



Michigan Council on Alcohol Problems

**MICAP / RECAP**

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## Choosing Our Words Wisely!

From the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and  
Alcoholism (NIAAA)

Condensed by Rev. W. J. (Bill) Amundsen, Retired,  
MICAP Board Member

Now we know! Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) is a disease phenomena which lies on a spectrum from lesser to greater. We also know that the earlier one begins drinking, the more chance there is for the alcohol which is ingested to do damage to the brain and the body. We also know that some persons are born with a predisposition toward AUD. So even if they begin drinking after, say, age 25, their DNA or gene pool may propel them into some form of AUD.

The NIAAA has come up with a new vocabulary which we are urged to use to diminish shame and guilt when we are speaking about persons who find themselves somewhere on the AUD spectrum.

Research indicates that the words "abuse" and "abuser" are strongly associated with negative judgments and punishments. While it will be difficult to make these changes, I urge you to study the newer vocabulary below and practice how to speak about alcohol and persons who find themselves on the AUD spectrum. We, too, will be contributing to a more healthy community.

The NIAAA suggested vocabulary is:

- **Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD)**,...instead of *alcohol abuse*, *alcohol dependence*, and *alcoholism*,
- **Alcohol Misuse**,...instead of *alcohol abuse* when broadly speaking about drinking in a manner, situation, amount, or frequency that could cause harm to the person who is engaging in drinking or to those around him or her,
- **Person with Alcohol Use Disorder**,...instead of *alcoholic*,
- **Person in recovery** or **person in recovery from Alcohol Use Disorder**,...instead of *recovering alcoholic*,

*Continues on Page 2*

# Choosing Our Words Wisely!

Continued from Page 1

- **Person with Alcohol Use disorder**,...instead of *addict*, and
- **Person who misuses alcohol or person who engages in alcohol misuse**,...instead of *alcohol abuser or drunk*.

Additional suggested vocabulary for medical professionals includes:

- **Alcohol-associated liver disease (ALD)**,...instead of *alcoholic liver disease*. This nomenclature has been adopted officially in the field of alcohol research.
- **Alcohol-associated hepatitis**,...instead of *alcoholic hepatitis*,
- **Alcohol-associated cirrhosis**,...instead of *alcoholic cirrhosis*, and
- **Alcohol-associated pancreatitis**,...instead of *alcoholic pancreatitis*.

Dr. George F. Koob, Ph. D., the NIAAA Director, indicates that even though there is more evidence-based treatment options for AUD in our day than ever before, stigma is a factor which prevents some people from reaching out for help and from being treated with dignity. Understanding that AUD is a medical condition and choosing our words carefully when discussing alcohol-related problems is an important step toward changing the conversation and reducing stigma around AUD.

\* from an article on the niaaa website on April 27, 2022: <https://www.spectrum.niaaa.nih.gov/winter2022feature?>

## Spotlight on Bay County Prevention Network

MICAP President, Mike Tobias, recently talked with Barry Schmidt who is the coalition coordinator for the Bay County Prevention Network (BCPN). BCPN was founded in 1989. The mis-

sion of BCPN is “to engage, advocate, inform, and increase awareness for behavioral health issues through education, prevention and recovery.”

**MT:** Tell us about yourself.

**BS:** I am married, a lifelong resident of Bay County, and have been a prevention consultant in the state of Michigan since 1989. When I’m not working, I enjoy camping, spending time with family, and very involved with my church.

**MT:** Please tell us a few of the things that your organization has done to reduce substance use disorders in your community.

**BS:** As far as strategies to reduce underage drinking, we have implemented project Sticker Shock. Project Sticker Shock works with retailers to educate the public about the penalties associated for people that supply alcohol to minors. Stickers are placed on the glass alcohol display cases inside of stores with a warning to not supply alcohol to minors and to educate customers about the fines associated with doing so. Parents “Tips for Safe Parties” during graduation to parents/caregivers. We also provide responsible beverage service training to clerks that sell alcohol. We routinely participate in drug disposal takeback awareness days sponsored by the DEA and provide marijuana lock boxes to community members, so children don’t have access to marijuana. Other projects include working with local law enforcement to conduct alcohol compliance checks or commonly known as “sting operations” to ensure that stores aren’t selling alcohol to minors. We do presentations for parent and community groups on different drugs and on anti-stigma language.

