Report of: The Medication Education Disposal Solutions Collaborative (MEDS)

Pursuant to Public Act 96-369
December 2010
Public Act 096-369 (Signed into law and effective Aug. 13, 2009)

Section 5. The Environmental Protection Act is amended by adding Section 17.9 as follows:

(415 ILCS 5/17.9 new)

Sec. 17.9 Collaborative on Environmentally Safe Disposal of Pharmaceuticals.

(a) The Medication Education Disposal Solutions (MEDS) collaborative is established for the purpose of partnering with public and private sector constituents to promote the environmentally responsible disposal of unwanted and expired medications.

(b) The collaborative shall consist of the Director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency or his or her designee and volunteer persons and organizations that have expressed an interest in contributing to the development of programs that (i) educate the public on the safe disposal of unwanted or expired medications and (ii) establish an expanded network of secure pharmaceutical collection centers throughout the State. Members of the collaborative may organize themselves as they deem necessary. The collaborative shall focus on the development of an organization that will produce educational materials for the public and assist in promoting the expansion of a network of secure pharmaceutical collection centers throughout the State. In developing the evaluating proposals to achieve these objectives, the Agency and MEDS shall:

(1) Develop, for placement on the Medication Disposal page of the Agency’s Web site, additional information regarding best practices for the disposal of pharmaceuticals.

(2) Develop proposals that will assist opportunities for the safe disposal of pharmaceuticals and personal care products.

(3) Develop relationships with local health departments, local governments, pharmacists, police departments, and similar organizations to establish programs that will promote and enhance the safe disposal of pharmaceuticals.

(4) Develop educational materials that can be distributed to the public, schools, and various participating organizations.

(5) Review and adapt information from the USEPA and the USGS to inform and educate the public and further refine the Illinois pharmaceutical disposal program.

(6) Actively support supervised pharmaceutical collection, including Household Hazardous Waste collection events, at various locations around the State.

(7) Develop additional activities that further support environmentally safe disposal of pharmaceuticals.

(c) No later than December 31, 2010, the MEDS collaborative shall submit a report on its program development and recommendations for furthering environmentally safe disposal of pharmaceuticals. The Agency shall post the report and any other relevant findings on its Web site.

(d) This Section is repealed July 1, 2011.
Part One: Overview and Progress of the Illinois Medication and Education Disposal Solutions (MEDS) Collaborative

The Medication Education Disposal Solutions (MEDS) Collaborative was formed as a result of an Oct. 1, 2008 “Meds with Water, not in Water” Summit Conference sponsored by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency at the University of Illinois-Springfield.

The conference was held to bring representatives of a wide variety of organizations together to look at opportunities to reduce improper disposal of unwanted or expired pharmaceuticals such as flushing them down the drain where they could not be removed at wastewater treatment plants and could end up in lakes and streams. Illinois EPA had earlier found trace amounts of a variety of pharmaceutical chemicals in a pilot sampling of both source and finished drinking water. Besides the environmental impact, improper disposal increased the potential for misuse and overdose of pharmaceuticals by children and young people.

Prior to the conference, Illinois EPA had launched a pilot project involving a collaboration with some county solid waste agencies, local pharmacies, law enforcement agencies, county health departments, and other local officials to develop long—term drop-off and one-day collection options for unwanted pharmaceuticals. The Illinois EPA, using a portion of its fees from landfills, paid for the collection and disposal of the medications at an out-of-state high-temperature incinerator.

Also prior to the conference, teachers Paul Ritter and Eric Bohm had engaged their students at Pontiac High School to create the P2D2 (Prescription Pill and Drug Disposal) program that included a drop-off box at the local police station and a local pharmacy, as well as a web site and other informational materials. P2D2 subsequently expanded to provide assistance to other communities in their local Livingston County and then elsewhere in the state, across the nation, and even with contacts in Europe. Ritter and Bohm were enthusiastic keynote speakers at the Oct. 1, 2008 Summit Conference and the ongoing activities of P2D2 have been a key element of the Collaborative.

The Summit was attended by more than 130, including representatives of a variety of organizations, including environmental advocates, local government and law enforcement, health care providers, pharmacists, pharmaceutical manufacturers, wastewater and drinking water systems and solid waste coordinators, with morning presentations for the entire group, followed by afternoon break-out discussion groups.

