

# Take Action

## Make a Difference During Recovery Month and Beyond

This September, National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month (Recovery Month) will be celebrated by hundreds of organizations and communities around the country to highlight the value of investing in treatment for substance use disorders. As part of Recovery Month 2007's theme, "Join the Voices for Recovery: Saving Lives, Saving Dollars," take the following steps with your company to contribute to the effort:

**1. Develop or expand your drug-free workplace and include an employee assistance program.**

Using the resources provided by the DWI Resource Center (505-881-1084), begin your planning to develop or add to a long-term, comprehensive drug-free workplace and assistance program. This will help your employees establish a common ground, as well as provide you with an opportunity to enhance your working conditions.

**2. Hire people in recovery.** By showing your support for people in the recovery community and investing in their careers and futures, you will help your existing employees understand that treatment and recovery do not have to take people out of the workforce.

**3. Educate your employees.** By conducting seminars and disseminating information to your employees, you can give them and their families an opportunity to learn something about the signs and symptoms of substance use disorders. Make certain that all employees are aware of any substance use policies, assistance programs, or drug testing procedures that exist in the company.

**4. Share the wealth.** Whether you are a small, mid-size, or large business, try to make a financial donation to local organizations that are planning Recovery Month events—or hold one of your own. When sponsoring a Recovery Month event or supporting an organization that works toward helping those with substance use disorders, you are showing that you are a generous member of the community and that you believe in a supportive work environment for people in recovery.

Each U.S. state and territory offers information and support regarding substance use disorders through the local government offices. The following facility is licensed, certified, or otherwise approved for inclusion by New Mexico's Human Services Department. Their role is to plan, carry out, and evaluate substance use disorder prevention and treatment services provided to individuals and families. In New Mexico, you may contact the following organization for more information:

Linda Roebuck  
Behavioral Health Collaborative  
NM Human Services Department  
2055 S. Pacheco, Suite 500

### Celebration of Recovery Event

Join other community members in celebrating Alcohol & Addiction Recovery Month!

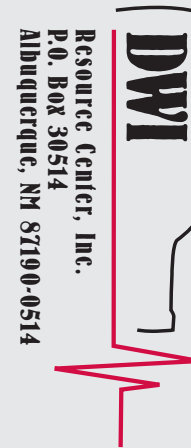
September 26, 2007  
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Christ Unity Church  
9800 Candelaria NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87112

The event will feature a sobriety countdown, recovery music, keynote speakers, prayer, meditation and opportunities for sharing experiences, resources, and stories. Rev. G. Ross Campbell and Singer/Songwriter Lee Dorman will officiate at the event, and all community members are welcome to attend. A special invitation is extended to those in recovery and the family and friends who love and support them.

For more information about this event, please contact the Rev. Ross Campbell at:

9800 Candelaria NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87112  
505-292-1998  
revross@msn.com

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July / August 2007

# DWInio

## September is National Alcohol and Addiction Recovery Month

### How Can Employers Help Workers with Substance Use Disorders?

Substance use disorders continue to affect millions of Americans, most of whom are employed either full or part time. Of the 20.2 million adults classified with dependence or abuse in 2005, 15.5 million (or 76.7 percent) were employed. While treatment for substance use disorders is cost effective and beneficial to the person in need, if left untreated, these disorders can negatively impact all aspects of business, including financial losses, absenteeism, and the morale of other employees. Fortunately, there are steps businesses can take to help improve their bottom line and, more importantly, their employees' lives.

### The Value of Investing in Treatment

Investing in treatment has many financial benefits to the economy, businesses, and perhaps most importantly, to the person in recovery. Research shows that substance use disorders are medical conditions that can be effectively treated, just as many illnesses are treatable. A major study published in 2000 in the Journal of the American Medical Association is one of several that demonstrate the effectiveness of treatment for substance use disorders. The study found that treatments for drug use disorders are just as effective as treatments for other chronic conditions, such as high blood pressure, asthma, and diabetes.

Treatment significantly helps people in the workplace. Reported job problems, including incomplete work, absenteeism, tardiness, work-related injuries, mistakes, and disagreements with supervisors, are cut by an average of 75 percent among employees who have received treatment for substance use disorders. Employees seeking treatment can do so without interfering with their

ability to perform their jobs. Intensive outpatient programs are effective and allow workers to stay on the job, while seeking treatment outside of work.

Many studies show a positive return on investment when money is spent on treatment. Research suggests at least a 2:1 benefit-to-cost ratio, with other studies allowing for a return of \$7 for every dollar spent on treatment. Another study discovered that employers

can receive a benefit-to-cost ratio of 26:1 from investing in programs for their employees. A peer-based prevention program—focusing on changing attitudes about substance use disorders and training workers to recognize and intervene with coworkers who have a problem—and random testing was associated with an approximate one-third reduction in injury rates, avoiding an estimated \$48 million in employer costs in 1999.

