



Substance Misuse Action Team Newsletter

February 2023

Action Items!

The following are things that you can do to **Get Involved ASAP**:

- Join the virtual ECHA Community Conversation on February 22nd from 11a.m. to 12:30p.m. to discuss the 2024 Community Health Assessment data and vote on your top health priorities. See more information below!
- Attend a workgroup meeting!
 - Alcohol Workgroup: February 28th, 11a.m. to 12p.m.
 - Drug Workgroup: February 23rd, 1p.m. to 2p.m.
- Visit our social media, and like or share a post. This month's posts will include Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, National Love Your Pet Day, and more!
 - Time needed: 5 minutes



Updates

HSHS and Prevea Closures

You've all likely heard of the HSHS/Prevea closures taking place. All of us are reeling at the loss of these resources in our community, including those losing their jobs, while at the same time are working diligently with our partners to respond as thoughtfully and expediently as we can to support our community. The Eau Claire Chamber of Commerce has created a task force where community members can get involved, submit questions, and sign up for a newsletter. Learn more here: [HSHS/Prevea Recovery Task Force - Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce.](#)

There are many moving pieces and local news stations have been doing a good job sharing updates. If you have ideas of how our group could support those impacted, especially those working through substance misuse, please contact [Alison Harder.](#)



Harm Reduction Vending Machine 6 Month Review

The public health vending machine that distributes Narcan and fentanyl test strips kits has been in operation for over 6 months!

As of December 13, six months after its launch, the vending machine has dispensed:

- 503 boxes of Narcan (total of 1,006 doses)
- 250 fentanyl test strip kits (total of 1,250 test strips)

The vending machine is available in

the jail lobby 24 hours, 7 days a week with no questions asked.

DHS and FDA Warn About Tianeptine

On February 13th, 2024 the Wisconsin DHS released a health alert about the adverse health effects linked to Neptune's Fix and other products with tianeptine.

[Read the DHS Alert here.](#)

Additionally, the FDA has warned consumers not to buy or use Neptune's Fix (or any tianeptine products) due to serious health risks. If you have any tianeptine products, dispose of them or return them to the place of purchase immediately.

[Read the FDA warning here.](#)

A pharmacist will be joining the Drug Workgroup on February 23rd at 1p.m. to speak about these products. All are welcome to join. See more information about the meeting below.



Join the ECHA Community Conversation

The Eau Claire Health Alliance is hosting a virtual meeting for its members, including you, to give feedback on the top health priorities identified in our community. Please join this VIRTUAL meeting on February 22nd from 11:00 am to 12:30 to discuss the 2024 Community Health Assessment data and vote on your top health priorities.

Please contact Gina.Schemenauer@eauclairecounty.gov if you need the meeting information sent to you.



Connect with Me Conversation Cards



Conversation Cards

Connect With Me conversation starter cards are for starting conversations anywhere, anytime. The cards include questions to help start conversations about tough topics like mental health, substance misuse, relationships, and nutrition/physical activity. The cards are designed for youth around middle school age and older but can be simplified for younger ages. Having conversations early, and often, and with a trusted adult can help build resilience for youth. These cards will be available on

the ECHA website soon, including Spanish and Hmong versions.

Interested in a printed set of cards for yourself or your organization? Fill out the

[Conversation Card Request Form.](#)

Eau Claire Outdoor Smoke-free Ordinance

In January, the Eau Claire City Council voted to amend Chapter 8.05.050 entitled "Smoking Prohibited in Specified Outdoor Locations" in city code to include that "smoking is prohibited within 30 feet of a playground, play space, learning trail, or other city park area designed for children." This is a positive change for local parks and for kids, providing more spaces that model being healthier and smoke free (including cigarettes and vaping).

[See the City Council Minutes](#) (page 15).

Wisconsin Act 73

Wisconsin Act 73 was signed into law in December. This act makes changes to the state's alcohol regulation laws and enforcement ability relating to tobacco and vape products.

Act 73 updates tobacco licensing laws to include vape shops. Previously, a retailer selling only electronic vaping devices did not need a retail license for those products. As of March 6, these retailers will need the same retail license cigarette and tobacco product retailers hold now.