At a subsequent meeting held at Pontiac High School, attendees were invited to join a Resource/Speaker’s Bureau with their contact information on the Medication Disposal pages on the Illinois EPA web site (www.epa.state.il.us/medication-disposal).
Those key partners, which included Karen Cotton, External Affairs Manager, Illinois American Water Co., who had agreed to serve as Chair of the informal Collaborative, Paul Ritter and Eric Bohm, Nick Sartoris, Director of Pharmacy for Dog’s Drugs Ltd., Marta Keane, Recycling Program Specialist, Will County Land-Use Waste Services, Angela Harris, Recycling Coordinator for Sangamon County Department of Public Health, Cecily Smith, Policy and Outreach Specialist, Prairie Rivers Network, Debbie Belt, VP Education/Clinical Services for Illinois Health Care Association, and David Walters, Manager of Waste Reduction and Compliance Section, Illinois EPA, were also invited to submit information for this report. Their submissions are contained in Part 2 of the report.

Legislation signed by Governor Pat Quinn in August 2009 (Public Act 96-369, text on Page 2 of this report), based on draft language from Illinois EPA, provided a statutory underpinning for the voluntary MEDS collaborative.

With assistance from MEDS collaborative partners, including P2D2, which authorized the use of its “Phil Bottle Phil” graphic mascot logo for educational posters, Illinois EPA has continued to expand materials on its web pages that are available to any interested parties. They include colorful educational posters available for downloading, fact sheets on disposal options, audio files of Public Service Announcements that were also mailed to radio stations throughout Illinois, and detailed information on the Summit Conference, IEPA water sampling results, drop-off locations, and partner organization and contact links. A special email account, Mail,EPA.Meds was also established and serves not only to provide communication between collaborative participants, but to provide information in response to inquiries from the public. Illinois EPA also reached out to the Illinois Department of Public Health to reinforce the “don’t flush” unwanted medications message.

In addition, MEDS informational materials were made available at events, including the Clean Water Celebration in Peoria, attended by more than 3,000 students, the largest clean water celebration in the world, and at a conference hosted by State Sen. Susan Garrett in Lake Forest.

MEDS collaborative partners have also worked with U.S. EPA and its Illinois–Indiana Sea Grant program, which developed extensive materials on disposal of unwanted medications, and helped get those materials into the hands of Illinois educators as well as information and collection containers for disposal events.

While funding restrictions have not permitted Illinois EPA to expand the disposal assistance beyond the initial pilot project sites, the number of drop-off locations has continued to steadily grow as a result of the enthusiasm of local partnerships, typically based on the model of collaborations between pharmacies, health care facilities, law enforcement, and local
governments, (particularly solid waste officials). Illinois American Water Co. has been a key participant in starting drop-off programs in several of its service areas, for example.

As of December 2010, the number of ongoing drop-off locations had expended to at least 34 counties* in Illinois and more than 100 locations. This is more than in any other state, according to Paul Ritter, now the national P2D2 coordinator, and is expected to continue to grow.

Renewed focus on the proper disposal of unwanted medications was stimulated in September 2010, when the federal Drug Enforcement Agency sponsored a “National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day” at 4,000 sites nationwide, and the ongoing DEA interest in this issue may provide more opportunities in Illinois as well.

Paul Ritter of P2D2 recommended that Illinois also consider legislation that has been introduced in some other states and cities that would establish product stewardship requirements for the makers and sellers of pharmaceuticals.

Part Two: Reports Submitted by MEDS Collaborative Partners:

David Walters, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Land, Manager of Waste Reduction and Compliance Section

Paul Ritter, National Coordinator, P2D2 Program

Karen Cotton, External Affairs Manager, Illinois American Water

Marta Keane, Recycling Program Specialist, Will County

Angela Harris, Recycling Coordinator, Sangamon County Department of Public Health

Nick Sartoris, RPH., Director of Pharmacy, Doc’s Drugs Ltd.

Cecily Smith, Water Resources Specialist, Prairie Rivers Network
David Walters, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

The Illinois EPA has always accepted old or unwanted pharmaceuticals at its household hazardous waste collections around the state and at the long-term HHW partners in Chicago, Rockford, Naperville, and Lake County. Over the past 20 years hundreds of drums of old pharmaceuticals have been collected at hundreds of household hazardous waste collections and destroyed at hazardous waste incinerators.

