

## **Prevention Ethical Scenarios and Discussion Questions**

### **Scenario 1**

You are president of a local grassroots substance abuse prevention task force that has been organizing and supporting a wide spectrum of local substance abuse prevention activities during its five years of existence. You are currently staging a fund-raising campaign to raise money for scholarships to send 50 inner-city youth to prevention leadership camp. As the deadline for registration arrives, you have enough money for 21 scholarships, due primarily to severe economic cutbacks that have hit local businesses and industries in the past. A local business, reading of this dilemma in the paper, approaches the task force and offers to donate the \$3,900 to reach the goal of financing 50 youths' attendance to the camps. The local business offering this financial support is the regional distributor for a national company whose primary product is beer.

### **Discussion Questions**

What potential ethical issues, if any, would be raised by acceptance of this donation?

What course of action would you recommend to the task force as their president?

### **Scenario 2**

A local citizen, publicly known for his role in opening the first adult book store in your community, calls your local prevention program with the following requests. First, he has seen a number of your agency's prevention posters around town and would like to get some to put up in his store. Secondly, he is very concerned about the drug abuse problem and was just made aware of the program through which you utilize local citizens as volunteers to support various prevention activities. He would like to know how he could become a volunteer.

### **Discussion Questions**

How do you respond to these requests?

How would the situation differ, if any, if the person wishing to volunteer was the single person associated with an anti-abortion (or pro-choice) campaign in your local community?

### **Scenario 3**

You work in a youth-oriented substance abuse prevention program serving a predominantly rural county that has experienced a dramatic rise in drug-related adolescent death during the last six months. Today you are speaking to an 8<sup>th</sup> grade class as a component of a comprehensive substance abuse curriculum used at the middle school. You discover shortly into your presentation that 5-6 students in the class have had significant drug experience. The nature of their questions and comments highlight methods and patterns of drug use. Although your task was to talk about drug abuse and self-esteem, this small subgroup of students are asking

very specific questions about drug dosages, drug effects, and the dangers of certain drug combinations.

### **Discussion Questions**

How would you respond to this situation?

Is providing such information---which could reduce drug-related casualties among the users---a legitimate “prevention” activity?

Is there any danger that providing this information within the context of the classroom could have unintended effects upon those students who have no experimented with drugs?

### **Scenario 4**

You are responsible for coordinating a community-based substance abuse prevention program whose primary focus is public information, drug education in the schools, and the coordination of a number adolescent alternative projects. During the past year, a number of newly recovering adults have volunteered. They are particularly interested in opportunities to speak to younger children and other adolescents about their life experiences. They feel their experiences can be used to help others avoid the problems and they see the opportunity as an important support for their own ongoing recoveries.

### **Discussion Questions**

Describe any ethical issues potentially involved in this situation.