

SIG Lessons Learned Alert No. 2 – Mission Fragmentation Over Multiple State Agencies

Over 100 agencies, universities, and commissions comprise the South Carolina Executive Branch. The Executive Branch agencies, from all outward appearances, work well together in a supportive and collegial environment, and seem to seek out ways to collaboratively address issues. The SIG worked with five state agencies and three federal agencies, who demonstrated great passion on addressing the scourge of prescription drug abuse, a national epidemic, in South Carolina. The “lesson learned” in this review was each agency’s mission had a specific attack vector on the problem, but when the individual agencies’ operations were overlaid there were missing links to weave these individual missions into an overall optimal strategy. The informal task force of agencies looking into this issue was able to translate “lessons learned” from the drug abuse protocols of other state’s prescription drug abuse programs into a cohesive strategy for South Carolina. Small strategy changes to individual missions led to an integrated statewide strategy to focus more on the root causes for long term results.

Recommendation: Agency heads sharing concurrent venue in a common mission should consider reexamining each agency’s mission and operations to ensure an integrated alignment into an overall optimal strategy with a greater collective impact.