In the summer and fall of 2007 the Agency, in response to reports concerning pharmaceuticals finding their way into the environment and into drinking water supplies, began looking for options to broaden the disposal options for old and unwanted pharmaceuticals.

After deciding to utilize funds from the household hazardous waste collection program, several county health departments, solid waste agencies, and police departments partnered with the Illinois EPA to begin collecting old or unwanted pharmaceuticals. The Illinois EPA, through its household hazardous waste contractors, provided 5 and 30 gallon containers and packing instructions. The partners, in turn, began collecting old/unwanted pharmaceuticals at a variety of location including local pharmacies, police stations, and their own offices. In addition to old/unwanted pharmaceuticals the programs were instructed to collect waste inhalers, mercury thermometers, vitamins, and other over the counter personal care products. Due to federal Drug Enforcement Regulations IEPA contractors cannot accept or dispose of any controlled substances.

Initial partners included the Will County Land Use Department, the Kendall County Health Department, the City of Galesburg, and the Western Illinois Regional Council. Over the duration of the program a total of 27 partners have scheduled old or unwanted pharmaceutical collections in their communities.

**Participating Collection Partners**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Chenoa Pharmacy</th>
<th>Logan County Health Department</th>
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<tr>
<td>City of Chicago Department of Environment</td>
<td>Macon County</td>
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<td>Cook County Department of Environmental Control</td>
<td>OSF Community Healthcare Normal</td>
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<td>Doc's Drugs</td>
<td>Richland County Sheriffs Department</td>
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<td>Dominick's Pharmacy Orland Park</td>
<td>Roanoke Pharmacy</td>
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<td>Tazewell County Health Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fox Metro Water Reclamation District</td>
<td>Urbana Public Works</td>
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<td>Fox River Grove Police Department</td>
<td>Vermillion County Health Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henry County Health Department</td>
<td>Western Illinois Regional Regional Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnsburg Police Department</td>
<td>Will County Land Use Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lemont Police Department</td>
<td>Yorkville Police Department</td>
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<td>Lincoln Health Center, Mattoon</td>
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Some examples of collection activities include the Cook County Department of Environmental Control which has held one-day collections in Midlothian, Palos Hills, River Grove, and other suburban communities. The Vermillion County Health Department and the City of Urbana worked with Carle Rx for a one week collection at the Carle Rx pharmacies in eastern Illinois. The Ford/Iroquois County Health Department partnered with the local Medicine Shop for a week-long collection; because of public demand, however, they have extended their activities to an ongoing collection. The Will County Land Use Department has partnered with numerous pharmacies throughout Will County. And finally, Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful held a one-day event in Rockford that drew more than 400 participants.

One of the more successful collection programs is a cooperation between the Kendall County Health Department and the Yorkville Police Department. Sergeant Barry Groesh of the Yorkville Police was the first to see the benefits of a collection program. His initiative to start the program in Yorkville was a catalyst for others to start their own collection programs. The department elected to purchase a $750 dollar drop safe to store all medicines collected and to protect the safety of the on duty officer or desk assistant as well as to reduce the risk of theft.

Once the safe is full, the medications are taken and placed into the IEPA supplied containers and locked in their evidence collection locker for safe keeping. Sergeant Groesh explains that the program has been successful in numerous areas. In addition to providing true environmental protection by offering a safe alternative to disposing of the medication as
compared to flushing them down the toilet, the program provides a place for individuals to take unused or old medication as opposed to letting it age in their medicine cabinet and prevents children from taking the pills, and it prevents burglary for those who steal the medications and try to sell them on the streets. Sergeant Groesh reports that some of the more interesting items collected included surgical powder and medicines from the 1930’s.

When the collection partners fill their containers, Illinois EPA household hazardous waste contractors are mobilized to pick-up the full drums and ultimately dispose of them at fully permitted hazardous waste incinerators where the pharmaceuticals are destroyed at very high temperatures. Since its inception, the program has collected 363 drums of items at a total cost of $180,465.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Drums Collected</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$29,420</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$43,905</td>
<td>88</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$74,482</td>
<td>149</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011*</td>
<td>$32,658</td>
<td>66</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$180,465</strong></td>
<td><strong>363</strong></td>
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*through November 30, 2010

State budget problems during State Fiscal Year 2010 curtailed the addition of new collection locations. All existing locations, however, have remained.

