

## **Coalition on Prescription Drug Misuse (CoOPDM)**

### **Terms of Reference**

*October 14, 2008*

#### **1. Purpose**

To review, address and impact the problem of prescription drug misuse in Alberta by coordinating efforts of participating organizations and engaging other stakeholders.

#### **2. Vision**

Promoting healthy communities by eliminating prescription drug misuse in Alberta.

#### **3. Mission**

To assess and address the issue of prescription drug misuse with a community approach that encourages cooperation, information sharing, education amongst agencies, stakeholders and the community.

#### **4. Scope**

The CoOPDM will act as a catalyst and conduit on the issue of prescription drug misuse and will work with the community and other stakeholders to assess and address the problem.

The scope of the CoOPDM is as follows:

- a) Review and understand the determinants, context and effects of prescription drug misuse in Alberta
- b) Consult and engage external stakeholders and groups to better understand and assess the problem of prescription drug misuse
- c) Develop a system for cooperatively collecting, analyzing and sharing actionable information and improving communications amongst stakeholders and agencies
- d) Ensure policy-makers, stakeholders and the community understand the scope of prescription drug misuse, as it is addressed by the CoOPDM
- e) Engage with communities to develop and evaluate actionable plans to address the problem of prescription drug misuse
- f) Create a model that demonstrates how the health care community, law enforcement, and provincial and federal governments can work together to positively address prescription drug misuse
- g) Develop an action plan detailing next steps and recommendations to be implemented by participating agencies and the community to address the problem of prescription drug misuse. This action plan will be detailed in a final report by the CoOPDM
- h) Report to the public and community stakeholders on the CoOPDM's activities, findings and recommendations
- i) Facilitate and support CoOPDM member partners and other stakeholders to develop and implement their own strategies to address prescription drug misuse

#### **5. Definition of Prescription Drug Misuse**

The Coalition will use the following definition of "prescription drug abuse", as it is defined by the Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse (CCSA):

“The term prescription drug abuse usually refers to any misuse or non-medical use of a controlled psychotropic pharmaceutical drug – that is, the use of a drug for something other than its intended medical or psychiatric purpose (for example, to get “high”).”

Where appropriate, or necessary for correct context, the CoOPDM will reference the longer definition used by the CCSA:

“...use of pharmaceutical drugs with centrally acting reinforcing properties that is associated with increased risk for harm, as characterized by obtaining drugs from illegitimate sources, or risky patterns of use (excluding under-use), that deviate from accepted medical practice and/or scientific knowledge, or taking the drug for purposes which are not therapeutic.”<sup>i</sup>

## 6. Resources

The CoOPDM has access to short-term financial resources through a grant from Alberta Health Services - AADAC. Financial resources and obligations under the grant agreement are administered by the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Organizations participating in the Coalition have made in-kind contributions of time, information and staff resources. The CoOPDM has engaged the services of a part-time Coordinator to support its activities throughout its term.

## 7. Membership

The membership consists of representatives from key stakeholder groups that have an active interest in the issue of prescription drug misuse. The members of the CoOPDM are as follows:

Alberta College of Pharmacists	Greg Eberhart
Alberta Health Services	Kathie Gavin
	Jill Mitchell
College of Physicians and Surgeons	Dr. Janet Wright
	Clarence Wepler, Co-Chair
	Dr. Susan Ulan
Edmonton Police Service	S. Sgt. Darren Derko
Health Canada	Bonnie Falkenberg
Health Canada – First Nations and Inuit Health Branch	Dr. Hakique Virani
RCMP	Sgt. Lorne Adamitz, Co-Chair
	S. Sgt. Ian Sanderson
	Sgt. Donna Hanson

## 8. Term

While the solutions to prescription drug misuse will require a long-term effort on the part of many organizations and Albertans, the planned term of engagement for the CoOPDM runs from May 2008 until March 31, 2010. The project term is considered foundational to enable long-term action and solutions in pursuit of the Vision. The Coalition will review how to continue momentum and sustain long-term activity beyond the end of its term.

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<sup>i</sup> Health Canada. Draft consensus statement. Workshop to build consensus on concepts and indicators for research on psychotropic pharmaceutical abuse. September 2006.