Keewatin-Patricia District School Board  
**Ashley Hendy**,  
Kenora Catholic District School Board  
**Arthur Huminuk**, Grand Council Treaty#3  
**Michelle Ott**, FIREFLY  
**Liz Playfair**, Canadian Red Cross  
**Matthew Reynard**, Ne-Chee Friendship Centre  
**Michelle Queen**, Changes Recovery Homes

Prevention needs to start early within the family unit.

## Activities/initiatives undertaken in 2012:

**1. Strengthening Families for the Future Program.** This evidence-based best practice prevention program is unique as it strives to serve families in a holistic and fun manner and before the emergence of serious addiction, family violence, and mental health problems.

The Task Force partnered with FIREFLY to successfully be awarded a grant of \$5,000.00 from Lake of the Woods Community Foundation to implement the program in the spring of 2013.

**2. Safe Kids Week 2012: Medicine Cabinet Cleanout.** We partnered with Q 104fm to promote a community medicine cabinet cleanout for the week May 28th to June 3rd, which coincided with Safe Kids Week. We hosted a celebration wrap-up BBQ and gave away free food, information and a new youth bicycle.



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Members of the Prevention Pillar partnered with physicians at the Paterson Medical Centre to have them hand out our "Prescription for Health" notes whenever they wrote a prescription for their patients.

**Prescription for Health**

Remove all outdated and unused prescription and non-prescription medications from your medicine cabinet or home and bring them to your pharmacy for safe disposal.

Supported by your local physicians and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Task Force.

Cst. Robert Bernie  
OPP  
350 HWY 17A  
Kenora, ON P9N 3J9

Phone: 807-548-5534  
Fax: 807-548-8391  
E-mail: [robert.bernie@ontario.ca](mailto:robert.bernie@ontario.ca)

### 3. Drug Awareness Week -

November 18th to 24th:

- A. Another successful Medicine Cabinet Cleanout.
- B. Let's EATT (Eating and Talking Together). Pillar members rallied together to offer a Let's EATT session during this week. However, despite promotion throughout the community, the event had to be cancelled due to low registration numbers. Fay Clarke and Michelle Ott were interviewed at Q 104fm.



**4.P.A.R.T.Y.** (Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth) Program. The P.A.R.T.Y. Program provides young people with information about injury (trauma) that will enable them to: recognize injury producing situations, to make prevention-oriented choices and adopt behaviours that minimize unnecessary risk.

Information on the program was presented to members of Safe Communities Kenora and it was well received. They voted in favour of full support of the program (partnerships include Lake of the Woods District Hospital, Young Drivers of Canada, Canadian Red Cross, Northwestern Health Unit, the City of Kenora Fire & Emergency Services, ORNGE, Lake of the Woods Insurance).

Dave Cain agreed to be the lead on this initiative. A working committee will be established and it is estimated that a launch could take place in the fall of 2013.

# TREATMENT

## Kenora Drug Treatment Court

Kenora Drug Treatment Court is a new tool to promote public safety by attacking the root causes of crime. The court is for non-violent, drug-addicted offenders. It is the goal of the court to break the cycle of drug use, criminal behaviors and incarceration by providing a combination of intensive court-monitored, treatment and community services supports to non-violent offenders who are addicted to and want to quit using illegal drugs. The Drug Court is a special court that diverts drug-addicted offenders away from incarceration and towards an extensive supervision and treatment program that involves the judiciary, addiction services providers and community agencies.

The KDTC will increase public safety by addressing root cause of crime. The KDTC will:

- Monitor and support offenders as they work to end their dependence on illegal drugs
- Reduce the number of crimes committed to support drug dependence
- Reduce the harm people cause themselves and others through their drug use

### Who is Eligible to Come Before the Court?

The KDTC is available to offenders charged under the CDSA and/or non-violent Criminal Code offences. To be eligible, an offender must be dependent on drugs, and their criminal behavior must have caused or motivated their addictions.

Offenders who are gang members or who used a weapon in the commission of their offence are not eligible for KDTC.

### How Does Someone Get Their Case Into the KDTC?

Participation in the KDTC is voluntary. Lawyers representing an offender who meets the above criteria may submit that case to the Crown Counsel. The Crown screens each potential case to ensure that the candidate fits the KDTC criteria. The Crown also gives consideration to the seriousness of the offence(s), whether or not the person has other outstanding charges, and whether or not they pose a risk to the community.