To summarize, the Agency has found that limited collection activities for old and unwanted pharmaceuticals are a worthwhile endeavor that is feasible, valuable, and popular with Illinois residents. Pharmaceuticals have been collected in a safe manner and handled in a much improved method over direct landfiling or wastewater disposal. And, although not quantifiable at present, the public is more aware of pharmaceutical disposal and is more likely of disposing of them in more environmentally friendly ways than before.
The National P2D2 Network & IL-IN Sea Grant
-Passing the Torch to Philadelphia and Pennsylvania

Paul Ritter National Director
Beth Guelde Pontiac, Illinois Student
National Prescription Pill and Drug Disposal Program
Presentation Outline

- What is new with P2D2
- What is new with IL-IN Sea Grant
  Proper disposal of Unwanted Medicines
- Pennsylvania and Philadelphia
Prescription Pill and Drug Disposal Program

P²D² Network
What are the issues and facts?

- 2002 Over 80% of waterways tested in the U.S. by USGS show traces of common medications.
  - Painkillers
  - Estrogen
  - Antidepressants
  - blood-pressure medicines
  - etc.

- A recent take-back program in San Francisco found the average household had 2.7 pounds of unwanted or expired drugs.
What are the issues and facts?

- The study involving the abuse of pain relievers reveals a 400 percent increase between 1998 and 2008 of substance abuse treatment admissions for those aged 12 and over reporting abuse of prescription pain relievers.
What are the issues and facts?

- 2010 - Nearly 7 million Americans are abusing prescription drugs
  - more than the combined number who are abusing
    - Cocaine
    - Heroin
    - Hallucinogens
    - Ecstasy
    - Inhalants
- 3.8 million in 2000
  - 80 percent increase in just 6 years.
What are the issues and facts?

- According to ONDCP prescription drug abuse, a fast-growing problem that killed more than 8,500 Americans in 2005.

- 1 in 10 high school seniors admits to abusing powerful prescription painkillers.

- 40 percent of teens and parents think abusing prescription painkillers is safer than abusing "street" drugs.
What are the issues and facts?

- 25% of drug-related emergency room visits are associated with abuse of prescription drugs.
- 1 in 5 teens has abused a prescription (Rx) pain medication
- 1 in 5 report abusing prescription stimulants and tranquilizers
The objectives of the program are:

- **Awareness:**
  - to every community of the impacts of improper disposal of pharmaceuticals.

- **Educate:**
  - citizens in reducing and eliminating pharmaceuticals from entering our environment.

- **Initiate:**
  - positive working relationships between schools, pharmacies, communities, local government, and city officials.

- **Enable:**
  - communities to improve their physical environments and quality of life through environmental education.
The objectives of the program are:

- **Reduce:**
  - consumer waste in the environment.

- **Assess:**
  - quantity of household pharmaceutical waste disposed of in an area.

- **Engage:**
  - all involved in the production, distribution, sales and consumption of medicines in environmentally preferable practices.

- **Foster:**
  - community health by providing an opportunity to work together towards a common goal.

- **Provide:**
  - a proper pharmaceutical disposal system for each community.
Where did the idea come from?

- Mr. Ritter’s wife, Jodee, asked what she should do with some unused pharmaceuticals in their medicine cabinet.
- Not sure what the correct method of disposal was, Ritter posed the question to his students and the young ecologists researched the Internet for a solution.
Then what?

- Our students presented their findings to a group of local leaders:
  - Street Superintendent
  - Pharmacy Managers
  - Mayor
  - Water Plant Manager
  - Waste Water Treatment Plant Manager
  - Police
What will be created at the meeting?

- **P²D²**: A collaborative effort between local pharmacies, officials, and students.

- **The purpose**
  - Educate the public about the harm done to the environment due to the current prescription and non-prescription drug disposal practices.
  - Provide them with an alternative way that ensures the quality of our water for future generations.
How does the program work?

- Individuals take their unused and unwanted prescription and non-prescription drugs to participating pharmacies and police departments.

- Pharmacists take the non-controlled pharmaceuticals and place them into secure bins.
  - Please note that only licensed pharmacists and assistants handle the returned pharmaceuticals.
What is accepted at Pharmacies?

- All non-controlled medications, which includes:
  - Prescription and OTC medications
  - Pet medications
  - Vitamins & Supplements
  - Liquid medications in leak-proof containers
  - Homeopathic remedies
  - Suppositories
Controlled substances

- Police take controlled and non-controlled substances which are dropped off at police departments in drug boxes.

