



September 13, 2013

JOHN A. KITZHABER, MD
Governor

Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission

Dear Commission Members,

First, I want to thank each one of you for your commitment to the work of the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission. Volunteers like you are the reason Oregon can tackle complex and important issues.

The Commission was created to improve individual and community health and safety, strengthen families, reduce crime, and save taxpayer dollars by unifying and coordinating our systems of prevention and treatment. You all bring valuable expertise to help move our collective work forward.

Oregon has begun many promising reforms in education, health care and public safety. Because of your Commission's uniquely broad membership, one of your greatest assets will be your ability to align the various agencies, programs and services through a strategic vision. I expect the Commission will align with and contribute to the success of our various reform efforts.

With that in mind, I ask that the Commission provide me with recommendations by May 2014. As you consider policies and strategies, I believe it is important that you consider these objectives:

- (a) Emphasize prevention and early intervention activities where science demonstrates those activities will reduce subsequent social costs or the costs of later intervention;
- (b) Support cross-system effects—advance the goals of current system reforms in education, early learning, health care and public safety;
- (c) Produce significant return on investment—based on best or emerging practices.

The need for services may always outstrip their availability. We simply can't fund all the things that we might like to do for Oregonians. I expect the Commission to offer recommendations to ensure that limited taxpayer funds are directed toward services that produce the most enduring beneficial effects.

Thank you again for your service. I look forward to following your work and seeing the results.

Sincerely,

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.
Governor

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