



## **Annual Report**

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**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
2007**



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

John W. Marshall  
Secretary of Public Safety

Marilyn P. Harris  
Director  
Substance Abuse Prevention

December 1, 2007

Dear Members of the General Assembly:

The Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP) is pleased to provide this report in accordance with §2.2-118, *Code of Virginia*. Consistent with its statutory responsibilities, GOSAP has provided leadership in coordinating the prevention activities of the Commonwealth, ensuring that prevention efforts are more unified, more collaborative and more evidence-based.

In recent years, GOSAP has laid the foundation for a strong prevention infrastructure at the state level by organizing the GOSAP Collaborative, achieving consensus around a cross-agency strategic plan for prevention, and establishing a uniform set of prevention principles and standards to which all state agencies with prevention responsibilities have agreed. In 2007, activities of GOSAP and the GOSAP Collaborative focused in large measure on carrying out responsibilities set forth in Executive Directive 4 (2006). In addition to providing leadership for state-level collaboration and for strengthening Virginia's prevention infrastructure, GOSAP has continued to develop local prevention capacity and to provide tools and resources for effective local prevention efforts.

GOSAP looks forward to continuing to fulfill its leadership role at the state level, further strengthening the Commonwealth's prevention capacity. Thank you for your support of our vision, goals and objectives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marilyn P. Harris".

Marilyn P. Harris

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## Executive Summary

The Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP) is authorized under §2.2-118, *Code of Virginia*, enacted by the 2000 Virginia General Assembly. The responsibilities of GOSAP are "to assist in the coordination of substance abuse prevention activities of the Commonwealth, review substance abuse prevention expenditures by agencies of the Commonwealth, and determine the direction and appropriateness of such expenditures."

GOSAP laid the foundation for a strong prevention infrastructure at the state level by organizing the GOSAP Collaborative in 2002, by achieving consensus on a cross-agency strategic plan for prevention and a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) setting forth prevention principles and standards to which all thirteen state agencies with prevention responsibilities have agreed. The GOSAP Collaborative has served as the primary vehicle for prevention system planning and collaborative decision-making at the state level and serves as a model of effective interagency collaboration.

Recognizing the GOSAP Collaborative's significant accomplishments, Governor Timothy Kaine formally established the GOSAP Collaborative in Executive Directive 4 (2006). Executive Directive 4 (2006) grants the GOSAP Collaborative powers and duties in three areas: 1) collaboration to enhance capacity, improve efficiency and produce results; 2) infrastructure to sustain and integrate prevention practice; and 3) data to target resources and monitor results. The Director of GOSAP serves as the chair of the GOSAP Collaborative and all state agencies in the Commonwealth are charged with cooperating with the GOSAP Collaborative and providing information, data, and other support requested.

The activities of GOSAP and the GOSAP Collaborative in 2007 focused in large measure on carrying out responsibilities set forth in Executive Directive 4 (2006). Of particular note are a study of the feasibility of a statewide youth survey and the compilation of an epidemiological profile of substance use in Virginia. A central finding of the study was the lack of youth survey data constitutes a severe information gap that impedes data-driven management of Virginia's limited prevention resources at both the state and local levels. As one of only four states lacking such data, Virginia stands at a marked disadvantage in competing for federal prevention dollars. The epidemiological profile began to document patterns of consumption of various types of substances and to show trends over time, but revealed serious limitations in Virginia's data. Specifically, the lack of local level survey data severely impairs data-driven resource allocation from the state to Virginia's diverse localities and fails to inform prevention planning at local levels where most prevention efforts are implemented. Another significant finding emerging from the profile was the high prevalence of underage drinking in Virginia. Based on these findings, the GOSAP Collaborative has been charged by the Governor with responsibility for undertaking a statewide underage drinking initiative that will be implemented in 2008.

In addition to providing leadership for state-level collaboration and strengthening Virginia's prevention infrastructure, GOSAP has continued to develop local prevention capacity. Key activities in 2007 included the *Prevention Comes First* statewide prevention conference, the Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project (YADAPP), and Prevention Through Information (PTI) regional workshops designed to strengthen the capacity of schools and communities to use school discipline, crime, and violence data for school safety and prevention program planning. Additionally, GOSAP continues to conduct regional workshops for potential grantees as well as grantee training in grant management and evaluation, these workshops are designed to improve the capacity of local organizations to develop proposals and manage grants effectively.

GOSAP has continued to improve valuable information resources being provided to prevention professionals and the broader community. Key tools and resources are the GOSAP website, the Virginia Community Profile Database and the newly released *Prevention Comes First* "Parent Guide to Personal Safety for Youth." The GOSAP website serves as a one-stop site for information on prevention in Virginia. The Virginia Community Profile Database is a web-based interactive tool that supports evidence-based prevention practices by providing easy access to a variety of community-level data and prevention resources. It can assist state and local prevention professionals, service providers, and other community organizations in assessing prevention needs, targeting resources, and planning services for youth and families to combat substance abuse, violence, and other problem behaviors. The *Prevention Comes First* "Parent Guide to Personal Safety for Youth" provides parents with a greater awareness about many safety threats to children and assists them in communicating with their children about personal safety.

