



# A MATTER OF SUBSTANCE: At-a-Glance

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## DIVISION QUICK FACTS

**SAMHSA Policy Academy — Service Members, Veterans and their Families:** Governor Branstad has designated IDPH as the Iowa team lead for SAMHSA's *2011 Service Members, Veterans and their Families Policy Academy* which brings together Federal, State and local partners to improve behavioral health services for veterans and members of the military, reserves, and National Guard and their families.

Through the Policy Academy, Iowa and nine other states will strengthen their behavioral health care systems and related services and supports for this important population by developing practical and sustainable strategic action plans unique to the needs of each state and including goals, policies, timeframes, resources, and input from key constituencies. SAMHSA will provide each state with on- and off-site technical assistance, including a 3-day Policy Academy with national level experts, December 7-9 in Washington, D.C.

While Iowa's strategic plan will involve a broad range of both public and private stakeholders, the initial team attending the Policy Academy will include representatives from DHS (co-lead), Iowa Association of Community Providers, Iowa Behavioral Health Association, IDPH, Iowa Primary Care Association, National Guard, VA Hospital, and the Vet Center. For more information, contact Kevin Gabbert at [kevin.gabbert@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:kevin.gabbert@idph.iowa.gov).

**Prevent Iowa Youth Addiction Facebook Page:** IDPH is happy to announce the launch of a new tool for protecting the health of Iowa's youth. The [Prevent Iowa Youth Addiction](#) Facebook page is a great way to stay informed and contribute to the discussion about some new (and not-so-new) dangers facing Iowa's youth.

IDPH's Tobacco Division is leading the launch with an emphasis on new products the tobacco industry is test marketing. Called "dissolvables", these smokeless tobacco products closely resemble mints, toothpicks and even breath strips. Some of these items are already being sold in Iowa alongside other products you may have seen, including snus and e-cigarettes. These products are particularly dangerous to children in terms of potential addiction, nicotine poisoning, school performance problems, and future tobacco use. Through the Facebook page, parents, teachers, school administrators and others can learn about the dangers that smokeless products pose to Iowa youth. Follow this site in the future to learn about other products and substances that can be linked to harmful use or abuse and to talk about practical solutions. For more information, contact Garin Buttermore at [garin.buttermore@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:garin.buttermore@idph.iowa.gov).

**SATUCI Launches New Youth Partners Website:** SATUCI Youth Partners has launched a new website designed to offer parents, youth and the community information about their coalition as well as resources for reducing substance abuse. The website is another way coalition members have been mobilizing resources and collaborating on ways to work together to reduce the use of illegal drugs and underage alcohol use in the Marshalltown community. For more information, visit the website at [www.youthpartnersmarshalltown.com](http://www.youthpartnersmarshalltown.com).

**Director's Corner:** Every year, IDPH submits an application to SAMHSA for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant, which provides significant funding for Iowa's statewide substance abuse prevention and treatment infrastructure. DHS submits a separate but similar application to SAMHSA for the mental health block grant. This year, SAMHSA changed the forms and processes for both applications and encouraged state agencies to collaborate in their applications. To see sections of IDPH's application, go to <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/bh/> and look under Links. Send your questions or comments to me at [robin.misel@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:robin.misel@idph.iowa.gov). Thanks, Kathy Stone

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Ethics...Practicing with Integrity** December 2. Sioux City – Peter Waitt Education Center. For more information, contact Christy Stinger at [CStinger@jacksonrecovery.com](mailto:CStinger@jacksonrecovery.com).

**Essential Substance Abuse Skills Webinar: Client, Family and Community Education** December 14. Contact Candace Peters at [candace-peters@uiowa.edu](mailto:candace-peters@uiowa.edu).

**Adult-Supervised Alcohol Use and Harmful Consequences Webinar** December 15. To register go to <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/524257755>.

**Training without Travel**  
For more information, visit the Training Resources website 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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