

HOSPITALS FOR A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE REDUCTION ACTIVITIES AT THE HOSPITAL LEVEL

Presentation to the PPCP Webinar Series
November 8, 2006

H2E Program



- H2E goals for hospitals include:
 - Virtually eliminate mercury waste by year 2005
 - Reduce total waste volume by 33% by year 2005, by 50% by 2010
 - Identify and reduce PBT chemicals and other hazardous substances in hospitals through pollution prevention and waste reduction
- Currently, there are over 1200 Partners representing over 1400 hospitals in the network

Presentation Overview

- Two main parts:
 - Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E)-specific PPCP reduction
 - Other EPA efforts to address PPCPs

PPCP's in Hospitals – 1

- H2E first encountered this issue as we are promoting better RCRA compliance in hospitals
 - Many drugs are P- or U-listed wastes or controlled substances
 - Hospitals struggled to apply RCRA rules to proper disposal of PPCP's
 - Hospitals unsure how to properly dispose of PPCP's

PPCP's in Hospitals – 2

- As institutions, hospitals have better ability to minimize PPCP's than most
 - On-site pharmacies can reduce wastage
 - Reverse-distribution can help keep expired PPCP's out of waste stream
 - Access to red-bag waste disposal help ensure waste PPCP's can be incinerated

H2E Results So Far?

- PPCP training call was among the most popular for H2E
 - 442 participants in May 2006 call
- H2E award winner reported PPCP collection of 1800 lb in 2006

What H2E Has Done to Help? – 1

- Through the Innovations Grants Program and EPA Region 1, conducted pilot program for PPCP minimization in hospitals: “Managing Pharmaceutical Waste: A 10-Step Blueprint for Health Care Facilities in the United States”
- Final version of this document is available at: <http://www.envcapdocserver.org/h2e/h2epharmablueprint41506.pdf>.

Other EPA Efforts to Date – 1

- EPA Region 3 has funded PPCP in waste water treatment research grant in 2006
- EPA Region 3 also funded PPCP collection pilot in Philly area
- H2E & EPA Regions has provided speakers to discuss proper PPCP disposal and minimization

Other EPA Efforts to Date – 2

- Office of Children's Health Protection is reviewing grants for pilot PPCP collection program
- Collaboration of EPA, FDA, DEA, USGS, and other federal agencies drafting report on our current status & areas to pursue

Highlights and Lessons Learned
from the
2006 SF Bay Area's
Safe Medicine Disposal Days
sponsored by the
Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group

Karin D. North
City of Palo Alto

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History

Palo Alto started a collection program		DTSC and DHS do not regulate res. pharm. waste		SF Bay Area Disposal Days Event
	2003		2005	
2002	Spearheaded discussions with POTWs, HHW, DTSC, DHS, EPA, Water Board	2004	WMI White Paper on Sewering of Pharmaceutical Waste	2006

Overview

- Regional coordination through Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group
- Week of disposal events throughout the region during one week in May 2006
- “By the book” events with pharmacist and police involvement
- Publicity and media outreach coordinated regionally



Safe Medicine Disposal Days
Safer for your family, safer for the Bay

Flushing expired or unwanted medicine down the drain may harm San Francisco Bay. Wastewater treatment cannot remove all medicines, but with your help, local agencies are protecting the Bay.

Drop off expired or unwanted medicine during our
Safe Medicine Disposal Days, May 13-21, 2006!

For locations, dates and hours, visit
www.BayWise.org
or call 1-888-BayWise.

The fish will thank you!

Drop-offs at select locations in San Francisco, Palo Alto, Oakland, San Jose, Millbrae, Sausalito, San Leandro, Fremont, Mountain View, Belmont, Menlo Park and more!