In addition to its state leadership responsibilities, GOSAP administers two programs that award grants directly to communities. The Governor's Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program supports evidence-based programs to prevent youth drug use and violence. Evaluations demonstrate that funded programs produced reductions in risky behavior, in disciplinary referrals, and in reductions in bullying and improvements in behavior and grades. The Governor's Youth Community Service and Civic Engagement Program supports local efforts to engage youth at risk for gang involvement in meaningful service to their communities. In the first nine months, more than 400 youths performed nearly 7,000 hours of service in a broad range of community agencies and organizations. Importantly, feedback from both youth participants and community organizations has been strongly and consistently positive, providing evidence of benefits to both youths and communities.

Consistent with its statutory responsibilities, Governor Kaine's Executive Directive 4 (2006), and building upon substantive recent achievements, GOSAP will continue to provide leadership and coordination of the Commonwealth's prevention activities. The powers and duties granted to the GOSAP Collaborative in the Governor's Executive Directive 4 (2006) provide the primary blueprint for future action. In addition to these activities, GOSAP will continue to focus on building local prevention capacity and

supporting local prevention efforts through training, informational resources and tools, and prevention grant programs.

# **Report of Activities of the Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP)**

## **Statutory Authority**

The Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP) is authorized under §2.2-118, *Code of Virginia*, enacted by the 2000 Virginia General Assembly. This annual report of activities is submitted in accordance with statutory requirements.

The statute sets forth the responsibility of the Governor "to administer the substance abuse prevention program within the Commonwealth and to authorize, direct, and coordinate activities of agencies within the Commonwealth in such program." The statute further specifies that "the Governor shall cooperate with federal, state and local agencies, private and public agencies, interested organizations, and individuals in order to prevent substance abuse within the Commonwealth." The responsibilities of GOSAP are "to assist in the coordination of substance abuse prevention activities of the Commonwealth, review substance abuse prevention expenditures by agencies of the Commonwealth, and determine the direction and appropriateness of such expenditures."

## **GOSAP Organization and Operation**

GOSAP is located in the Office of the Secretary of Public Safety where it operates as a separate entity, but utilizes available research and technology resources. The location provides enhanced visibility and support for prevention strategies and emphasizes the important role of substance abuse prevention in the Commonwealth's overall public safety mission. Marilyn P. Harris serves as the GOSAP Director and the Deputy Secretary of Public Safety. The GOSAP staff members actively participate in state prevention-related planning and work groups to coordinate, link and leverage resources. They also provide training and presentations at local, state and national meetings to promote data-driven prevention planning and evidence-based programming. The GOSAP office location and contact information are:

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## **The GOSAP Collaborative**

The GOSAP Collaborative was organized by GOSAP in 2002 and has served as the primary vehicle for prevention system planning and collaborative decision-making at the state level. Membership is composed of key leadership representatives from thirteen agencies and organizations that share responsibility for prevention throughout the Commonwealth. The Collaborative has been instrumental in implementing Virginia's strategic plan for prevention and in establishing a more formal prevention infrastructure featuring a comprehensive, cross-agency prevention memorandum of agreement (MOA) that endorses a uniform set of prevention principles and standards and support for a more unified, collaborative and evidence-based approach to prevention. The Collaborative serves as a model of effective interagency collaboration, its work cited by national prevention experts as "exemplary" and "cutting edge."

Recognizing the GOSAP Collaborative's significant accomplishments, Governor Timothy Kaine formally established the GOSAP Collaborative in Executive Directive 4 (2006) and granted the GOSAP Collaborative powers and duties in three areas: 1) collaboration to enhance capacity, improve efficiency and produce results; 2) infrastructure to sustain and integrate prevention practice; and 3) data to target resources and monitor results. The Director of GOSAP chairs the GOSAP Collaborative and all agencies in the Commonwealth are charged with cooperating with the Collaborative and providing information, data, and other support requested. The full text of Executive Directive 4 (2006) is included as Appendix A of this report.

In addition to its responsibilities for the coordination of substance abuse prevention activities at the state level, GOSAP administers grant programs that directly support local community prevention efforts. The ongoing Governor's Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program supports community efforts to prevent youth substance abuse and violence. The Governor's Youth Community Service and Civic Engagement Program supports local efforts to engage youth at risk for gang involvement in meaningful service to their communities. Included in this report are descriptions of these program activities and results being achieved by these grant-funded local projects.

Activities of GOSAP and the GOSAP Collaborative in 2007 focused in large measure on carrying out responsibilities set forth in Executive Directive 4 (2006). Of particular note are a study of the feasibility of a statewide youth survey and the compilation of an epidemiological profile of substance use in Virginia. These accomplishments are further described below. Also included in the report are numerous activities that have further strengthened Virginia's prevention infrastructure and provided communities with additional prevention tools and resources.

