

Press Release

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Institute for Behavior and Health, Inc. Endorses 2010 National Drug Control Strategy

Washington, D.C. In the just-released *2010 National Drug Control Strategy*, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) identified community-based prevention, early intervention, integration of drug treatment into health care, and breaking the cycle of drug use, crime, and incarceration as fundamental goals for the Obama Administration. Through these initiatives, the strategy named reducing drugged driving and reducing prescription drug abuse, two of the Institute for Behavior and Health's (IBH) signature issues, as key priorities.

Robert L. DuPont, M.D., President of IBH, founding Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and former Drug Czar under Presidents Nixon and Ford said, "The new team leading ONDCP with R. Gil Kerlikowske as Director is the best leadership team in the White House drug policy office since the creation of ONDCP in 1988. ONDCP has laid out an ambitious new agenda that holds real promise for significantly reducing illegal drug use and the harm this use creates. These priorities add new emphasis to demand reduction by uniting people across the policy spectrum to achieve major goals in both public health and public safety."

IBH is pleased that ONDCP has identified drugged driving and prescription drug use as high priority goals. Driving under the influence of illegal drugs is now more common than drunk driving in the United Statesⁱ while the non-medical use of prescription drugs is the nation's most rapidly growing drug problem, with over 6 million Americans currently using prescription drugs non-medically.ⁱⁱ

The national strategy is fully supported by IBH. Robert L. DuPont, M.D. said of the *Strategy*, "The *2010 National Drug Control Strategy* marks a pivotal point for U.S. drug policy. IBH endorses the new strategy and commends President Barack Obama for his impressive, new efforts to reduce the demand for illegal drugs in the U.S. These issues will ignite new policies, legislation and programs that will improve our nation's health, safety and security."

To learn more about IBH visit www.ibhinc.org.

Robert L. DuPont, M.D.
President, Institute for Behavior and Health, Inc.

ⁱ Richard Compton, & Amy Berning, Results of the 2007 National Survey of Alcohol and Drug Use By Drivers. National Highway Traffic Safety Facts. Washington, DC: NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis (July 2009) DOT HS 811 175

ⁱⁱ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2009). *Results from the 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings* (Office of Applied Studies, NSDUH Series H-36, HHS Publication No. SMA 09-4434). Rockville, MD.