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#### (Neb.)-Drug Take Back Event Planned At Various Locations Around Panhandle



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 04/22/2013 11:16 AM

(Chadron)-The Panhandle Prevention Coalition is joining forces with the US Department of Justice-Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), Office of Diversion Control and area law enforcement agencies to hold another National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday (April 27), with locations in Chadron, Crawford, Hemingford and Alliance. This is a great opportunity for those who missed the previous events, or who have subsequently accumulated unwanted, unused prescription and over-the-counter drugs, to safely dispose of those medications.

The collection sites registered for the prescription take back are Tommy's Car Lot in Chadron, the Crawford Fire Hall, Hemingford Police Department and Box Butte General Hospital in Alliance. People can go to the DEA website at <http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/index.html> and click on the **GOT DRUGS** logo to view a continually updated list of drop off locations.

The DEA provides the medication collection bins, transports the bins to a DEA approved incinerator, and properly incinerates the medications. Local law enforcement provides the site and volunteers to manage the drop off site. This no-cost collaboration is especially helpful to substance abuse prevention organizations that work on very limited budgets and are looking for sustainable strategies.

In the Panhandle, prescription drug use among 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students over the past 3 years is decreasing according to the Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey. It is important that we continue to participate and support these types of prevention efforts to help see these numbers continue to decrease. The last prescription drug take back initiative in September 2012 included sites in Alliance, Sidney and Bridgeport collecting 406 pounds of unused, unwanted, and expired medications.

Nationally, at the last Drug Take Back, DEA's state, local, and tribal law enforcement partners, working at more than 5,263 locations, collected 488,395 pounds (244 tons) of prescription medications from members of the public. When added to the collections from DEA's previous four Take Back events, more than 2 million pounds (1,018 tons) of prescription medications have been removed from circulation.

According to the 2011 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), more than six million Americans abuse prescription drugs. That same study revealed more than 70 percent of people abusing prescription pain relievers got them through friends or relatives, a

statistic that includes raiding the family medicine cabinet.

**About the Panhandle Prevention Coalition (PPC)**

The PPC is a part of the Panhandle Partnership for Health and Human Services and is comprised of local community coalitions and a regional coalition united together by a passion and dedication to healthy and safe people across the lifespan. Our efforts include, but are not limited to, reducing underage drinking, binge drinking and drinking and driving in the Nebraska Panhandle. We do this by

- Seeking policy change at the local and state levels to reduce youth access to alcohol.
- Collaborating with law enforcement to facilitate, fund and standardize compliance checks, beverage server training, and sobriety checks.
- Educating and generating awareness about the dangers of substance abuse and consequences of minors in possession (MIPs) and buying/providing alcohol to minors.

Our community partners include concerned parents, health care workers, law enforcement, social service professionals, community leaders, elected officials, educators, business owners, volunteers and citizens both locally and statewide who seek safe communities for our children and families to live and grow.

(Questions? Comments? Email [news@chadrad.com](mailto:news@chadrad.com))

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