### ***Study of the Feasibility of a Statewide Community Youth Survey***

A significant activity undertaken in 2007 by the GOSAP Collaborative was a study, pursuant to Executive Directive 4 (2006), "of the feasibility of a statewide survey of youth to monitor attitudes, perceptions and behaviors that contribute to the health and well-being

of Virginia's youth, families, schools and communities." The study, conducted in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Health, the Virginia Youth Survey Coalition and James Madison University, involved an assessment of the current state of youth surveying in Virginia, identification of state and local data needs, identification of barriers, opportunities and costs and examination of the youth survey experiences of other states. Informing the study were nearly 700 people, representing most cities and counties and a wide variety of disciplines, who responded to an online survey and about 100 people at four geographically diverse sites who participated in a teleconference forum held in August 2007.

A central finding of the study was that the lack of youth survey data constitutes a severe information gap that impedes data-driven management of Virginia's limited prevention resources at both the state and local levels. As one of only four states lacking such data, Virginia stands at a marked disadvantage in competing for federal prevention dollars from numerous agencies that require such data to demonstrate need and to assess program effectiveness. The full study with recommendations has been submitted to the Governor as part of the GOSAP Collaborative annual report.

### ***Epidemiological Profile of Substance Abuse in Virginia***

GOSAP and the GOSAP Collaborative compiled Virginia's first epidemiological profile report on substance use in Virginia. Funded by a grant from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), epidemiological profiles are designed to document patterns of consumption of various types of substances, to show trends over time, to compare use in a state with use nationally, to compare differences in patterns of use among different demographic groups and to identify consequences of consumption such as injuries, deaths, and financial costs. Virginia's epidemiological profile is an important first step in documenting, and tracking over time, behaviors that impact the health and well-being of citizens. Compiling the profile revealed serious limitations in Virginia's data. Specifically, the lack of local level survey data severely impairs data-driven resource allocation from the state to Virginia's diverse localities and fails to inform prevention planning at local levels where most prevention efforts are implemented. A significant finding emerging from the compilation of data for the profile was the high prevalence of underage drinking: alcohol use within the past 30 days was reported by 46 percent of twelfth graders, 35 percent of tenth graders, and nineteen percent of eighth graders. Based on these findings, the GOSAP Collaborative has been charged by the Governor with responsibility for undertaking a statewide underage drinking initiative. The underage drinking initiative will be more fully described in the final section of this report entitled Future Direction.

## **Prevention Comes First**

*Prevention Comes First* is Governor Kaine's initiative to coordinate Virginia's prevention-focused efforts, increase public awareness and target resources to improve public safety, especially in the area of gang-related activity. GOSAP and GOSAP Collaborative have provided leadership for numerous components of the *Prevention Comes First* initiative. Collaborating in these efforts has been Virginia's Interagency Anti-Gang Workgroup which has continued to coordinate anti-gang activities at the state level and to provide support to communities in their gang prevention efforts. Workgroup activities in 2007 included the production and ongoing distribution of video and audio gang awareness public service announcements in both English and Spanish, continued awareness and prevention strategies training by member agencies, and the initiation of a study of anti-gang activities in Virginia and other states.



### ***Developing Local Prevention Capacity***

GOSAP and GOSAP Collaborative sponsored two major conferences and regional training workshops for a broad range of professionals engaged in prevention efforts in Virginia communities. Key activities designed to further build local prevention capacity include the *Prevention Comes First* statewide prevention conference, the Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project (YADAPP) youth leadership conference, and Prevention Through Information (PTI) regional workshops designed to strengthen the capacity of schools and communities to use school discipline, crime, and violence data for school safety and prevention program planning. Additionally, the GOSAP continues to conduct regional workshops for potential grantees as well as grantee training in grants management and evaluation designed to improve the capacity of local organizations to develop proposals and manage grants effectively.

### ***Prevention Comes First Prevention Conference***

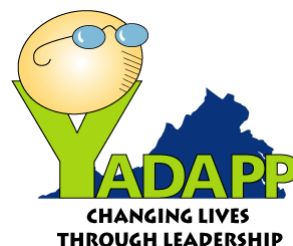
The 2007 *Prevention Comes First* statewide prevention conference was held October 29 in Richmond. The theme of the conference was "Growing Up Safe – Bullying and Beyond." In addition to the GOSAP Collaborative, sponsors included the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the U.S. Attorney General – Eastern District of Virginia and Western District of Virginia, Virginia's Interagency Anti-Gang Workgroup, the Virginia Association of Community Service Boards Prevention Council and the Community Builders Network. An audience of more than 500 prevention providers, educators, law enforcement officers, social workers and attorneys from across the Commonwealth attended. Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith, MD, a nationally recognized expert delivered the opening keynote address on youth violence from a public health perspective. Consistent with the conference theme, the majority of workshops focused on bullying prevention and intervention. Additional workshop topics included gangs, internet safety, inhalant abuse prevention, trends in substance abuse and cultural diversity. Roundtable presentations showcased numerous evidence-based programs being implemented in Virginia. The

roundtable presentations provided prevention professionals not only with information but also useful consultation from those implementing programs; the format is particularly effective in promoting the adoption of evidence-based prevention programming.

The conference featured the official release of the *Prevention Comes First* “Parent Guide to Personal Safety for Youth,” a guide that provides parents with greater awareness about safety threats to children and assists them in communicating with their children about personal safety.

