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State of Wisconsin

State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse

1 West Wilson Street, P.O. Box 7851
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September 2013

To Interested Parties:

On behalf of the State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODA) I am pleased to provide you with a copy of the final report of the Planning and Funding Committee's SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment) Ad Hoc Committee; *SBIRT Report to SCAODA* (available online at: www.scaoda.state.wi.us).

Wisconsin continues to rank nationally among states for the highest rates of risky and problem drinking, alcohol use disorders, and related consequences. Approximately one million adults show signs of risky drinking and an additional 384,000 meet clinical criteria for an alcohol use disorder). Alcohol misuse and abuse is costing the state an estimated \$6.8 billion annually. Current prevention, intervention, and treatment resources are insufficient to address the magnitude of the problem.

Delivery of evidenced-based SBIRT services can help. When SBIRT is systematically implemented in settings such as primary health care, it has been shown to reduce risky drinking by 20%. On a population-level, this reduction is associated with 33% less injuries, 20% less emergency visits, 37% less hospital admissions, 46% less arrests, and 50% less automobile crashes. Moreover, SBIRT offers significant cost savings. If implemented fully to scale, SBIRT could save Wisconsin Medicaid \$170 million within the first year and, for businesses, \$895 per employee annually. Despite the clear benefits of SBIRT, few health care providers actually deliver these services.

This report addresses key questions and offers guidance related to systematic delivery of SBIRT. It will be relevant for providers, purchasers, and payers of healthcare as well as policy makers and those parties who seek to better understand what SBIRT offers and how services could be implemented across Wisconsin. Please direct any questions or comments you may have about the report to Scott Caldwell, SBIRT Program Coordinator, at scott.caldwell@wiconsin.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Waupoose".

Michael Waupoose
Chairperson

Cc: Governor Scott Walker
Kitty Rhoades
Kevin Moore