- When the bins fill up, pharmacists and police department send them off to be incinerated.

- The incinerated pills are then turned into energy for homes and communities.
What is done with the medications?

- 3 or 4 bin system:
  - Pills
  - Ointments, Liquids, Creams, etc.
  - Blister packs
- Medications are picked up by Veolia Environmental Services or dropped off at Covanta and incinerated at various locations
What should you do with controlled substances?

- Individuals can take their unused and unwanted Class II controlled substances to the local, county, and state police departments.

- The departments have secure drop boxes that individuals can place their substances in - no questions asked.

- The substances are disposed of following proper police procedures.
Is data collected?

- We collect statistics in the form of the number of pounds collected at each location.
- This is done voluntarily by each location.
How did we get the word out about P$^2$D$^2$?

- Ecology
- Illinois Studies
- Music Theory
  - Cleaner Water
  - P P P P P 2D2
- Cleaning Out the Cabinet
  - http://www.youtube.com/user/EcoRitter#p/u/4/nLSD6d1BdoA
- P$^2$D$^2$ Billboard
- Economics – Veterinarian Survey
P²D² Billboards
Wisconsin P2D2
And Jordyn Schara

- Jordyn Schara – 14 year old 8th grade freshman
  - 3 town meetings with officials
  - Arranges donations to pay for disposal.
  - Sets up disposal company
  - Sets up Flu shot clinic
  - Sharps disposal
  - Mercury thermometer disposal
Wisconsin P²D²

- 450 plus pounds of pharmaceuticals collected.
- 120 Mercury thermometers.
- 33 gallon trash can of needles.
- Permanent Wisconsin P²D² program.
- Reaching out to all WI communities
A grassroots effort pays off
Pontiac High School students start prescription drug disposal program
Illinois P²D² Program Counties

Livingston  |  Iroquois
McLean     |  Jackson
LaSalle    |  Jo Davies
Champaign  |  Kankakee
Clark      |  Macoupin
Coles      |  Peoria
Cook       |  Sangamon
DuPage     |  Tazwell
Edgar      |  Vermilion
Ford       |  Will
Henry      |  Woodford
New $P^2D^2$ States, Counties, and Towns

- Ottawa
- Streator
- Mendota
- LaSalle
- Peru
- Princeton
- Peoria and Tazewell County
- West Virginia
- Colorado
- Michigan
- Wisconsin
- Washington
- Indiana
- Arizona
- Massachusetts
- Georgia
- South Carolina
- Pennsylvania and more
To Date Disposal Total Illinois

- Since inception we have collected approximately 270 fifty-five gallon drum equivalents of pharmaceuticals

- **Over 135,000 lb**

- This does not include privately funded disposals
Daniel Katz

- Committed to help others who may be faced with a drug problem
  - loved ones seeking help
  - education and information
- Helping communities and educators who strive to bring insight and a heightened awareness of the dangers of drug abuse.
Timmy Strain

- Burned on muffler
- Took girlfriends meds
- Committed to Philadelphia – Pennsylvania P²D²
Other

- HEP Pill Bottle Phil Quad
- P2D2 Ork Toy Hauler
Why should you create a P2D2 program of your own?
Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant / P²D²

The Medicine Chest

A collection of safe disposal curriculum activities and educational resources
IL-IN Sea Grant Resource Kit: Disposal of Unwanted Medications
A Resource for Action in Your Community

http://www.iisgcp.org/unwantedmeds/

**Purpose:** Guide for communities who are looking for a solution for their drug disposal problem

**Use:** Solid waste officials, county and state officials, community groups, high school students, environmental and community organizations, pharmacists, researchers

**Successes:** Educated thousands of individuals on the issue, supported several outreach campaigns for communities holding events, created new networking groups
IL-IN Sea Grant Resource Kit:
Disposal of Unwanted Medications
A Resource for Action in Your Community

http://www.iisgcp.org/unwantedmeds/

Content

1. Introduction to the issue
2. Case Studies of Take-Back Programs
3. How to Hold a Collection Event
4. Materials for Public Outreach and Education
5. Pharmaceutical Donation/Take-Back Legislation
6. International Policy on Medicine Donations
7. Bibliography on Pharmaceuticals, the Environment, and Human Health
8. Information for Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities
9. PowerPoint Presentation
Why are we supporting community collections?

