

Overview: Areas of Focus and Themes

Overall Philosophical Approach

Alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, abuse and addiction range in intensity from experimentation to severe and life-threatening chronic medical conditions. Therefore, alcohol, tobacco and other drug-related problems can be most effectively prevented, treated and/or managed through providing a continuum of prevention, treatment and recovery support services.

Strategic Direction

Impact Norms and Perceptions

- Substance abuse continues to be viewed primarily as a social problem, rather than as a health condition.
- There are pervasive high-risk patterns of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use across Marin
- Youth have easy access to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs from social sources
- There is a lack of consistent adherence to and implementation of alcohol, tobacco and other drug laws and policies

Improve System Capacity and Infrastructure

- There is a lack of consistent early identification, screening and referral of alcohol, tobacco and other drug problems, which reduces access to appropriate services
- There is a lack of communication, coordination and collaboration between departments and agencies
- Data collection in the alcohol, tobacco and other drug system of care is not consistent and does not support a continuum of care model
- There is a need to leverage alternative resources in order to maximize the provision of comprehensive alcohol, tobacco and other drug services

Implement Effective Services

- Alcohol, tobacco and other drug services are not consistently tailored to specific client needs and considerations, such as economic, gender, age, language, geographical, racial, cultural and situational issues
- Alcohol, tobacco and other drug programs and services are not consistently incorporating evidence-based practices
- The lack of coordination, communication and collaboration across departments and agencies, which is not consistent with a chronic disease and continuum of care model, limits access to and delivery of effective services

Priority Problem Statements