### ***Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project (YADAPP)***

GOSAP continued its support of the Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project (YADAPP) which held its 23<sup>rd</sup> annual summer leadership conference at Longwood University, July 23-26, 2007. Participating in the YADAPP conference were 104 school and community teams composed of four rising ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth graders and an adult sponsor. Also attending were youth leaders, junior and adult conference staff, resource officers and workshop presenters. The theme of the 2007 conference was “In Tune with the Future.” A focal point of each year’s conference is action planning by teams to develop Strategies to Act Now (STAN) plans for implementing youth-led substance abuse and violence prevention projects in their schools and communities. The 2007 YADAPP teams are listed in Appendix D.



### ***Prevention Through Information (PTI-VA)***

Prevention Through Information (PTI-VA) is an initiative, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, designed to strengthen the capacity of schools and communities to use school discipline, crime, and violence data for school safety and prevention program planning. Data collection workshops focused on approaches to ensuring data accuracy, validity and reliability, and on appropriate classification of incidents and reporting of disciplinary actions. Data collection workshops focused on the use of data for school and community-based prevention program management, including assessing needs, planning programming, and monitoring and reporting progress. Since 2006, more than 600 educators, school resource officers, and other prevention professionals have been trained in more than 30 PTI regional workshops. The training will continue in an online format.



A major component of PTI-VA involves making information about school discipline, crime, and violence data more transparent and accessible. As of July 2007, parents and other citizens have online access to such data through the Safe Schools Information Resource (SSIR). Using the SSIR, accessible at <https://p1pe.doe.virginia.gov/pti/>, and the Community Profile Database (described below), Virginia communities now have user-

friendly online access to important statistical data required for assessing needs and addressing youth substance abuse, violence and other problem behaviors.

### ***Prevention Tools and Resources***

GOSAP has continued to improve valuable information resources being provided to prevention professionals and the broader community. Key tools and resources are the GOSAP website, the Community Profile Database and the newly released *Prevention Comes First* “Parent Guide to Personal Safety for Youth.”

### ***The GOSAP Website: A Virginia Prevention Information Clearinghouse***

The GOSAP website ([www.gosap.virginia.gov](http://www.gosap.virginia.gov)) serves as a one-stop site for information on Prevention in Virginia. Average daily usage has more than tripled to 337 since 2006. The website offers:

- A calendar of prevention-related training and events with links to sponsoring agency websites for further information or registration;
- Links For Kids, For Parents and For Professionals providing prevention-related information;
- Links to current funding opportunities administered by GOSAP Collaborative agencies as well as funding research resources;
- Announcements of prevention-related initiatives and news;
- Information on GOSAP, its products and services;
- Downloadable copies of Virginia’s statewide prevention plan, pocket guide to prevention and other useful publications; and
- Links to GOSAP Collaborative member websites for information on each agency’s specific prevention roles, responsibilities, and resources.

### ***The Community Profile Database***

The Virginia Community Profile Database is a one-stop, web-based, interactive tool that supports evidence-based prevention practice by providing easy access to a variety of community-level data and prevention resources. It can assist state and local prevention professionals, service providers, and other community organizations in assessing prevention needs, targeting resources, and planning services for youth and families to combat substance abuse, violence, and other problem behavior. The Community Profile Database can be accessed via the GOSAP website at [www.gosap.virginia.gov/](http://www.gosap.virginia.gov/).

Already recognized with a national “Best of the Web” award for innovation, the database includes:

- Data that users can customize by locality, ZIP Code, age, race, and gender groups (when available). In addition to reporting and downloading capability, the system has basic mapping and graphing ability.
- Program information on evidence-based services and strategies operating in Virginia, as well as contact information, funding sources and descriptions that may be downloaded as word processing files, PDF files or spreadsheets.
- Resources to find detailed descriptions of the data, their sources, associated limitations and places to find additional information and comparison data. More importantly, it links users to best practices information including:
  - Sources for finding programs that research has proven are effective in preventing or intervening in adolescent problem behaviors;
  - Downloadable research articles and prevention materials;
  - Resource websites and clearinghouses;
  - Program performance measures required by federal agencies;
  - Information on formulating and monitoring program outcome measures;
  - Resources for evaluating programs for improvement; and
  - Links to the state-level Virginia Youth Tobacco Survey, Virginia Community Youth Survey, and the State Estimates of Substance Use.
- Support for Families to link people who simply need assistance in finding potential resource of assistance in their communities.

The Community Profile Database continues to be enhanced to generate more pre-formatted reports, graphs, and maps, to link to related resources, and to identify evidence-based programs.

From its inception, the Community Profile Database was intended to serve as a central data and information resource. Recent technology allows one shared database to have multiple “faces” tailored to the data needs of multiple partner agencies and organizations; the technology allows data to be collected and maintained only one time, increasing efficiency and reducing costs and duplication of effort. The GOSAP staff has worked actively to coordinate with new and existing data efforts of various state agencies and organizations.

