



1976-2021

Executive Summary

Commonwealth Prevention Alliance (CPA) is a nonprofit organization established in 1976 by a small group of dedicated and progressive thinking prevention specialists. CPA continues to serve as a strong advocate on behalf of prevention and is dedicated to validating the important role and impact as well as the sustainability of substance use and misuse prevention. Additionally, since 1991, CPA has been providing a state of the art, dynamic, and comprehensive annual conference which brings together prevention practitioners and other vested stakeholders in the field to lead the challenge in saving lives and building strong, healthy communities.

CPA has made great strides in advancing the field of prevention. Noteworthy endeavors include testifying before congress regarding the need to reduce the use of tobacco products; developing prevention specialist certification in partnership with the Pennsylvania Certification Board and Pennsylvania Prevention Directors Association; representing the grass-roots prevention provider on multiple Department of Drug and Alcohol Program workgroups, such as the prevention workgroup and grant advisory boards. These partnerships allowed local prevention voices to be heard and understood at the state level.

Due to these incredible accomplishments, CPA announced the hiring of an Executive Director in January 2019. During this time, the executive director has advocated at the Pennsylvania Capitol against the expansion of outlets that can sell spirits and against the legalization of recreational marijuana, collaborated with the PA Liquor Control Board to conduct a Needs Assessment of Higher Education Institutions, and moved the past two annual CPA conference to dynamic online events. Through partnerships with other statewide organizations, CPA hosted the Pennsylvania Prevention Week celebration the past two years, in coordination with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) national prevention week initiative, to reduce substance use and mental health issues.

There is power in prevention and a financial benefit for every community. SAMHSA's "Substance Abuse Prevention Dollars and Cents: A Cost-Benefit Analysis" reveals "these cost-benefit estimates show that effective school-based programs could save \$18.00 for every \$1.00 spent on these programs." Looking at the effects of primary prevention in Swisher, J.D., Scharar and Yin, K's The Journal of Primary Prevention's "Cost Benefit Estimates in Prevention Research" is showing that, "for each dollar invested in prevention, between \$2 and \$20 in treatment and other health costs can be saved."

The Commonwealth Prevention Alliance will continue to move the field forward. Prevention is the most cost effective and socially responsible approach to creating healthy communities.