BAY AREA POLLUTION PREVENTION GROUP 

Overview (continued)

- 23 agencies and organizations participated
- 38 collection events regionally
- 3,685 pounds collected from ~1500 residents
 - 9% controlled substances (median)
 - Palo Alto collected ~721 lbs



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Advertising and Media Assistance

- Extensive Advertising
 - Dedicated website (www.BayWise.org)
 - 65 newspaper ads in local and regional papers
 - >215,000 direct mailings
 - >30,000 flyers distributed
 - 320 transit ads
 - Radio PSAs
- Media Assistance
 - 5 press events
 - 10 newspaper articles
 - 4 radio interviews
 - 5 TV stations covered events



Newspaper Articles

- “Program aims to keep drugs out of bay”, San Jose Mercury News
- “Don’t dump old medicine in toilet”, San Francisco Chronicle
- “Drugs disposed of incorrectly could give Bay bad diagnosis”, Contra Costa Times
- “Flushed meds could spur a fishy situation” San Mateo County Times

Marketing Effectiveness

- Direct mail and flyers most effective
- Newspaper articles and ads effective
- Transit advertising – least effective and most expensive

Survey Results

- Past disposal practices
 - Half disposed of in trash
 - One quarter in the toilet
 - Rest HHW events or stockpiled
- Reasons for disposal
 - 74% stock piled medications for > 1 year
 - Most medications were expired/ out of date
- Majority of people who utilized the program were women over 60 years of age
- Typically disposed of 13 containers per person

Lessons Learned

- “By the (DEA) book” events are costly
 - Staff time - ~1,980 staff hours from 23 agencies
 - Pharmacist time – sorting/ counting controlled substances
 - Police involvement
- Police coordination very difficult
 - Some police departments were unwilling to participate
 - High homicide rates in some areas deem pharmaceutical disposal a low priority
- No security issues at 38 events
 - Less than 10% of medications controlled

Lessons Learned (continued)

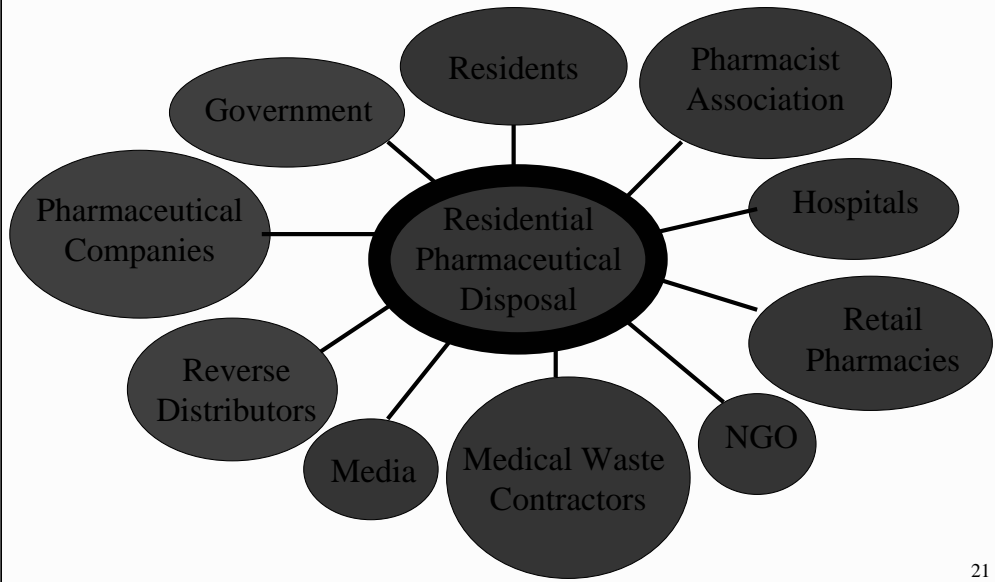
- Events appreciated and needed!
 - Residents wanted to know when another event would be held
 - Doctors offices disposed of expired samples
 - Pharmacists appreciated events because people drop off medications and run!
- Demand for proper disposal is high – need sustainable solution

Why was the Regional Campaign Successful?