### ***Parent Guide to Personal Safety for Youth***

The 2007 *Prevention Comes First* Conference featured the official release of the “Parent Guide to Personal Safety for Youth,” a guide that provides parents with a greater awareness about many of the safety threats to children and assists them in communicating with their children about personal safety. Topics covered in the Guide include: fire safety, internet safety, bullying, gangs, inhalant abuse prevention, driving safety, and underage drinking. The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services provided technical assistance for the Guide; the Departments of Fire Programs and Motor Vehicles are actively involved in dissemination of the Guide.

## **Supporting Virginia Communities through Grants**

### ***Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program***

The Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 2001 (SDFSCA) is Title IV of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB). Under NCLB, a strong emphasis is placed upon well-coordinated, SDFSCA-funded program activities between each state's principal education agency and the Office of the Governor. GOSAP has worked in partnership with the Virginia Department of Education to develop the SDFSCA portion of Virginia's consolidated application for funding under NCLB.

The Governor's Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act grants have increased data-driven prevention planning and the use of evidence-based programming throughout Virginia. For 2007-08, grants totaling about \$530,000 have been awarded to seventeen projects to support youth substance abuse and violence prevention efforts in eighteen Virginia communities. Grants are awarded in four categories, with priority given to projects targeting youth at higher risk for substance abuse and other problem behaviors. Brief descriptions of funded projects and communities served are provided in Appendix B of this report.

Assistance is provided to prospective grantees through regional workshops conducted each spring. The workshops focus on requirements for being awarded one of the competitive grants and on effective strategies for developing grant proposals. Ninety-four persons were trained in three regional workshops held in 2007. Grantees are provided with an orientation, networking sessions, and ongoing technical assistance to help them successfully implement their projects. Grants management and technical assistance services are provided through the Center for School-Community Collaboration at Virginia Commonwealth University. Cross-site evaluations designed to assess implementation and project-specific outcomes are conducted each year.

Evaluations of projects funded in 2006-07 provided strong evidence of effectiveness. Five communities completed comprehensive prevention needs assessment and each of the remaining sixteen projects successfully implemented evidence-based programs, with eight projects targeting youth at elevated risk for substance abuse and other problem behaviors.

SDFSCA-funded projects reported a wide range of outcomes from their efforts. Projects implementing evidence-based programs reported reductions in risky behavior by program participants, improvements in behavior and grades, reductions in disciplinary referrals, and reductions in bullying, making school environments safer and more conducive to learning. These programs also strengthened the ongoing capacity of their communities to provide evidence-based programming by training teachers, prevention agency staff, and parents to implement the programs and by acquiring program materials and expertise. Projects conducting prevention needs assessments produced findings to inform their community prevention plans and to strengthen school and community prevention programming.

Examples of program outcomes include the following:

- At a middle school implementing the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, students who reported being victims of bullying at least once a week declined from 7.1% to 3.6% and students who reported bullying others declined from 4.7% to 1.5%.
- One Community Services Board implemented the fifteen-week LifeSkills Training Program with more than 1,500 students in the sixth grade in twelve school divisions.
- The evidence-based Leadership and Resiliency Program produced improvements in school attendance and grades and reductions in school disciplinary problems for at-risk youth in two Virginia localities.
- Disciplinary infractions at school were reduced 44% one year and an additional 14% the following year among at-risk elementary students who participated in the Kids' Connection program.
- Among youth in alternative educational programs who took part in the Say It Straight Program, 71% decreased use or abstained from use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs.

The Governor's SDFSCA grant program continues to support communities in both the implementation of evidence-based programs and the development of community prevention capacity through comprehensive needs assessments.

### ***The Governor's Youth Community Service and Civic Engagement Program***

Through the Governor's Youth Community Service and Civic Engagement Program, GOSAP and the Department of Criminal Justice Services provided competitive mini-grants of up to \$10,000 to 24 Virginia localities that engaged youth at risk for gang involvement with opportunities to perform meaningful community service. Funded projects are using a positive youth development approach to prevention that views youth as resources to their communities. Members of the Interagency Anti-Gang Workgroup reviewed applications and grantees were announced in December 2006. A cross-site evaluation of projects, assessing effectiveness in engaging youth and in promoting positive youth development is being conducted. Based on data from nine months of operation, the evaluation has found that:

- A very broad range of community agencies and organizations are involved with youth community service and civic engagement activities, including city and county agencies, Offices on Youth, Boys and Girls Clubs, and private non-profit organizations.
- More than 400 youths have performed nearly 7,000 hours of community service.
- A very broad range of more than 75 different community agencies and organizations have thus far benefited from the service of youths.
- Youth participant feedback has been strongly and consistently positive. As one youth participant commented, "It is a good program which makes you a better person. A honest, caring, responsible person."



- Representatives of community agencies and organizations where service is performed view the program quite positively and recognize its value to both their organizations and to the young people performing service. Representatives have reported, “We benefited tremendously from the partnership!” and “I think community service helps teens see life from a different perspective and instead of trying to be a taker all the time, they become the giver.”

Brief descriptions of funded projects and communities served are provided in Appendix C of this report.

