

## *Welcome & Opening Remarks*

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Last year, when the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention started its efforts to determine which managed care models perform best, we were convinced that by partnering businesses, neighbors, managed care organizations, universities, and research groups we could all gain from the process. In this context, the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention funded a cooperative agreement program and Workplace Managed Care Coordinating Center. Over the next two days we will begin to share our progress from our first year.

There is a popular saying, "Knowledge is power." But knowledge is not power unless it is used. We are here today to begin the process of examining and sharing our knowledge across fields.

We live in a dynamic time - the expansive changes in the U.S. health care system offer new opportunities for workplaces and private health care systems to provide substance abuse prevention and early intervention. Health care systems are continually being scrutinized and reorganized in an attempt to improve the quality of care provided while reducing the associated fees. Over the course of this conference, we will see how substance abuse prevention and early intervention can assist in doing both. We have what we hope will be a stimulating and thought-provoking two days planned for our search for better substance abuse prevention and early intervention strategies.

Our speakers focus on a variety of evaluation, intervention, and treatment aspects of workplace managed care, providing us with the opportunity to assess their efficacy and results. We have also made an effort to suggest future trends as results from early programs are evaluated. It is our hope that this conference stimulates your curiosity and interest and assists you in expanding current programs and establishing new ones.