

# A MATTER OF SUBSTANCE: AT-A-GLANCE

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DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

## DIVISION QUICK FACTS

### **New Law Expands Iowa Synthetic Drug Ban:**

Last week, Governor Branstad signed into law Senate File 2343, a bill to update Iowa's list of controlled substances. The measure expands the State's ban on synthetic drugs, sometimes sold as incense or bath salts under names such as Spice and Ivory Wave, to apply to many more variations. The bill signed outlaws a total of 43 specific synthetic drug compounds, plus five broader classes of synthetic drugs as Schedule I Controlled Substances. That compares with eight such compounds now controlled federally, and previously by Iowa law. According to Dale Woolery, Interim Director of the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy, "I'm grateful to the Governor and Legislature for their bold action, part of a one-two punch of legislation and education needed to curb both the sale of synthetic drugs and Iowans' use of these dangerous products."



### **ATR Receives Incentive Funding Award:**

The Iowa Access to Recovery (ATR) Project recently received an incentive award of \$161,000 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for meeting established performance measures. Grantees with a minimum follow-up rate of 80% and an admission rate of 115%, were eligible. According to ATR Project Director, Kevin Gabbert, "This success was entirely due to the effort of the ATR provider network. Without them this achievement, and the ongoing success of the ATR Project, would not have been possible." Gabbert said, "100% of the incentive funding received will go into the voucher pool to support client services."

**A Look at Underage Drinking in Iowa:** This spring, 33 town hall meetings were held across Iowa addressing underage drinking. Many received support from SAMHSA through a small stipend. Nearly 1,700 Iowans participated, including almost 700 youth. At 21 of the 33 meetings, attendees were surveyed about alcohol availability and what keeps kids alcohol free. Here are some of the results: 82% of adults and 72% of youth felt it was easy to get alcohol in their community. 97% of adults and 88% of youth felt that adults who provide alcohol should be held accountable. 92% of adults and 86% of youth felt there this is a problem with alcohol in their community. These data were presented at a culmination meeting for the town hall meetings on May 30, 2012 sponsored by the Alliance of Coalitions for Change (AC4C). For more information, contact Angie Asa-Lovstad at [kossuthconnections@gmail.com](mailto:kossuthconnections@gmail.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Employing Social Media in Community-Based Prevention: Should We Jump In?** June 7. The webinar will be from 10:00-11:30. For more information, go to [www.trainingresources.org](http://www.trainingresources.org).

**Employing Social Media in Community-Based Prevention: Getting Started.** June 13. The webinar will be from 10:00-11:30. For more information, go to [www.trainingresources.org](http://www.trainingresources.org).

**Cultural Competency Training**  
June 14-15. Des Moines Botanical Center. For more information, go to [www.trainingresources.org](http://www.trainingresources.org).

**Problem Gambling Webinar: Youth Gambling-From Research to Practice.** June 15.  
The webinar will be from 12:00pm -1:30pm Central Time. For more information, go to [www.trainingresources.org](http://www.trainingresources.org).

**Justice in Our Communities**  
July 31-August 2. Muscatine - Clarion Hotel. For more information, call Nancy Wells at 515-401-9897.

**SAVE THE DATE - 2012 Mental Health Conference**  
October 9-10. Ames - Scheman Conference Center. Watch for more details at [www.trainingresources.org](http://www.trainingresources.org).

For more information about the Division of Behavioral Health, visit [www.idph.state.ia.us/bh](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/bh)

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