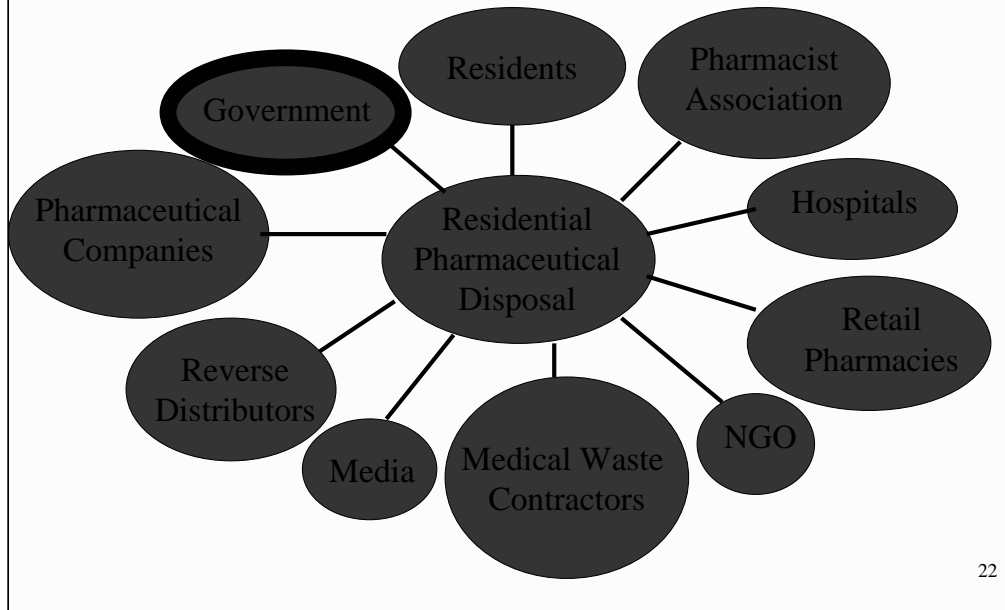


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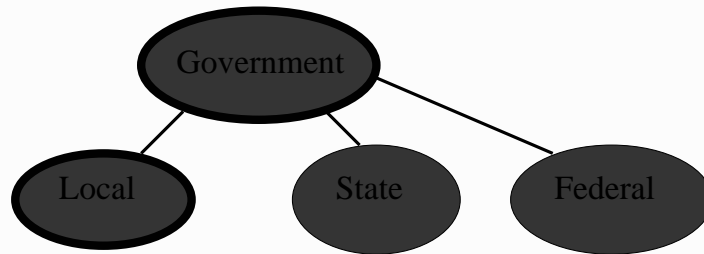
Multiple Stakeholders



