

2nd Annual Substance Abuse Prevention Day February 10, 2016

Preparation Webinar

- V4P Introduction-Brittney Newton
- GA Capitol 101 – Lee Hughes
- Advocacy (Provider Perspective)- John Bringuel/Candy Hullender
- Capturing Compelling Data for Your Community- Olufemi Oyedele





Vision

Voices for Prevention will increase Georgia's commitment and investment in substance abuse prevention through statewide leadership that is visionary, inclusive, and results-oriented.

Mission

The mission of V4P is to build a statewide voice for substance abuse prevention by collaborating with a diverse group of prevention specialists, service providers, community coalition members and individuals with an interest in and a commitment to substance abuse prevention. This mission will be accomplished by advocating and educating on substance abuse and related issues.



Substance Abuse Prevention Day Overview

Kick-Off: 10 AM – 11 AM

(GA Dept. of Public Safety- 180 Central Ave)

Meet with Your Legislators: 11 AM – 12 PM

Lunch on Your Own: 12 AM – 1:15 PM

Prevention Works Rally: 1:30

(South Wing of the Capitol)

INTRODUCTION

Lee Hughes

Substance Abuse Prevention Day

Voices For Prevention

“GA CAPITOL 101”

Webinar

January 29, 2016

Goal of Capitol Day

- The goal of the Substantive Abuse Prevention Day is to heighten legislative awareness of the group and to educate legislators on issues of importance to the group.
- The 2016 General Assembly is scheduled to complete their 40 legislative days on March 24th.
- Your February 10th capitol day is scheduled for the 19th Legislative Day.
- HB 722 regarding marijuana cultivation, etc is the major issue this session.

Providing Some Context

- 236 Part-time Members of the General Assembly
- 56 Senators each represent 172,000 Constituents
- 180 Representatives have 54,000 Constituents
- Republicans have super majorities in the House and Senate
- Governor and all statewide officials are Republican
- Over 1/3 of the General Assembly members have served less than 4 years
- Metropolitan/Rural Perspectives

Distinction Between Lobbying and Policy Education

- **What is a Lobbyist?**
- A person receiving more than \$250.00 per calendar year in compensation or reimbursement of payment of expenses specifically for undertaking to promote or oppose the passage of any legislation by the General Assembly
...
- A person who makes lobbying expenditures of more than \$1,000 in a calendar year
- A person who is compensated specifically or undertaking to promote or oppose the passage of any ordinance or resolution , including public employees;
- **O.C.G.A. §21-5-70(5)**
- Policy education is general information that does not involve advocacy of a specific piece of legislation.

Tips For a Successful Day at the Georgia Capitol

- 1) Establish a unique identity for yourself; “ I am...”
- 2) Prepare concise communications (“one pager”) that credibly provide compelling specific information to the legislators; and
- 3) Don’t forget your local Representative and Senator.

Logistics at the Capitol

- Visitors to the Capitol are subject to a security screening which requires ID;
- The Senate and House Chambers are on the Third Floor of the Capitol;
- There is a process for calling your legislator out of the chamber to engage in a conversation with you;
- House and Senate pages will take in a note asking the member to “come to the ropes”. You will need to know what your legislator looks like.
- Your legislator also has an office in the Capitol or across the street at the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.
- <http://www.legis.ga.gov>

Review

- The environment of the Capitol lobby is fairly chaotic.
- Make sure to identify yourself to the legislator.
- Focus on a concise message explaining your issue.
- Know the distinction between lobbying and policy education
- Have fun exercising your first amendment rights at your Capitol!