## **Future Direction**

### ***Executive Directive 4 (2006): Blueprint for Action***

Consistent with its statutory responsibilities and Governor Kaine’s Executive Directive 4 (2006), and building upon substantive recent achievements, GOSAP will continue to provide leadership and coordination for the Commonwealth’s prevention activities. The powers and duties granted to the GOSAP Collaborative in Executive Directive 4 (2006) provide the primary blueprint for future action. In the upcoming year, GOSAP will continue to provide leadership for activities in three areas of powers and duties set forth in Executive Directive 4: 1) collaboration to enhance prevention capacity, improve efficiency, and produce results; 2) infrastructure to integrate prevention into practice; and 3) data to target resources and monitor results.

#### **Collaboration to enhance capacity, improve efficiency and produce results:**

Building upon the framework established by the cross agency MOA, GOSAP will continue to provide leadership for the development and implementation of prevention planning and management standards that encourage communities to do a single community prevention plan, reduce local duplication of effort and simplify funding application procedures. The GOSAP Collaborative will continue to encourage and facilitate wider use of programs and practices proven effective by research, to promote related training opportunities and to disseminate prevention-related information throughout the Commonwealth by maintaining the GOSAP website as Virginia’s central prevention information clearinghouse. GOSAP and the GOSAP Collaborative will continue to model interagency/inter-initiative collaboration and to work towards a seamless continuum of programs, services and strategies. Consistent with Executive Directive 4 (2006), the GOSAP Collaborative will continue to advise the Governor and his Cabinet on proposed policy and operational changes to facilitate interagency communication and collaboration in planning, implementing and monitoring prevention-related programs, services and strategies between state, local, public and private entities.

#### **Infrastructure to sustain and integrate prevention into practice:**

Consistent with Executive Directive 4 (2006), GOSAP will provide leadership as the Collaborative prioritizes, coordinates and leverages Virginia’s existing prevention resources, identifies gaps in resources, and recommends strategies to sustain prevention

efforts throughout the Commonwealth. Other prevention-related issues will be examined and recommendations will be made for appropriate policy, initiatives and resources.

**Data to target resources and monitor results:**

Building upon ongoing GOSAP Collaborative efforts, GOSAP will provide leadership in collecting, compiling, and disseminating data on the consequences, incidence, and prevalence of preventable problem behaviors. GOSAP will also continue to provide leadership in coordinating new and existing data collection and dissemination efforts to minimize duplication of effort and resources. Having completed a study of the feasibility of a statewide youth survey, GOSAP will provide leadership in acting on survey-related recommendations accepted by the Governor.

***Underage Drinking Initiative***

As a component of the *Prevention Comes First* initiative, the GOSAP Collaborative is developing and will implement in 2008 a statewide initiative on underage drinking. Research has shown that alcohol negatively affects adolescent physical health, brain development and mental health, and produces numerous behavioral and social consequences. In Virginia, there is a high prevalence of underage drinking: Alcohol use within the past 30 days was reported by 46 percent of twelfth graders, 35 percent of tenth graders, and nineteen percent of eighth graders. The GOSAP Collaborative is particularly well positioned to undertake this initiative as its members oversee a broad range of services, including efforts that target road safety and access to alcohol as well as prevention education and intervention services for families and youth. The GOSAP Collaborative members will identify and leverage resources, coordinate services and develop a model for use by Virginia communities in addressing underage drinking.

***Continuing to Build Capacity and Support Local Prevention Efforts***

In addition to responsibilities set forth in §2.2-118, *Code of Virginia* and leadership for activities specified in Executive Directive 4 (2006), the GOSAP will continue to focus on building local prevention capacity and supporting local prevention efforts.

- Building upon strengthened collaborative relationships with local prevention coalitions and professionals, the GOSAP will continue to pursue opportunities to strengthen Virginia’s prevention infrastructure at the local level.
- Valuable tools and informational resources (i.e., the Community Profile Database and the GOSAP website) will continue to be made available, and will be further refined and improved to ensure that they reflect cutting-edge science and meet identified needs.
- GOSAP will continue to administer the Governor’s Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program and the Governor’s Youth Community Service and Civic Engagement Program, awarding grants directly to communities and providing training and technical assistance designed to build local capacity to effectively implement and manage grant-funded evidence-based programs.

- GOSAP will continue to support public awareness and training initiatives including a statewide prevention conference, the Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project (YADAPP) summer youth leadership conference, and community training and technical assistance associated with the upcoming statewide underage drinking initiative.

The Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention looks forward to providing continued leadership and collaborative coordination of Virginia's prevention efforts at the state level and to supporting local prevention efforts through training and informational resources and prevention grant programs.

## Appendix A.

### Governor Kaine's Executive Directive 4 (2006)

#### Establishing the Governor's Office For Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP) Collaborative

##### Importance of the Issue

Recognizing that prevention efforts would be more efficient and effective if coordinated, in 2002, the Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP) brought together key leadership representatives from 13 state agencies and organizations responsible for prevention programming throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia to form the GOSAP Collaborative.

Since that time, this informal body has used its collective knowledge and experience to develop and provide numerous resources and tools that are critical to achieving meaningful, community-level change, not only in substance abuse, but throughout the spectrum of community well-being.