Multiple Stakeholders

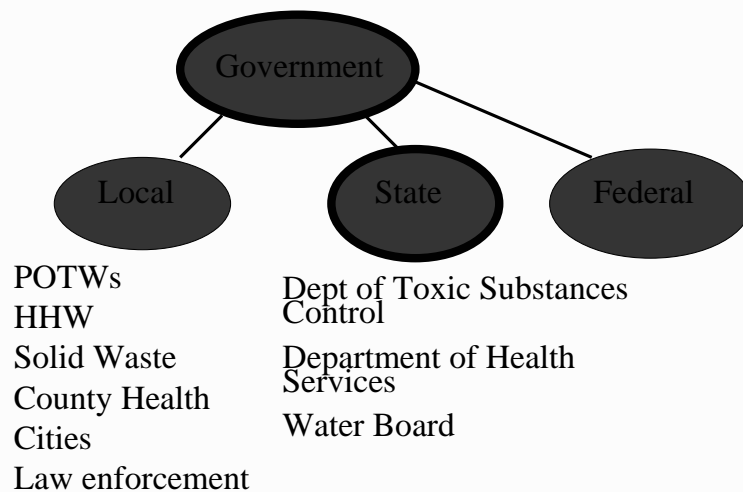


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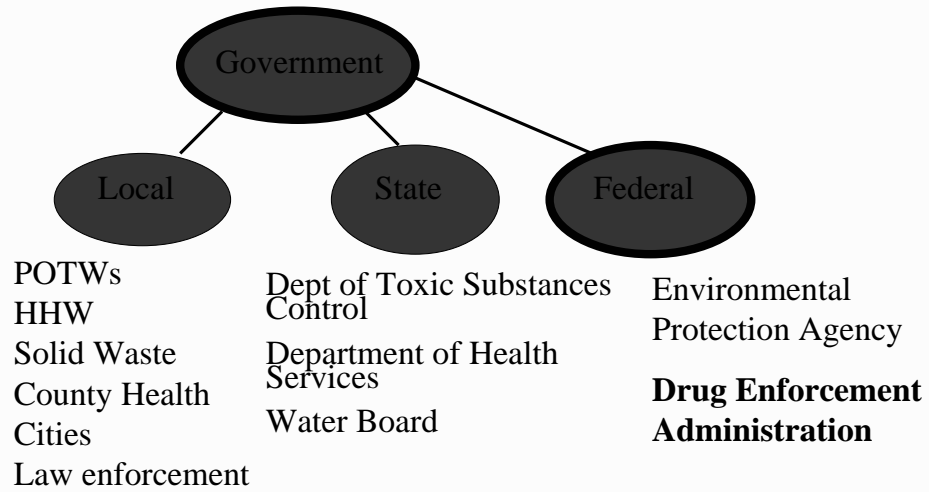


POTWs
HHW
Solid Waste
County Health
Cities
Law enforcement

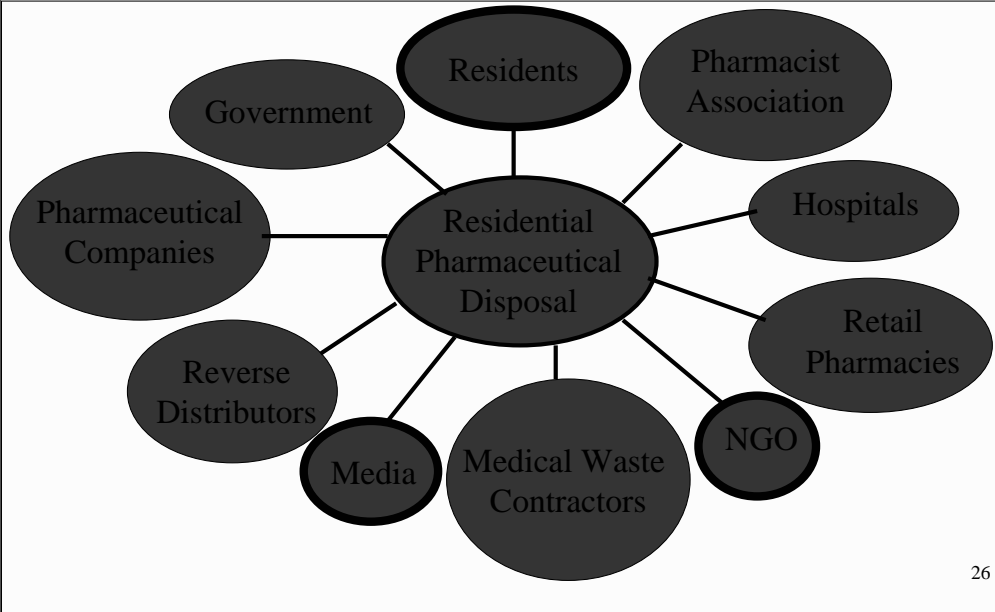