KDTC candidates must also be screened by a treatment provider, who will assess whether or not candidates are addicted to drugs and willing to participate in the treatment process.

### What is Involved in a KDTC Program?

KDTC treatment and rehabilitation program lasts, on average, one year. Each participant works with the KDTC's Case Manager and treatment providers to develop a comprehensive and realistic plan that includes:

- Regular court appearances
- Multi-phase treatment for substance dependence
- Counselling
- Structured Relapse Prevention
- Access to other appropriate services that support rehabilitation, such as life skills and employment training and job placement

### How Can KDTC Make Sure That Participants Follow Their Program?

Participant's progress is carefully monitored through regularly scheduled court appearances, frequent drug testing and close supervision from the KDTC team.

Incentives and sanctions support and ensure participant's compliance with their programs:

- Participants who do well are rewarded. Rewards may include positive feedback, reduced court appearances, progression to the next program phase and ultimately successful completion of the program.
- Participants who do not fully comply with their program may be subject to sanctions, including increased court appearances, community services work, and issuance of warrants, bill revocation and expulsion from the program.

Kenora Drug Treatment Court is a new tool to promote public safety by attacking the root causes of crime.



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### What Happens When Someone Completes the KDTC Program?

To successfully complete the program, participants must:

- Complete all treatment hours specified in their individual plan.
- Establish and maintain a lifestyle that supports recovery and rehabilitation, including, where feasible, active engagement in the community through employment, education, volunteerism or other structured activities.
- Commit to a goal of either employment or education.
- Be recommended for graduation by the KDTC team.

At the end of the KDTC program, the Crown will either withdraw the charge against a successful participant or recommend a non-custodial sentence, depending on the nature and severity of the participant's original charges. Contact Richard Hoppe at 457-3555 for referral information.

### Psychological Treatment of Children & Youth

The psychological treatment of children & youth is substantively different than treating their adult counterparts. There has been, unfortunately, a longstanding history of downloading adult based treatment strategies onto the treatment of children-youth, much to the detriment of youth clientele. When Working with Children & Youth, we need to remember that:

- 1) Children/ youth are on a growth based developmental pathway
- 2) Childhood is a time of relational/ environmental dependency
- 3) Children-youth are developing core templates of themselves, others and the larger world
- 4) To grow and develop children-youth need to learn to live and negotiate in both a Garden (a safe haven of caring based R) and the Jungle stress of their immediate and peer world

### Managed Alcohol Program

Over the past few months a small working group made up of Kenora Fellowship Centre board members and staff, OPP, North Western Health Unit, a Northern Medical student, Kenora Street Patrol staff and a staff member from Community Programs for Lake Of the Woods District Hospital, have meet to explore the possibility of a Managed Alcohol Program for our community. We have drafted program policies and discussed in detail operational concerns. The Fellowship Centre submitted a funding application to the Homelessness Partnering Strategy for capital dollars to renovate the downstairs of their building. Unfortunately, then were unsuccessful. We are preparing a proposal for funds to operate the program; the proposal will be submitted before the end of March.

The Four Pillars sponsored Patty Hajdu's (from Shelter House in Thunder Bay) visit to Kenora during Drug Awareness week. Ms. Hajdu did several community presentations. She spoke to Board Members, Mayor and Council, Medical community, Services Providers and the general public. She answered their questions and addressed any concerns they might have.

### Combining of the Treatment and Harm Reduction Pillar

We have decided to combine the two pillars due to the amount of overlap. The Pillar will now be known as the Treatment/Harm Reduction Pillar. The combined committee will be chaired by Kim Elke and Patti Dryden-Holmstrom.

# HARM REDUCTION

Harm reduction works to address substance misuse in the community by:

- Focusing on reducing the health harms related to substance misuse.
- Engaging our at risk populations to provide support, education and referrals.
- Providing education, support to the general public and community partners on safe disposal.
- Not only focusing on individual health but population health by reducing the transmission of blood borne infections and ensuring safe disposal of needles.