**MT:** How can our readers get more information about your organization?

**BS:** They can visit our Facebook Page: Bay County Prevention Network or visit our website <https://www.bcpventionnetwork.com/> or call 989-316-4120.

## Legislative Updates as of 04/15/2022

- [HB4115](#) (Extending alcohol sales until 4:00 a.m.). Passed the House March 18, 2021. Pending in Senate Regulatory Reform.
- [HB4232](#) would allow an individual that is 17 years old to sell or serve alcoholic liquor. Currently an individual would have to be 18 years of age. This bill passed the House on December 7, 2021. Pending in Senate Regulatory Reform.
- [HB5387](#) would “With regard to issuing, denying, suspending, or revoking a (liquor) license under this act, the commission shall not consider a qualified violation if at least 2 years have elapsed since the act that resulted in the qualified violation.” Pending in House Regulatory Reform.
- [HB5595](#) would allow mixed spirit drink and spirit drink sales at farmers markets. Pending in House Regulatory Reform.
- [SB656](#) would allow bars and restaurants to put in self-service wall taps so customers can serve themselves alcohol. This would be for beer, wine, and mixed spirit drinks and could dispense up to 96 ounces. The bill passed the Senate on December 7, 2021. Pending in House Regulatory Reform.
- [House bills 5695, 5696, and 5726](#) would allow children age 16 to stock shelves with alcohol and create alcohol displays in alcohol licensees. These were introduced March 24 and are pending in Regulatory Reform.
- [HB5731](#) would allow certain veterans organizations to obtain an on-premises liquor license without regard to any local population restrictions. Pending in House Regulatory Reform.
- “[House Bills 5732, 5772, and 5773](#) would amend different acts to change the funding source for the Secondary Road Patrol and Training Fund...” would result in increased funding for county and local law enforce-

ment agencies and decreased revenue to the state’s general fund.” Passed the House 91-11 on April 13, 2022 and pending in Senate Appropriations.

## AADIF Welcomes New Board Members

Earlier this month, the AADIF Board of Directors voted unanimously to welcome two new additions to the group, strengthening our leadership and helping to accelerate our organizational priorities.

Janine Kravetz comes to AADIF / MICAP after an impressive career in the substance use disorder field, encompassing treatment, prevention and administration services. She was chair for various organizations and committees such as Michigan Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking, Bay County Prevention Network and the Domestic Violence Community Response Team, planning and facilitating numerous community programs.

Sharon Gllison is a life-long resident of Lansing, Michigan and has served her community on several Non-Profit Boards and agencies including: South Lansing Ministries, Regional March of Dimes, Co-op Credit Union, Earl Nelson Singers Company, Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU), Big Brothers Big Sisters, Greater Lansing Hospice, and YWCA of Lansing.

Please join us in welcoming these two remarkable additions. We are fortunate to have their passion and expertise at the table as we work together to mitigate the negative consequences of alcohol and drug use in Michigan.

## In Memory of Luke

The February 2021 MICAP RECAP featured an interview with Luke Holscher. We are saddened to report that Luke died of issues related to alcohol use in February 2022 at the age of 37. You may see his obituary at: <https://www.amosfamily.com/obituary/RyanLuke-Holscher>



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### Sobering Facts

- New CDC data show that excessive alcohol use was responsible for more than 140,000 deaths in the United States each year during 2015–2019, or more than 380 deaths per day.
- A record number of Michiganders died of alcohol-related causes in 2020, according to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).
- According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) between April 2020 and April 2021, an estimated 100,306 drug overdose deaths occurred in the United States, an increase of 28.5% from the 78,056 deaths that occurred during the prior year.