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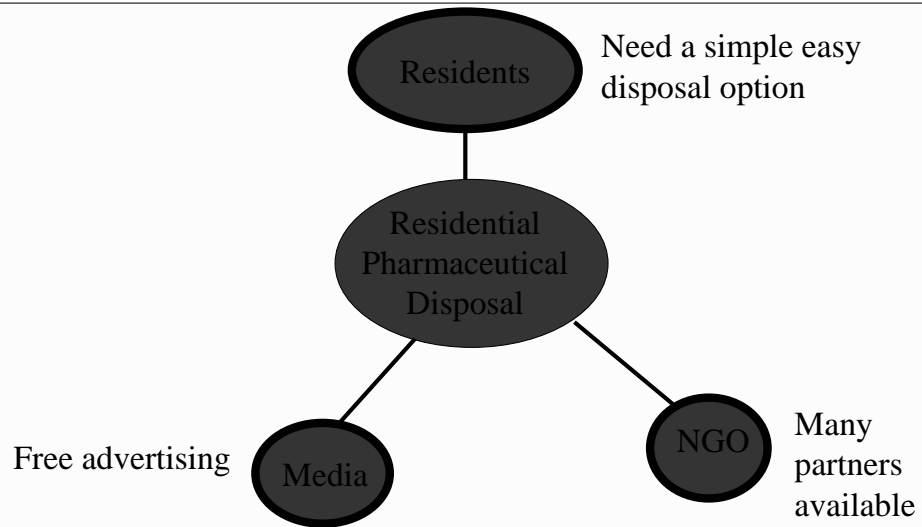
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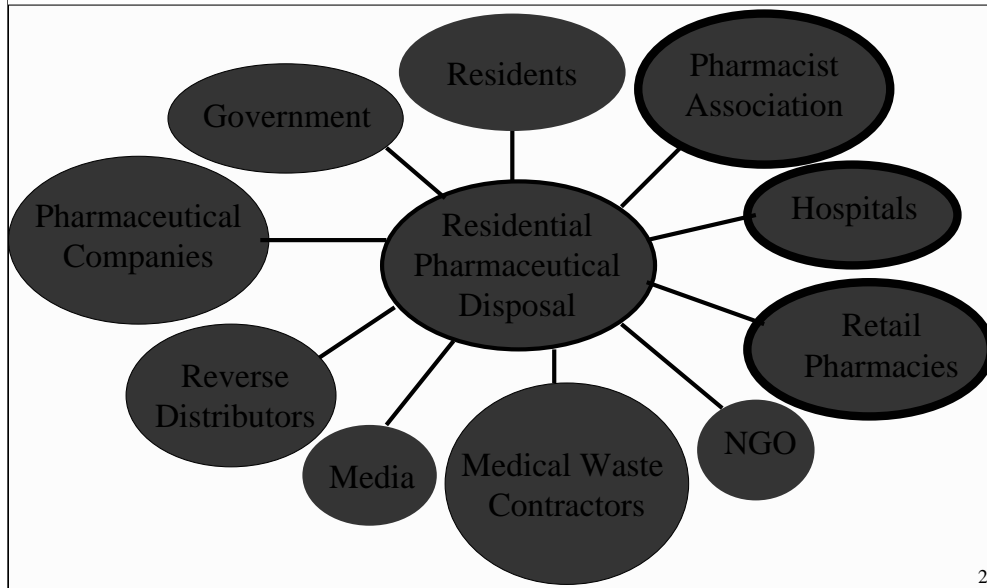
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Multiple Stakeholders

