



The Extra Mile

Advocating for evidence-based policies and practices to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harms

Event Update: October 21st Recognition Dinner Postponed



Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the drastic rise in cases in Douglas County and across the country, we have made the difficult but necessary decision to postpone the Project Extra Mile Recognition Dinner. We are in the process of coordinating with speakers and venues, but our hope is to hold the event between late April and mid-May. Additional details will be forthcoming.

We are extremely disappointed to have to postpone our 25th anniversary celebration for the second time, but we hope you will plan to join us once it is safe to do so. We look forward to recognizing the amazing work of many to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harms!

If you have any questions, please reach out to our staff directly at 402-963-9047.

**Going the Distance:
NLLEA Provides Training and Resources to Agencies**



Carrie Christofes, executive director of the National Liquor Law Enforcement Association (NLLEA), a non-profit association of law enforcement personnel dedicated to enforcing liquor laws and regulations, presented during Project Extra Mile's coalition meeting in September.

Recent changes to state alcohol policies during the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted law enforcement's ability to monitor and enforce laws on alcoholic drinks-to-go, home delivery, and curbside pickup. Expanded consumer access to alcohol resulting from these policy changes has led to more challenges for communities working to prevent alcohol-related harms.

"There are concerns that those things are going unregulated, they are unchecked," said Deputy Mandy Peth of Douglas County Sheriff's Office.

In Nebraska, the Legislature passed [LB 274](#) despite an overwhelming amount of research demonstrating that increasing the availability of alcohol leads to excessive drinking and harms such as impaired driving, alcohol-related crimes, and high economic costs to taxpayers. The bill was signed by the governor on May 26th, 2021, and contains several provisions, including permanent allowances for liquor licenses to sell cocktails-to-go; to allow sales of alcohol to a person in a motor vehicle; and to lower the excise tax rate by 75% per gallon for ready-to-drink cocktails made from distilled spirits.

Alcohol compliance checks conducted in other states have shown high rates of non-compliance with alcohol being provided or sold to minors. NLLEA recently published a guidance document on [best practices for the enforcement of laws related to sales and delivery of alcohol](#) during and after the pandemic. The organization has created an additional resource intended to provide guidance on [best practices for the delivery of alcohol by Common Carriers](#) to ensure that alcohol is being delivered in compliance with specific state laws and statutes.

NLLEA is a member organization open to individuals and agencies involved in liquor law enforcement in the United States and Canada. For more information on the benefits of membership, visit the organization's [website](#).

Miles to Go:

Bar Cited for Delaying Law Enforcement Entry Into Business

Nearly 1 in 10 businesses cited for selling alcohol to minors in multi-county effort

During April, July and August, 28 (9%) out of 311 businesses checked across Cass, Dodge, Douglas, and Sarpy counties were cited for selling alcohol to minors during compliance check operations. A summary sheet

of the enforcement results and a full list of businesses checked are available by [clicking here](#).

In Douglas and Sarpy counties, 15 (8%) of 198 locations checked sold alcohol to minors, down from a 41% non-compliant rate when collaborative enforcement efforts began in 1997. Overall, fifteen minors with an average age of 17 years old participated in the six-day multi-county operation. Even though these minors are still years away from the legal drinking age, 68% of non-compliant businesses did not ask to see their IDs.



Two businesses cited are facing enhanced penalties due to prior sales to minors within the last four years -- the time frame used by the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission (LCC) to assess penalties. If found guilty, they will face mandatory days of closure (no alcohol sales allowed) and days of suspension, the latter of which can be paid off as a fine at \$100 per day, according to the [LCC's penalty guidelines](#). Those businesses include:

- **Buffalo Wild Wings 39, 205 N 76th St, Omaha (9/19)** -- facing up to 2 days of mandatory closure and 40 days of suspension;
- **Hunger Block, 11036 Elm St, Omaha (11/19)** -- facing up to 2 days of mandatory closure and 40 days of suspension.

During the recent operations, [Mel's Bar in Scribner was also cited](#) for delayed entry of law enforcement officers conducting the compliance checks.

"The concern [is] it will escalate into a violent situation either from the bar owner or a patron sitting there so we just tell them to call law enforcement but not to detain," Nebraska Liquor Control Commission (LCC) Executive Director Hobert Rupe told WOWT.

The [rules and regulations](#) of the LCC stipulate that no licensee shall refuse to permit or unreasonably delay in permitting any law enforcement officers, duly appointed investigator, inspector, agent or auditor of the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission entry onto the licensed premises at any time.

Fifty officers from seven agencies conducted the collaborative enforcement efforts, including Bellevue Police Department, Douglas County Sheriff's Office, La Vista Police Department, Nebraska State Patrol, Omaha Police Department, Papillion Police Department, and Plattsmouth Police Department.

Did You Know?

Webinar on COVID-19, Changing Alcohol Policy Landscape on September 29th

The Alcohol Action Network, a project of the American Public Health Association's Alcohol,

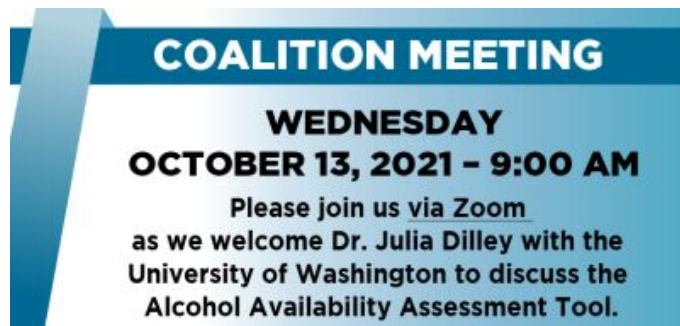


Tobacco, and Other Drug (ATOD) Section, is hosting a webinar later this month. Dr. Tim Naimi of the Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research (CISUR) and Dr. Aaron White of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) will discuss how the pandemic has impacted alcohol consumption and the alcohol policy landscape. To join the webinar, register in advance at <http://bit.ly/aanpresentation>.

Next Youth Leadership Network Meeting on October 14th

Do you know a young person who would like to learn more about civic engagement and other leadership opportunities to make a difference in their community? The Youth Leadership Network has resumed meetings on the **second Thursday of each month at 6 – 7 p.m.** The meetings are open to students in grades 8 -12 who have a desire to be a leader among their peers while working to prevent excessive alcohol use, including underage drinking. Students should [register in advance on our website](#) to let us know if they plan to attend in person at the UNO Community Engagement Center (room 205) or via Zoom. Please help us spread the word!

Join Us in October



COALITION MEETING
WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 13, 2021 - 9:00 AM
Please join us [via Zoom](#)
as we welcome Dr. Julia Dilley with the
University of Washington to discuss the
Alcohol Availability Assessment Tool.

Project Extra Mile's next coalition meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 13, at 9 a.m.** Please plan to join us as we welcome Dr. Julia Dilley of the University of Washington, who will share a new opportunity for community member

engagement as we assess how alcohol policies adopted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted Nebraska communities.

The coalition will meet via [Zoom](#), and you can join the meeting directly from our website page located [here](#). For more information, please contact info@projectextramile.org.