- Education about the issue

- Communities are
  - asking for assistance
  - asking for education materials
  - Concerned about issues of teenage abuse, diversion, older adult safety
Types of Stewardship Activities

- One-time consumer collection events
- Permanent collection locations
  - On-going one-day events
  - Collection boxes at pharmacies
  - Police stations
  - HHW facilities
- Mail-back programs
- Education
What’s Happening in Illinois?

**Chicago**
- 4 annual events, 25 Chicago sites, spearheaded by Chicago Police Dept.
- Targeted older citizens; Since 2004: 6,000 lbs of medicines collected; now containers at 5 Chicago Police Stations

**Sangamon County (Springfield)**
- Annual HHW events ~50 barrels of meds diverted from waterways and landfills; properly disposed of by incineration

**Other areas in Illinois**
- Will County (700,000 people) - pharmacies (non-controlled only)
- Kendall County (100,000 people) - Yorkville police station
- Many others (22 counties) through P²D² Program
- http://www.epa.state.il.us/medication-disposal/locations/index.html
What is Still Needed?

- Legislation Reform and funding
- Research:
  - Excretion vs. disposal; veterinary vs. human-feedlots (CAFOs), farms may be largest source
  - Humans, pets, livestock will always be taking meds, so solutions at the WWTP are needed for the long run
- Curb medicine waste and over-prescribing
- Education and Outreach
  - Provide simple solutions for individuals, MDs, pharmacies, hospitals (VA), hospices, rehab centers, schools, etc.
IL-IN Sea Grant Education Component

Safe Disposal of Unwanted Medicine

Curriculum
- Develop curriculum materials
- Market these resources
- Develop 4-H guide—currently in pilot test phase

Service Learning Activities
- Training for pharmacy, pharm techs, vet medicine students
- Link college and high school students to create community stewardship projects
- Investigate collaborating with faculty to create new UI service-learning course

Events
- Integrate educational activities into exhibits, “Getting Rid of Stuff Sensibly (GROSS)”
Expected Impacts

- Educators use existing education projects (P2D2) in their teaching.
- Engage non-formal education partners.
- Create a science-based understanding of proper disposal methods.
- Student citizenship is enhanced.
- Public takes positive steps to properly dispose of their unwanted medicines.
To Learn More

www.iisgcp.org/gros/meddisposal.html
www.p2d2program.org

Paul Ritter: PRitter@pontiac.k12.il.us
Susan Boehme: sboehme@illinois.edu

Thank you to: U.S. EPA GLNPO for funding for this work
Karen Cotton, Illinois American Water

At Illinois American Water, we understand how important, how precious, and how critical water is to our daily lives, which is why we work so hard to protect it. Environmental programs like pharmaceutical disposal programs help to ensure high quality water service now and in the future.

It takes a collaborative effort to make these programs a reality. By working with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Department of Natural Resources and P2D2 we are able to put these programs in place. Illinois American Water has collaborated with environmentalists, pharmacists, police departments, municipalities and healthcare providers to implement local pharmaceutical disposal programs across the state including the communities of Alton, Bartonville, Belleville, Champaign, Chillicothe, Pekin, Peoria (three locations), Peoria Heights, Pontiac, Streator, Urbana and Waterloo. Specifically our participation includes:

- Purchasing and delivering pharmaceutical disposal boxes
- Designing decals for the boxes
- Donating funds for program costs
- Contributing in-kind donations of inclusion on website, bill inserts, news releases, sharing of employee knowledge and skills, as well as media relations.

These programs provide an easy way for residents to properly dispose of their unwanted medications, preventing them from being flushed into the water system. We continue to work to create additional programs and are in the process of implementing programs in Caseyville, Collinsville, Fairmont and Maryville.

Through these programs we have helped to not only take action to properly dispose of unwanted medications but to also raise awareness through public outreach. This effort includes:

- Kick off events of new programs
- Media outreach to promote local program efforts
- Information included in bill inserts including the Water Quality Report and Environmental Stewardship inserts
- Information on company, Illinois EPA and P2D2 websites
In addition, Illinois American Water has reached out to local classrooms for student involvement. In Peoria, high school students were invited to participate in a contest to design artwork for the local pharmaceutical disposal boxes.

