

## **DRUG & ALCOHOLISM COUNCIL OF JOHNSON COUNTY**

*United Community Services of Johnson County (UCS)*

### ***STATEMENT OF PURPOSE***

To reduce alcohol and other drug problems by promoting, supporting and advocating for the full continuum of care – education/prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery - for residents of Johnson County, Kansas.

### ***HISTORY***

The **Alcoholism Planning Council** (APC) was organized by United Community Services in 1972 in response to a community concern for the "public inebriate" and lack of alcohol abuse service coordination. Early efforts, in cooperation with the Johnson County Mental Health Center, resulted in establishing detoxification services in the county. In 1979 - 80, the Board of County Commissioners and nine cities adopted resolutions naming United Community Services as their planning body on alcohol issues, including the making of recommendations on the expenditure of local alcohol tax funds. The volunteer members of the APC carried out the tasks of community planning, alcohol service advocacy and grant review. Initially, the APC operated on charitable contributions. After 1980, funds were provided through the alcohol tax fund.

The **Drug Abuse Council** was established by United Community Services in 1974 when State of Kansas funds became available for drug abuse prevention in local communities. The Drug Abuse Council focused on drug abuse education, offering a speakers bureau and technical assistance to schools in developing prevention programs. The Council operated on state grants, public and private contributions.

The two councils worked cooperatively on several projects and merged in 1982 to form the **DRUG & ALCOHOLISM COUNCIL of JOHNSON COUNTY** (DAC). The merger resulted in a dual emphasis on planning and community education. An early initiative was the implementation of a plan to coordinate the allocation of local alcohol tax funds among jurisdictions and service providers. In 1986, the DAC identified alcohol and other drug community planning as its singular focus. Today, the DAC emphasizes its role in providing an accountable, effective system for recommending allocation of local alcohol tax funds.

### ***ORGANIZATIONAL STATUS***

The DAC is an independent advisory committee and a program of United Community Services (UCS) of Johnson County. The role of the DAC is to provide an accountable, effective system for recommending allocation of local alcohol tax funds to support community efforts to reduce alcohol and other drug abuse in Johnson County. The DAC is composed of up to 25 members, representing diverse interests and talents—law enforcement, health professionals, education, faith-based community and interested citizens. The DAC is funded by alcohol tax funds from participating jurisdictions (Johnson County government, De Soto, Gardner, Leawood, Lenexa, Merriam, Mission, Olathe, Overland Park, Prairie Village, and Shawnee). Jurisdictions participating in the alcohol tax fund process are invited to name a representative to the Council.

## **THE DAC THROUGH THE YEARS: ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **DATA AND RESEARCH**

- Published twelve reports on availability of alcohol/drug services to Johnson County residents and gaps in service.
- Provided information to local governments on impact of alcohol and other drug issues.
- Responded to requests for alcohol/drug information, referral sources and statistical data.
- In cooperation with the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, updated, published and distributed certified ADSAP provider list to county/city government twice a year. (2016: *no longer applicable*)
- Established and published four reports of indicators of substance abuse.
- Researched the impact of managed care on alcohol and drug service delivery and published the *Managed Care Report*.
- Researched issue of co-occurrence of substance abuse and homelessness.

### **RESOURCE ALLOCATION**

- Established funding priorities from research conducted to assist annual review and recommendation process for local alcohol tax funds.
- Conducted annual review and recommendation process for alcohol tax funds. From 1981 through 2021 allocations, have made funding recommendations on allocation of approximately \$37 million dollars.
- Reviewed and provided community comment on local alcohol and drug agencies' applications for local and state funding.

### **CONVENING, MOBILIZING, AND LEVERAGING RESOURCES**

- Offered educational programs and Speakers Bureau from 1982-84.
- Advocated for State Policies Related to:
  - Local control of local alcohol taxes.
  - Mandatory health insurance coverage for substance abuse.
  - Funding for Regional Prevention Center in Johnson County.
  - Affordable treatment services; including adult and adolescent intermediate care. Resulted in establishment of Substance Abuse Center of Eastern Kansas (now closed) and Johnson County Mental Health—Adolescent Center for Treatment.
  - Use of drug forfeiture money for prevention programming in addition to law enforcement and judicial functions.
  - Statewide credential process for alcohol and drug addiction counselors.
  - Inclusion of alcohol and other drug benefits in federal health care reform.
  - Local control of establishing qualifications for certifying Alcohol and Drug Safety Action Program agencies.
- Sponsored and organized five Awareness Fairs at Oak Park Mall (1983-87), with annual participation of more than thirty organizations.
- Reviewed *The Johnson County Blueprint for Families and Children*, a county-wide assessment of families' and children's needs released in 1993, and identified and acted on recommendations outlined in *The Blueprint* impacting alcohol and other drug abuse.
- Reviewed Johnson County Juvenile Justice Comprehensive Strategic Plan, 1999, and acted on recommendations related to alcohol and other drug abuse.
- Promoted cooperation, coordination, and collaboration of service providers in order to enhance service delivery systems and provided technical assistance to service providers on alcohol and drug issues.
- Facilitated discussion between KS Department of Social & Rehabilitation Services/Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services and local providers on the implementation of managed care.
- Developed recommendation which led to the establishment of case management program for the co-occurrence of substance abuse and homelessness.
- With JCMH Regional Prevention Center convened community meeting on substance abuse prevention. (March, 2012)