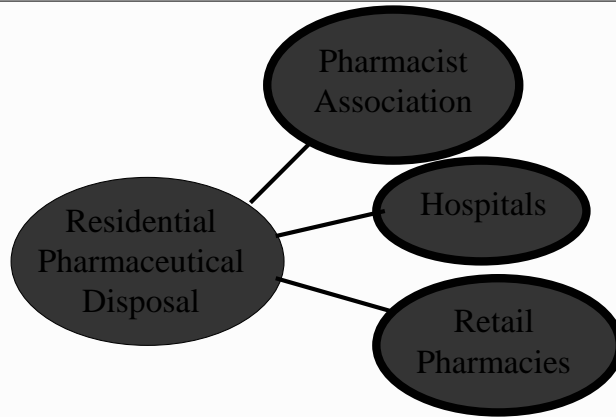


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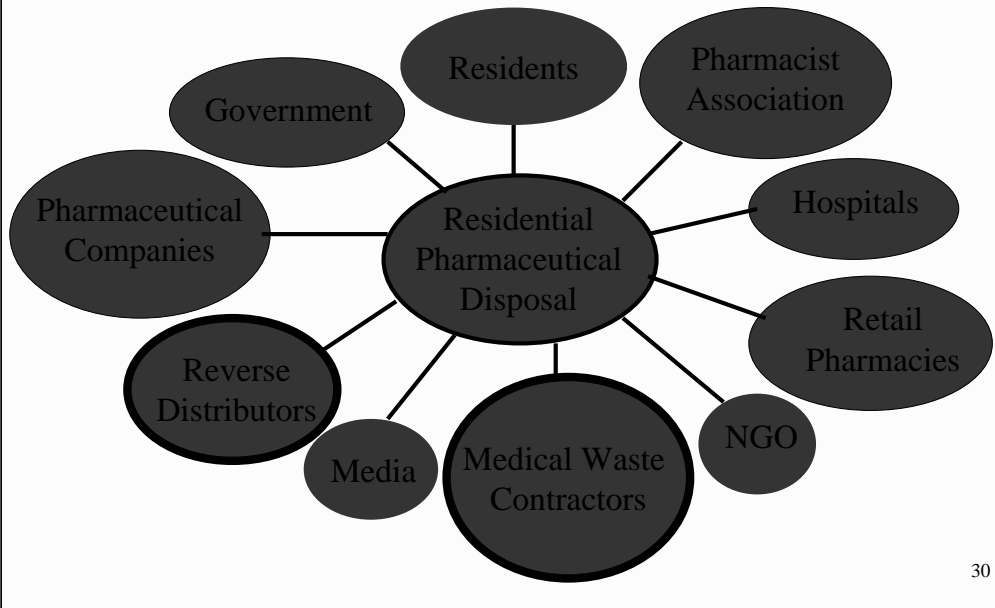
Powerful partners

Possible cost sharing

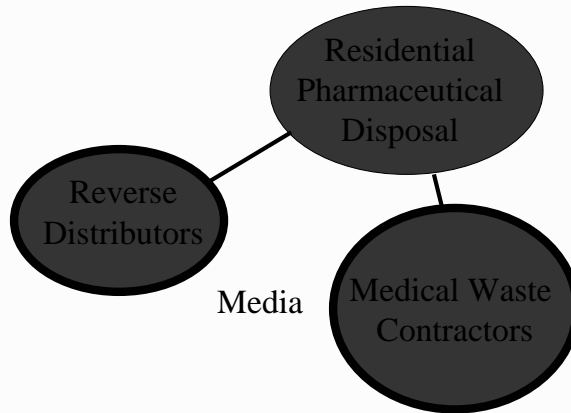
Have up-to-date
knowledge!



Multiple Stakeholders



Multiple Stakeholders

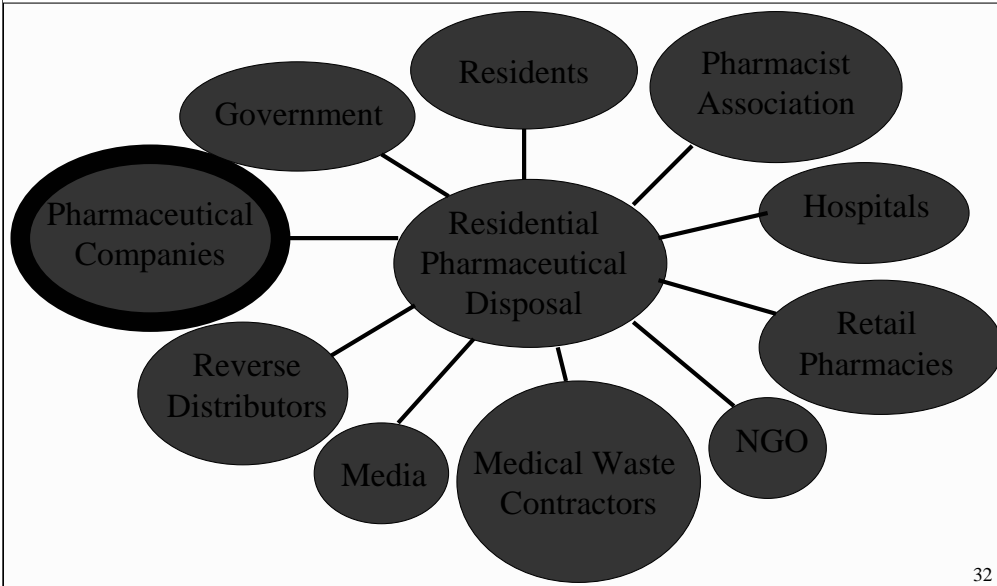


Essential for proper waste disposal

Extremely knowledgeable

Excellent partner

Multiple Stakeholders



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National Collaboration is Key!

- Work with pharmaceutical companies to craft solution
- Modify DEA Regulations
- Education is vital
- Many partner agencies available
- Develop funding alternatives

Contact Information

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Thank You

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