Additional changes related to selling tobacco, including vape devices:

- Clarifies the definition of an electronic vaping device
- Requires the WI Department of Revenue (DOR) to collect and publicly publish a list of tobacco retail license holders
- Requires manufactures of electronic vaping devices to provide proof of authorization to market their products from the FDA or that their application is still under review by the FDA

Act 73 also makes numerous changes to alcohol regulation. This act creates a division in the DOR for regulation, standardizes rules, and makes various changes to alcohol licensing.

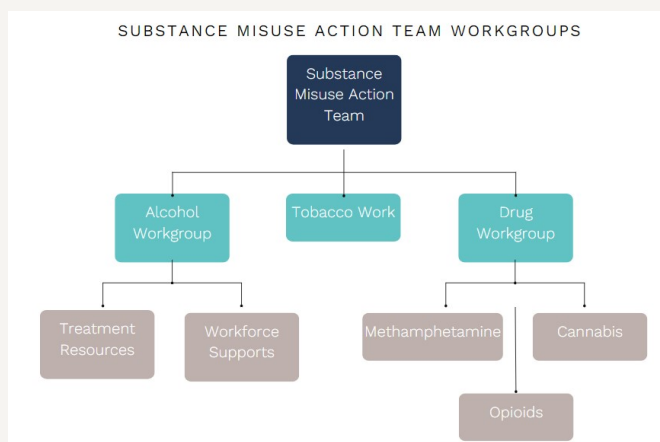
Additional changes to alcohol regulations:

- Introduces statewide bartenders license
- Categorizes hard seltzers and similar beverages as "fermented malt beverages"
- Clarifies "public spaces" that are prohibited from selling alcohol without a permit
- Increases the driving while under the influence surcharge and funding for Safe Ride program

[Read a summary of the bill from WI Legislative Council.](#)

Workgroups

SMAT has created workgroups to work on strategies identified in the county Community Health Improvement Plan [CHIP](#). The alcohol misuse workgroup works to address social norms, remove barriers to treatment, and reduce alcohol-impaired driving. The drug use workgroup focuses on collaboration, prevention, and response related to opioids, methamphetamine, and cannabis.



Drug Misuse Workgroup Upcoming Meeting

The next Drug Misuse Workgroup meeting is February 23rd at 1p.m. At the next meeting, there will be a guest speaker who will give an overview on Tianeptine, a substance with emerging health concerns. Additionally, the team will hear about recommendations from the Overdose Fatality Review Team and continue to work on an educational campaign about methamphetamine prevention and response.

Email [Sarah Dillivan-Pospisil](#) for more information or to join!

Alcohol Misuse Workgroup Summary -

The alcohol misuse workgroup met to learn more about alcohol licensing from guest speaker Assistant Eau Claire City Attorney Jenessa Stromberger. Jenessa shared the different types of alcohol licenses, the alcohol license review committee and Eau Claire City Council approval process, and an overview of the new laws in Act 73. The group had a great discussion about how this process works and ways for community involvement. We are excited to share we have been approved for a \$1,000 mini-grant from Mayo Clinic Health System to print the Little Recovery Handbook our group has created. Our next meeting is February 28th at 11a.m. where we will approve the final version of the handbook and make plans for distribution.

Reach out to [Alison Harder](#) if you would like to join the workgroup!

**Join us on March 12th for
a Substance Misuse
Action Team Meeting!**



Our next SMAT meeting is Tuesday, March 12th at 10:30am in room G034 in the Eau Claire County Government Center. We are very excited to have youth representatives from Augusta Middle & High School SAFE (Students Advocating For

Excellence) coming to present about what they are doing to address substance misuse. Come show your support for our local youth working on substance misuse issues and learn more about SAFE!

Health Equity

Embracing Cultural Humility in Substance Use Prevention

Black History Month is observed every February to celebrate the accomplishments of Black and African Americans. This year, the National Institute of Health's theme "Black Excellence in Health and Science" is derived from this year's national theme, "African American's and the Arts." NIH's theme celebrates the incredible accomplishments of Black American scientists, researchers, doctors, nurses, and medical professionals. Their work has been instrumental in advancing the medical field and enriching our perspectives on health and science.

