

Centers provide information on alcoholism and abuse

By Patti Gallagher

Two UNL-based centers on alcohol use and abuse do not strive to eliminate the use of alcohol, only to control it. Ian Newman, project director for the newest of the two programs said, "We can't stop drinking completely, we need to learn its proper use."

Newman is director of the Nebraska Center for Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention. The second center concerned with alcohol use is the Nebraska Alcohol Information Clearinghouse.

The Nebraska Center for Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention is new to UNL this fall. It differentiates between "alcohol abuse" and "alcoholism" because, according to Newman, "abuse is one level of use," and alcoholism is the result of a continued abuse."

The prevention center is not for use by individuals who are having problems with alcohol use. It serves as an educational outlet for other agencies seeking information on prevention of alcohol abuse, Newman said.

THE NEBRASKA CENTER of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention tries to develop a coherent philosophy and plan for prevention of alcohol abuse, to develop the project's informational service, and to be a technical adviser to others in the field.

Fund drive starts

Members of the UNL faculty and staff will begin soliciting contributions soon for United Way, according to Kent Schmidt, chairman of the campus campaign.

There will be an informational meeting today to begin the drive. A coordinating committee of 17 or 18 faculty members is charged with organizing the fund drive, which will last until Oct. 26 or 27.

"This fund drive only involves the faculty and staff," Schmidt said. "UNL students will have a separate drive in the spring."

Schmidt explained that each contributor can have his contribution automatically taken out of his paycheck or contribute directly when called on by a solicitor.

"We hope to reach at least 55 percent of the UNL staff," Schmidt said. "Our goal is to raise \$76,000."

United Way is a national community service organization that helps support human service groups by obtaining private contributions. About 26 such groups in Lincoln are supported either wholly or in part by the Lincoln United Way.

Schmidt emphasized that "UNL has received a lot of support from the community—we hope that it will return this support by contributions to United Way."

The center's information is made available to any agency or individual in need of its data.

Those who have sought the information from the center include public health services, social services, some Lincoln schools, and UNL students and staff for research purposes, Newman said.

Newman emphasized the fact that the information gained by members of the projects is helpful in their teaching. Because all members of both centers are instructors in the UNL Health Department, the material they compile for the center also is used in teaching their courses.

The Nebraska Center for Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention is funded by the State Department of Public Institutions, Division on Alcoholism. The center is under an annual contract, and will have to re-bid next year to operate again.

THE OFFICE IS located at 109 Coliseum, and is joined with the Nebraska Alcohol Information Clearinghouse (NAIC). Both centers serve to educate all residents of Nebraska.

The NAIC is the actual compiler of the information

available. According to Robin Darst, information specialist, the NAIC serves alcohol prevention agencies, humanitarian services, medical professionals, and educators.

Last year the NAIC gave out more than 88,000 pieces of information to these various agencies, Darst said. Newman estimated a 38,500 distribution during July, August and September this year. Newman also said that a tentative follow-up is planned to determine how useful the information has been, and how much "ends up in the trash can."

Information composed by the NAIC has been used widely to publish literature on alcohol abuse and its results.

A PAMPHLET ON drinking while pregnant (now required to be given to all couples who receive a marriage license), and a supplement to The Omaha World Herald during Alcoholism Action Week (August 6-11, 1979) are two major publications of the NAIC, according to Darst.

The NAIC will hold a free conference Nov. 12 and 13 in the Nebraska Union. It is entitled Dissemination and Utilization of Alcohol Information, and is open to all.

Both Newman and Darst encouraged any interested students to feel free to use both centers as an information source in paper-writing, background information, or for general, personal knowledge.

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