

# Wisconsin-Based Solutions For Pharmaceutical Waste

Wisconsin has been a leader in finding solutions issues related to pharmaceutical waste, to benefit both public health and the environment. Here are a few of the Wisconsin-based initiatives:

## Wisconsin Community Health Alliance project

- The project is piloting the SCAODA Controlled Substances Workgroup's recommendations found in this report:  
<http://www.scaoda.state.wi.us/docs/prevandspfsig/FINAL01032012CSWReport.pdf>
- Wisconsin Community Health Alliance received a grant through the Substance Abuse Mental Health Association, to implement recommendations to reduce and prevent prescription drug abuse.
- Nine counties (Forest, Lincoln, Langlade, Oneida, Racine, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Adams counties and the Tribe of Menominee) will receive approximately \$120,000 each for up to 18 months.
- Four workgroups have been formed: 1) education, 2) prescriber practices, 3) collection and 4) tracking and monitoring (to evaluate the success of the program).
- Implementation phase began in fall 2013 and will last for 18 months followed by a 6 month review by project evaluators.
- Contact: **Dorothy Chaney** [dorothychaney@charter.net](mailto:dorothychaney@charter.net)

## Good Drugs Gone Bad

- This program provides outreach materials and training on the prescription drug abuse epidemic.
- Sponsored by the Wisconsin Crime Prevention Practitioner's Association  
<http://www.wicrimeprevention.com/>
- What started out as a project for Winnebago County, Wisconsin, has quickly developed into a model program in Wisconsin and the United States.
- The coalition has also produced the film Ten Forty Eight (which is the police emergency code for overdose).
- Website is <http://www.gooddrugsgonebad.com/>
- A toolkit is available for \$5 (low cost due to many in-kind contributions).
- Contact: **Jason Weber** [jweber@town-menasha.com](mailto:jweber@town-menasha.com)

## Wisconsin Pharmacy Quality Collaborative

- The Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin received a \$4 million grant for the Wisconsin Pharmacy Quality Collaborative. This three-year project will train pharmacists to work with patients on drug choices, drug information, etc. (Level 1). Level 2 training brings together pharmacists, doctors and insurance providers to work with patients in a comprehensive medication review and assessment.
- This program should help to prevent drug overlap, examine different pain medication options, etc. Focus will be on high risk patients. Insurance provider groups, independent pharmacies and larger pharmacies (e.g., Shopko, Walgreens) are also on-board.
- This program should cut down on the number of prescriptions issued to patients, overall.
- Contact: **Tom Engels** [tom.engels@wisconsin.gov](mailto:tom.engels@wisconsin.gov)

## Wisconsin P2D2 (Prescription Pill and Drug Disposal) program

- Jordyn Schara of Reedsburg developed the P2D2 program in Wisconsin. (P2D2 originated in another state). It is in six communities with five more starting soon thanks to a \$10,000 grant that Jordyn received in mid-2013.
- Ms. Schara works with police departments and provides information, a collection box and associated supplies such as collection totes, gloves, etc.
- Mailboxes.com drug boxes cost less than \$600 for participants.
- Jordyn also provides information about safely securing drugs within the home using lock boxes.
- Contact: **Jordyn Schara** c/o Krystal Schara, [kkschara@friede.com](mailto:kkschara@friede.com)

## Jefferson County Drug Collection and Witness Burn

- Sheriff Paul Milbrath and Clean Sweep coordinator Sharon Erhardt have a long-running drug collection program (15 years.) Very successful and popular. Box has to be emptied every five days. They thought with added drop boxes in surrounding communities (Lake Mills, Ft. Atkinson, Whitewater, Watertown) that the demand in Jefferson would decrease, but demand has remained steady.
- The County sorts drugs into controlled and non-controlled so limit waste packaging and reduce disposal costs.
- Jefferson County also leads the Wisconsin “witness burn” program and is reimbursed through the DATCP Clean Sweep program. This helps to limit costs to participating counties as they only pay for drug disposal.
- Contact: **Sharon Erhardt** [sharoneh@jeffersoncountywi.gov](mailto:sharoneh@jeffersoncountywi.gov) and Sheriff **Paul Milbrath** [paulm@jeffersoncountywi.gov](mailto:paulm@jeffersoncountywi.gov)

## MedReturn

- Frank Mayer & Associates Inc., a Wisconsin based company, located in Grafton, WI, makes displays and they began to make boxes to return medications. (Medreturn.com)
- There are over 780 MedReturn units in 45 states including 30 units in WI.
- The boxes have a customizable graphic panel and come in two sizes. Both sizes hold a 50 quart removable box, one just has a smaller footprint. The boxes have a chute that only opens when the drop door closes. This prevents people from putting their hand down the chute to grab drugs. Two locks can be added, and users can bolt it to the floor and chain it to a wall. Costs are \$995 for large unit and \$695 for a smaller unit.
- Contact: **Gail Tanner** [gail.tanner@medreturn.com](mailto:gail.tanner@medreturn.com)

## Pharmaceutical Waste Reduction website

- UW Extension and DNR collaborated on creating this website. The website (<http://www4.uwm.edu/shwec/pharmaceuticalwaste/>) is mostly for health care but also has suggestions for households, pharmacies, policy makers and researcher/manufacturers.
- This unique resource specifically designed to help healthcare facilities reduce their pharmaceutical wastes.
- The section for consumers emphasizes prevention, talking to your doctor, looking at alternatives, etc.
- The site includes a searchable database and other tools and resource to find ideas to reduce waste for different drugs. The site offers case studies as well.
- Health care providers can submit their ideas to help expand the database.
- Contact: **Barb Bickford** [barbara.bickford@wisconsin.gov](mailto:barbara.bickford@wisconsin.gov)

## GLRI Pharmaceutical Waste project

- From 2010 to 2013, the UW Extension's Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center (SHWEC) and its partners sought to address the issue of proper disposal of unwanted medicines in the Great Lakes States.
- The project was funded by EPA under its Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which aims to prevent toxic discharges to the Great Lakes and to improve water quality and habitat.
- Specific objectives of the pharmaceutical waste project were:
  - To develop a pilot mail back program for household medications in Wisconsin
  - To initiate and support collaboration on this issue in the western Great Lakes states
  - To sponsor regional dialogues with stake holders and industry
  - To develop a model public policy based on product stewardship
  - To raise public awareness and encourage changed behavior
- Contact: **Barb Bickford** [barbara.bickford@wisconsin.gov](mailto:barbara.bickford@wisconsin.gov) or visit the project website at <http://www4.uwm.edu/shwec/pharmaceuticals/glri.cfm>