##### Establishing the Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention Collaborative

In recognition of its significant and growing accomplishments, and to capitalize on its resources, knowledge base and existing momentum, I hereby establish the GOSAP Collaborative. The Collaborative shall consist of members, representing the thirteen agencies of the Commonwealth that have prevention responsibilities. Additional members may be appointed at the Governor's discretion. Those agencies include:

- Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
- Department of Criminal Justice Services
- Department of Education
- Department of Fire Programs
- Department of Health
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services
- Department of Motor Vehicles
- Department of Social Services
- Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention
- Virginia National Guard
- Virginia State Police
- Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation

The Director of GOSAP shall chair the Collaborative and staff support shall be provided by GOSAP and agencies of the Commonwealth that have prevention responsibilities and such other agencies as may be appropriate. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall cooperate fully with the Collaborative and provide all such information, data, and other support requested.

##### Duties of the GOSAP Collaborative

The Collaborative shall have the following powers and duties:

##### *Collaboration to enhance capacity, improve efficiency and produce results:*

- Advise the Governor and his Cabinet on proposed policy and operational changes to facilitate interagency communication and collaboration in planning, implementing and monitoring

prevention-related programs, services and strategies between state, local, public and private entities.

- Coordinate strategic planning efforts and initiatives to minimize duplication of effort and resources, to model interagency/inter-initiative collaboration and to work towards a seamless continuum of programs, services and strategies accessible to all Virginians.
- Develop and implement prevention planning and management standards to encourage communities to do one comprehensive community plan, reduce local duplication of effort and simplify funding application procedures.
- Maintain GOSAP's website to encourage and facilitate wider use of programs and practices proven effective by research, to promote related training opportunities and to disseminate prevention-related information throughout the Commonwealth.

***Infrastructure to sustain and integrate prevention into practice:***

- Prioritize, coordinate and leverage Virginia's existing prevention resources to improve efficiency.
- Identify gaps in resources and recommend strategies to sustain prevention efforts, activities and initiatives throughout the Commonwealth.
- Examine other issues and make recommendations for related policy, initiatives and resources as may seem appropriate.

***Data to target resources and monitor results:***

- Collect, compile and disseminate data on the consequences, incidence and prevalence of preventable problem behaviors. The data shall be used, at both state and community levels, to allocate resources, plan programs, services and strategies, and monitor community-level change.
- Coordinate similar new and existing data collection and dissemination efforts to minimize duplication of effort and resources.
- Research and determine the feasibility of a statewide survey of youth to monitor attitudes, perceptions and behaviors that contribute to the health and well-being of Virginia's youth, families, schools and communities.

**Report to the Governor**

The GOSAP Collaborative shall report to the Governor annually, by October 30, through the Secretary of Public Safety, its activities, barriers, progress and achievements towards developing and implementing the Commonwealth's prevention infrastructure. Additionally, the report shall include recommendations to overcome barriers and to fully implement and sustain a prevention infrastructure in the Commonwealth.

**Effective Date of the Executive Directive**

This executive directive shall take effect upon signing and shall remain in full force and effect until June 30, 2010, unless amended or rescinded by further executive directive.

Given under my hand this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2006.

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Timothy M. Kaine, Governor

## Appendix B.

### GOVERNOR'S SAFE AND DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES ACT (SDFSCA) GRANT AWARDS, 2007-2008

Type of Project	Project Title	Model/Proven Program(s)	Name of Sponsoring Organization	Localities Served	Amount of 07-08 Award
Evidence-Based Programs for Youth Who Need Special Services	Across Ages	Across Ages	Presbyterian Community Center	Roanoke City	50,000
	Al's Pals for Richmond City VPI	Al's Pals	Medical Home Plus	Richmond City	48,950
	Hispanic Youth Mentoring Outreach	BBBS Mentoring	BBBS of Harrisonburg & Rockingham County	Harrisonburg & Rockingham County	50,000
	Project SUCCESS - Halifax County	Project SUCCESS	Halifax County Public Schools	Halifax County	29,328
	Project SUCCESS in MCPS Alternative Schools	Project SUCCESS	Montgomery County Public Schools	Montgomery County	46,793
	Positive Action Suspension Alternative Program	Positive Action	Grayson County Public Schools	Grayson County	24,810
	Roanoke City Drug Abuse & Violence Prevention Collaboration	Project Toward No Drug Use; Too Good for Drugs; Student Created Aggression Replacement Educ.	Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare	Roanoke City	32,611
	STAR Kids	Al's Pals	Children, Youth & Families - Charlottesville	Charlottesville	31,150
	Voyager Program	Positive Action	Pulaski County Public Schools	Pulaski County	46,862
Evidence-Based Programs	Say It Straight at Dalton Intermediate	Say It Straight	New River Valley Community Services Board	Radford City	36,359
Continuation of Evidence-Based Programs	FAST	FAST (Families and Schools Together)	Child & Family Services of Eastern VA	Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Norfolk	25,000
	Middle School Bullying Prevention	Olweus Bullying Prevention	University of Virginia	Albemarle County	24,837
	Roanoke City's Leadership & Resiliency Program	Leadership & Resiliency Program	Roanoke City Public Schools	Roanoke City	25,800
Community Prevention Needs Assessment	Newport News Community Prevention Needs Assessment		Hampton-Newport News CSB	Newport News City	14,790
	Orange County Community Prevention Needs Assessment		Orange County	Orange County	14,480
	Page County Community Prevention Needs Assessment		Page County Public Schools	Page County	13,077
	Warren County Community Prevention Needs Assessment		Warren County Community Health Coalition	Warren County	14,870
Total					\$ 529,717