The concept involves both science and art classes. Science classes were responsible for the concept of the design and the art classes were responsible for bringing the concept to life. The artwork chosen in Peoria was featured on the local pharmaceutical disposal boxes as well as on the cover of Illinois American Water’s environmental stewardship bill insert, which was sent to customers statewide.

Illinois American Water continues to identify opportunities for outreach and program implementation. At the conclusion of 2010 our efforts will total the sponsorship of 16 programs in Illinois, leading to the disposal of thousands of pounds of unwanted medications.

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**Marta Keane, Will County**

Will County just launched a new website where we are trying to make our local sites easier to find ([www.willcountygreen.com](http://www.willcountygreen.com]). We have listings for the medication program throughout the site. If you search by medication you’ll see over 20 listings in various locations.
Angela Harris, Sangamon County Department of Public Health

History of Unwanted/Expired Medication Collection Events

In 2007, the Recycling Division within the Sangamon County Department of Public expanded its annual Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection to include unwanted/expired medications. The inclusion of unwanted and expired medications within our HHW tripled our participation of the event. We collected over 8 (50lb) barrels of medications during this collection. The medications were combined with all pesticides collected and disposed of by the vendor secured by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). We continued to include unwanted/expired medications with our HHW in 2008. The following year, 2009, we held a separate collection focusing solely on unwanted and expired medications. The event was held at the Illinois State Fairgrounds. We had volunteer pharmacists separate controlled and uncontrolled substances. Over 19 (50lb) barrels of medications was collected. One 50-pound barrel of controlled substances was collected with a street value of 1 million dollars. This barrel was sealed on site and collected by the law enforcement officers hired for the event.

For all of our medication collection events, we partnered with the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant organization. They provided educational pamphlets, flyers, and pill bottles. During our collection events, participants received educational information on how to properly disposal of unwanted medications, medication bottles, poison control pamphlets and mercury-free thermometers. The 3-year collection events reached over 4,000 residents within Sangamon County including the City of Springfield. Our target population was senior citizens, veterans and a focus towards parents of teenagers.

Future Unwanted/Expired Medication Collections Event Recommendations

Currently, we have 3 pharmacies that offer permanent drop-off locations for unwanted/expired medications. One located in Auburn, Pawnee and Springfield. We would like to continue hosting collections and establish additional permanent drop-off locations. Securing funding is a primary concern for our programs. Our recommendation would be to fund the HHW with the inclusion of unwanted/expired medications. A 3-year funding commitment will allow us to increase our educational outreach initiatives and develop additional permanent drop-off locations.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Angela Harris,

Environmental Educator & Recycling Coordinator
Nick Sartoris, Doc’s Drugs, Pontiac

The program in Livingston County has been going strong. I am working with the Doc’s stores and local police department in Pontiac. I have been active, along with Paul Ritter, as a consultant, to local pharmacies around the United States. Most of these pharmacies are more than willing to get the P2D2 program started in their communities. As always, Paul has the P2D2 website loaded with helpful information for communities to get started on implementing his program. The program has it all, from disposal of meds to the disposal of controlled drugs and sharps. This program is also great being’s the patrons can drop-off these unwanted drugs anytime and day the pharmacies are open. They also can drop off the controlled drugs and sharps at the local police station anytime.

The Illinois EPA, Dave Walters, has been the backbone of the whole program. Dave is always eager to help out the program in any way. Please keep the flow of money for these programs directed to Dave and programs like this! Illinois American Water, Karen Cotton, has been a big help both financial support and customer awareness of disposing of medicines properly to all of their customers and communities all over. The Will County Health Department, Marta Keane, has a great program going in Will County and has increased awareness of pharmaceutical disposal in that county.

Cecily Smith, Prairie Rivers Network

Unfortunately, due to funding, Prairie Rivers Network has had to severely cut back on staff time for working on proper pharmaceutical disposal. At this time, our activities focus on outreach. We continue to offer the presentation “Pharmaceuticals in Our Waters: Don’t Rush to Flush!” upon request. We offer technical assistance to individuals calling in to ask about pharmaceutical collection events, as well as general information on proper disposal and existing programs. Finally, we have a section on our website which includes general information, resources, and cites for news articles and research studies.

We do want to continue to participate in the MEDS Collaborative. At the last meeting, there was some initial discussion of developing a strategy for pursuing state legislation; if this develops, we would certainly like to have some involvement with that as well.