



Colorado Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force

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About the Colorado Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force

In 1982, Colorado ranked among the top 15 states in per capita consumption of nine commonly abused prescription drugs. To counteract this abuse and misuse, the Colorado Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force (Task Force) was organized in 1984. This nonprofit corporation is a consortium of over 30 private and public health care, regulatory and law enforcement agencies. From 1984 through 2006, Jody Gingery, M.Ed., R.N. was the director and responsible for Task Force operations and completion of the goals established by the Board of Directors. Primary funding for the Task Force is through a contract with the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD) of the Colorado Department of Human Services.

Since 1988, the Task Force has developed and implemented:

- Guidelines for the handling of controlled substances by physicians, nurses, pharmacists, veterinarians, dentists and podiatrists.
- Education programs and training of trainer programs for physicians, nurses, pharmacists, veterinarians and dentists.
- Statewide training program for law enforcement officers.
- Compilations of drug diversion scenarios (scams) which are commonly used by prescription drug abusers, along with strategies for prevention.
- Statewide PharmAlert Hotline to link pharmacies through main chain pharmacies for intervention in prescription drug fraud.
- Newsletters to update members of Task Force activities.
- Hotline for health care providers, law enforcement and regulatory agencies to answer questions about resources for colleagues or patients who may have substance abuse problems.
- National Information Resource Directory (NIRD) to increase awareness about national organizations that are concerned about prescription drug abuse issues.
- Awards to educators and health care providers who have made outstanding contributions to prescription fraud prevention and intervention.

As of December 1, 2006, Peer Assistance Services assumed management responsibilities of the ADAD contract. The Task Force will continue in an advisory capacity and is a valuable resource providing information and education regarding prescription drug use, misuse, and abuse for the community. For more information, contact Gregory E. Maloney, President, Colorado Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force at 720.858.6317 or greg_maloney@cms.org.