## Appendix C.

### GOVERNOR’S YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

Locality	Project	Collaborating Organizations
Albemarle County	Teens GIVE Gang Prevention Program	Teens GIVE
Amherst County	Building “Community” in Old Madison Heights	Alliance for Families and Children
Augusta County	Summer Youth Corps	Central Shenandoah Valley Office on Youth
Brunswick County	Project P.L.E.A.D.	The Improvement Association
Buckingham County	VOICE 2	Buckingham Co. Public Schools
Charlottesville City	Teens GIVE Gang Prevention Program	Teens GIVE
Dinwiddie County	“Youth Connections”	Office of Comprehensive Services
Emporia	Project P.L.E.A.D.	The Improvement Association
Greensville County	Project P.L.E.A.D.	The Improvement Association
Harrisonburg City	Club Service	Boys and Girls Clubs of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County
Isle of Wight County	4-H Smart Choices Community Service Program	Virginia Cooperative Extension
Loudoun County	Prevention and Community Outreach Services	Loudoun Co. Community Services Board
Manassas Park	Leaders in Training (L.I.T)	Manassas Park Department of Parks and Recreation
Mathews County	Gang Prevention Through Targeted Outreach	Boys and Girls Clubs of Mathews
Newport News City	Targeted Outreach Service Learning	Newport News Dept. of Libraries and Information Services, Alternatives, Inc., and Boys and Girls Clubs of the Virginia Peninsula
Norfolk City	Prepare Until Success Happens (P.U.S.H.)	Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority and Norfolk Public Schools
Petersburg City	Operation Diamond: Project Polish	Petersburg Commonwealth’s Attorney
Roanoke City	Service Learning Academy	City of Roanoke, Virginia Juvenile Justice Services (Youth Haven)
Staunton City	Project RESTORE (Revitalizing Existing Structures Teaching Ownership, Respect, and Empowerment)	Shenandoah Valley Office on Youth
Suffolk City	Suffolk Community Service Initiative (CSI)	City of Suffolk Office on Youth
Surry County	Project P.L.E.A.D.	The Improvement Association
Sussex County	Project P.L.E.A.D.	The Improvement Association
Waynesboro	Summer Community Corps	Shenandoah Valley Office on Youth
Wythe County	Youth Community in Service Together	Wythe County Gang Prevention Task Force and Southwest Virginia Counseling and Psychological Services

## Appendix D.

### YOUTH ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PROJECT (YADAPP) 2007 TEAMS

YADAPP 2007 Summer Conference Team List		
N = 104 Teams		
Atlee High School	Henrico Community Team	Parry McCluer High School (2 teams)
Bluestone High School	Heritage High School (Newport News)	Patrick Henry High School (Roanoke)
Bristol Public Schools	Historic Triangle Substance Abuse Coalition (2 teams)	Patrick Henry High School (Washington Co.)
Chancellor High School (2 teams)	Huguenot High School	Piedmont Community Services (2 teams)
Charles City High School	J. R. Tucker High School (2 teams)	Portsmouth Public Schools (5 teams)
Chesterfield Community High School	James River High School (Botetourt Co. – 2 teams)	Prince William County Office on Youth
Chilhowie High School	James River High School (Chesterfield Co.)	Pulaski Community Partners Coalition
Christiansburg High School	John Marshall High School	Randolph Henry High School
Clover Hill High School	Lee Davis High School	Rappahannock High School
Colonial Heights High School	Lord Botetourt High School	Richmond Community High School
Cosby High School	Loudoun Community Coalitions (5 teams)	Roanoke County Prevention Council (4 teams)
Denbigh High School	Loudoun County Parks, Recreations & Community Services	Robert E. Lee High School (Staunton - 2 teams)
Essex High School	Manassas Park Parks & Recreation (2 teams)	Stafford High School
Fairfax County Community & Recreation Services (7 teams)	Marion Senior High School	Suffolk Public Schools
Fairfax County Public Schools (2 teams)	Matoaca High School	Surry County High School
Fairfax County Teen Services	Meadowbrook High School (2 teams)	Varina High School (2 teams)
Floyd County High School	Menchville High School	Virginia Beach Youth Leaders in Action (2 teams)
Franklin Military High School	Middlesex High School	Virginia Cooperative Extension – Northampton Co.
Gar-Field High School (2 teams)	Monacan High School	Warren County Coalition
George Wythe High School	Nansemond-Suffolk Academy	Warwick High School
Great Bridge High School (2 teams)	New Kent High School	West Point High School (2 teams)
Greensville County High School (2 teams)	Noel C. Taylor Academy	William Fleming High School
Hanover High School	Norfolk Public Schools	Woodside High School
Henrico High School	Nottoway High School	