### Drug-Free Workplace Initiatives

A drug-free workplace is one that is free of the health, safety, and productivity hazards caused by employees' misuse of alcohol and/or drugs. To achieve such an environment, many employers develop drug-free workplace programs.

A comprehensive drug-free workplace program typically includes five key components: a drug-free workplace policy\*, supervisor training\*, employee education\*, employee assistance programs\*, and, in some instances, drug testing. Although employers may choose not to incorporate all five components, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) recommends that all be explored when developing a drug-free workplace program. Research shows that implementing more components will lead to a more effective program. However, since every business and work environment is unique, there is no single right way to establish a program.

*\*The DWI Resource Center offers local Albuquerque companies a comprehensive drug-free workplace program which includes all the five key components listed above, please call 881-1084 to see how we can help your company continue or create a safer work environment and community.*

### Nissan Develops Car with Integrated Alcohol Testing

In many states, courts have ordered convicted drunk drivers to install ignition-interlock systems to prevent them from driving with any alcohol in their system. But now Nissan has rolled out a prototype vehicle with a multi-layer alcohol-testing system already built in, Reuters reported August 6. The concept car includes sensors in the gear shift that detect alcohol consumption in sweat, as well as alcohol odor detectors built into the seats. A mounted camera checks driver awareness through eye scans and warnings.

Project manager Kazuhiro Doi noted that the system will detect any level of alcohol use, so it will need to be tweaked before appearing on the market within the next decade. The auto's ignition locks up if intoxication is suspected. Volvo also had developed a car with an integrated alcohol-detection system, a breath tester housed in the driver's seatbelt.

## DWI Resource Center, Inc. About Us

The DWI Resource Center is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 New Mexico organization formed to reduce the social and economic impact of DWI through public awareness, education, prevention programs and research. The Center also provides assistance to victims and serves as a central clearinghouse for information on DWI and victims' rights.

- Research and Statistics
- Public Policy & Law
- Victims' Rights Legal Assistance Project
- Court Monitoring
- Drug-Free Workplace Programs
- Retailers For Responsibility
- Victim Impact Panels

For more information about the Center or to make a contribution, please call us at (505) 881-1084, or visit our website at [www.dwiresourcecenter.org](http://www.dwiresourcecenter.org).

### AGs Urge Crackdown on Marketing of Alcoholic Energy Drinks

A group of 28 state attorneys general is calling on the Bush administration to crack down on marketing of alcoholic energy drinks that they say targets youth with potency claims.

The Associated Press reported August 21 that the group -- which also included the attorneys general of Guam and the District of Columbia -- urged federal Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau chief John Manfreda to investigate the marketing practices of companies like Miller Brewing Co. (which makes the Sparks and Sparks Plus energy drinks), Anheuser-Busch (Bud Extra) and Charge Beverages of Portland (Liquid Charge and Liquid Core).

They also want investigators to analyze the ingredients of alcoholic energy drinks to determine whether they should be classified as malt beverages or distilled spirits. In the article, the Associated Press quotes the Attorney Generals as claiming that alcoholic "energy drinks" appeal to young drinkers with claims about the stimulating properties of alcoholic energy drinks. Further, the AGs say that the brewers are making misleading health-related claims about their energy drinks.

## US Surgeon General Coming To New Mexico in September in a Call To Action To Prevent Underage Drinking

On September 25th, the acting U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Kenneth Moritsugu and New Mexico's First Lady Mrs. Barbara Richardson will be presenting "A Call to Action to Prevent Underage Drinking" to audiences in Santa Fe.

New Mexico has among the highest rates of youth alcohol problems in the country, devastating the well being of families and burdening the state with economic costs of more than \$700 million a year. Hosted by New Mexico's First Lady, Mrs. Barbara Richardson, this two-hour forum will focus on the effects of underage drinking as highlighted in the March 2007 "Call to Action to Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking." The emphasis will be on mobilizing our community to solve this problem. A community panel will respond to Dr. Moritsugu's remarks, which will then be followed by questions from the audience.

New Mexico residents have two opportunities to see the U.S. Surgeon General and participate in the seminars.

**Santa Fe - Tuesday, September 25, 2007, 7 to 9 pm** at the Lentic Theater, 211 San Francisco, Santa Fe. The event is FREE, but tickets are required. Please call the Lentic at 988-1234 to reserve.

**Albuquerque - Wednesday, September 26,** hosted by The Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free Foundation. 10a.m.-12:00 noon at the Marriott Pyramid, Albuquerque. All are welcome, no reservations necessary.

### 100 Days & Nights of Summer Law Enforcement Campaign

The 100 Days and Nights of Summer law enforcement campaign targets drunk driving, seat belt use, and speeding.

As of August 17, 2007, police have arrested 1,559 drunk drivers since the campaign began on June 1.

In addition, police have issued 2,353 citations for not wearing a seatbelt, and 387 citations for not having children restrained (Shame on you, adults!!!).

**REMEMBER: The best defense against a drunk driver is the WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT everywhere, every time, no exceptions.**