Let us recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Black Americans in science and medicine as their achievements have contributed to our collective advancement to improve health, revolutionize science, and serve society.

Learn more about this year's national theme ["African American's and the Arts."](#)



Social Media Highlight



Healthy eating , managing stress , getting enough quality sleep , and quitting smoking can help reduce your risk for heart disease. Join forces this American Heart Month because #OurHearts are healthier together.

Resources

988 Suicide and Crisis Line Toolkit

The 988 toolkit has been updated to be searchable and more user friendly. The 988 Partner Toolkit is a resource center for social media, video, print, radio, FAQs, messaging, and other marketing materials that can be used to promote the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

Advisory: Low Barrier Models of Care for Substance Use Disorders

This advisory from SAMHSA outlines the principles and components of low barrier care, and how low barrier care may be leveraged to overcome substantial gaps in access, while also engaging individuals in treatment.

Peer Support Recovery Guide

[SAMHSA released a new guide](#) designed for those who have experience with substance misuse to explore what peer specialists are and the role they can play in the journey through recovery.

Wisconsin Afterschool Network

The [Wisconsin Afterschool Network](#) is a website with resources, webinars, and more related to youth health.

Online Trainings

Unconscious Bias

February 15th, 11a.m. to 12p.m.

Building Protection Using the Social Development Strategy

February 15th, 3p.m. to 4:30p.m.

Drug Trends in the Great Lakes Region: What Are They and How Do We Address Them?

February 15th, 1p.m. to 2:30p.m.

Perceptions of Substance Use and Older Adults

February 22nd, 9a.m.

Virtual SAPST: SPF Application for Prevention Success Training

February 26th, February 29th, March 4th, March 11th; 9a.m. to 3p.m.

Alcohol, Equity, and Social Justice: Breaking the Silence

February 27th, 2:30p.m. to 4:30p.m.

Practical Skills in Prevention Series: Make the Magic Happen in a Meeting

February 28th, 10a.m. to 1p.m.

Prevention in Action - Resilience Matters to ME

February 28th, 11a.m. to 12p.m.

Deep Dive into Prevention Ethics: Integrity and the SPF

March 7th, 9:30a.m. to 11a.m.

Substance Use and Other Risk Factors for Gun Violence: Prevention and Intervention Strategies

March 12th, 10a.m. to 11:30a.m.

Risk and Protective Factors 101 - Session 1

March 19th, 12p.m. to 1:30p.m.

Overview of Harm Reduction

March 20th, 9a.m. to 11p.m.

Prevention Works! And a Call to Action

March 20th, 12:00p.m. to 1:30p.m.

Shared Risk and Protective Factors - Session 2

March 26th, 12p.m. to 1:30p.m.

Going Deeper on Protective Factors - Session 3

April 2nd, 12p.m. to 1:30p.m.

Strategies for Preventing Substance Misuse in Older Adults

April 25th, 1p.m. to 2:30p.m.

Meeting Schedule

Alcohol Workgroup

Feb 28th, 11a.m to 12p.m.

Virtual, Microsoft Teams

Drug Workgroup

Feb 23rd, 1p.m. to 2p.m.

Room 302, EC Gov. Center

Substance Misuse Action Team

March 12th, 10:30 a.m. to 12p.m.

Room G034, EC Gov. Center

Eau Claire Health Alliance

April 11th, 8:15a.m. to 10a.m.

Room G034, EC Gov. Center

About the Substance Misuse Action Team

Mission:

Working together to prevent and reduce substance misuse through education and advocacy in Eau Claire County.

Vision:

A community free from the harms of alcohol, tobacco, and drug use.

Values

Community voice: Welcome all people into the conversation and to be a part of the solutions, regardless of background or abilities

Connection: Foster community connections for collaboration and partnership as we address our common goal

Data-Driven: Work is guided by local data and conditions, and it is both practice- and evidence-based

Equity: Action works to address disparities impacting health and wellbeing by focusing on economic, social, and physical environments

Informative: Work focuses on continuous learning and mutual knowledge sharing

Inviting: Work is done with an open mind, acknowledging different viewpoints, with empathy and compassion

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Visit the Eau Claire Health Alliance Website



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