Activities/initiatives undertaken in 2012:

**1. Earth Day** – An educational initiative regarding safe needle disposal was implemented in April. This was in response to a number of needles being found in the community. This campaign included the development of 2 posters; one for adults about how to pick up a needle and one for children titled “Don’t Touch.” A pamphlet was also developed outlining harm reduction programming in Kenora and education about what to do if you find a discarded needle. 50 posters and 300 pamphlets were distributed to community partners, City buildings, schools and at the Big Green Clean display. This initiative received a very positive response and has led to 19 calls for needle pickup in the community.

**2. Partnerships, Education and Support** – Training and support for safe needle disposal has been expanded in Kenora. Education sessions were provided to City staff including Harbourfront staff, Transfer Station staff, City managers, Rec Centre staff and seasonal park staff. Pick up kits have been provided for city vehicles. Training has also been provided to numerous community partners and local businesses.

**3. Sharps drop boxes** – have been installed in identified high risk areas in our community to encourage safe disposal of needles.

**4. Infection prevention and transmission training** – Education sessions have been provided to community partners and priority populations in a variety of settings including schools, local organizations, recovery homes and youth centres)

**5. Needle Exchange Program** – continues to provide equipment to people who use drugs to reduce the transmission of blood-borne infections including HIV and Hepatitis C. 111 352 needles were distributed in 2012

**6. Blood-borne infection testing** – the early identification of infections leads to better health outcomes. The Northwestern Health Unit continues to offer rapid, point of care testing for HIV as well as testing for Hepatitis C. These two infections can be prevalent in people who inject drugs who do not have access to new, clean equipment.

## Next Steps for 2013

### Overdose Prevention Program

The greatest harm associated with drug use is death. The most common cause of this is overdoses. In 2013, an Overdose Prevention Program will be rolling out in Kenora and in the region. This will include overdose prevention education as well as the provision of the medication Naloxone to people who use opioids.

### Ambassador Program

The World Health Organization has stated that the use of peers in the implementation of harm reduction programming helps lead to effective, relevant services to the people who need it. The development of this program is in process and will begin implementation this year.

### Outreach Clinic

The Northwestern Health Unit will be partnering with the Morningstar Centre to explore an after-hours outreach clinic at Morningstar. The provision of this clinic to priority populations at risk for blood-borne infections and other health risks will help to increase access to service and support.

### Earth Day Campaign Expansion

For 2013, this campaign will expand to include education and support to needle exchange clients to help promote safe disposal.

# ENFORCEMENT

## 2012 Enforcement Pillar Initiatives

- Mental Health Act incident referrals - OPP responds to approximately 120 yearly. Reviews of all MHA incidents are completed to ensure that appropriate referrals are made. This is documented on the OPP Records Management System.
- Mental Health Court - When there are mental health circumstances involved in an investigation and charges are processed, police ensure that this is documented for the crown screening for mental health court.
- Prolific offenders - Police complete proactive checks on high risk offenders released on bail conditions to ensure compliance. If they are found in breach of their conditions they are arrested and charges are processed to bring the offender back to court.
- Disorder on the streets - Police enforce the Trespass Act, Liquor Licence Act and Safe Streets Act to help keep order on the streets of Kenora.
- Substance use referrals - Police make appropriate referrals for people struggling with addictions.

## Focus for 2013

- Lobby and support for a Managed Alcohol Program (MAP) in the City of Kenora
- Lobby and support for effective substance use recovery programs and the appropriate police referrals for same.
- Support to the Mental Health court in Kenora.
- Support to the Drug court in Kenora.
- Continued effective enforcement options to address drug and alcohol trafficking in the Kenora area.
- Continued enforcement and educational initiatives to address the street crime and disorder on the streets of Kenora.

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# HIGHLIGHTS

## **APRIL 2012**

Task Force Pillar Leads present at the Northern Ontario Municipal Association' AGM in Kenora.

## **SEPTEMBER 2012**

2nd Annual Partnerships in Action Community Baseball Tournament.

## **OCTOBER 2012**

Task Force was presented with the OPP Accolade Award for Partnership in awards ceremony at OPP Headquarters in Orillia.

## **NOVEMBER 2012**

Managed Alcohol Program Presentation by Patty Hajdu, executive director of Thunder Bay's Shelter House.

## **DECEMBER 2012**

Major revamp of our Facebook page with current updates and information posted regularly.  
<http://www.facebook.com/kenorasubstanceabuseand.mentalhealthtaskforce>

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