



The Governor's Office of DRUG POLICY

VISION

To recognize alcohol, tobacco, and other drug misuse as serious social and public health issues, and by addressing them, to build a climate of health and wellness across Louisiana.

MISSION

To identify challenges around substance misuse, and to recommend programs, policies, and practices that sustain prevention, treatment, and enforcement efforts.

What the Office Does

The Office of Drug Policy carries out five core functions:

1. **Tracks the landscape.** Monitors drug trends, develops policy position statements for the Governor and Executive Team, and tracks relevant legislation.
2. **Runs the boards.** Manages day-to-day operations for five boards and commissions (detailed below).
3. **Implements the strategic plan.** Writes and regularly updates the Louisiana Substance Misuse Prevention Strategic Plan, the state's four-year plan, built on data.
4. **Supports federal funding.** Backs the federally funded LA Partnerships for Success III grant program, awarded to the Louisiana Department of Health's Office of Behavioral Health.
5. **Connects the dots.** Researches and educates on how substance misuse, mental health, and suicide intersect, to strengthen prevention efforts overall.

Staff

Dr. Shayla Polk, LCSW
Executive Director

Cortalya Muse, B.S., M.S.
Prevention Systems Manager

How the Boards Fit Together

The Office of Drug Policy oversees five boards and councils. Rather than operating as five separate, unrelated groups, they're organized in a hub-and-spoke structure: one board sits at the top and connects to four entities beneath it. Each of the four is established in statute and coordinates with and reports back to the Drug Policy Board.

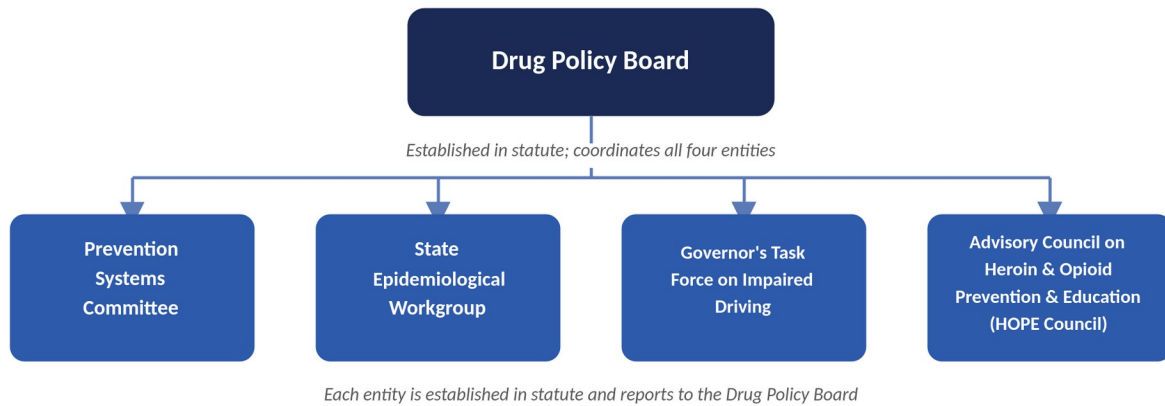


Figure 1. The Drug Policy Board and its four statutorily established entities.

The Hub: Drug Policy Board

Established by the Legislature in 1990 ([La. R.S. 49:219.1-4](#)), this is the oldest and senior-most entity. Chaired by Dr. Shayla Polk, LCSW of the Office of the Governor, its mission is to elicit, motivate, and coordinate the efforts of agencies and individuals across the state toward eradicating drug and alcohol misuse. Its 25-seat membership spans Governor's appointees, legislative appointees, and designees from state agencies (see the full roster on page 3).

Statutorily Established Entities

Each of the four entities below is established in statute and coordinates with and reports back to the Drug Policy Board:

Governor's Task Force on Impaired Driving

- **Chair:** Lisa Freeman, Louisiana Highway Safety Commission
- **Established:** Re-established by legislative act in 2026
- Address the high incidence of driving while impaired
- Address data collection and analysis on DWI conviction rates
- Address the prevalence of drivers refusing to submit to tests as directed by law enforcement and strategies to reduce such incidences
- Identify and implement effective DWI countermeasures

Advisory Council on Heroin & Opioid Prevention & Education (HOPE Council)

- **Chair:** Dr. de la Cruz, Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Behavioral Health
- **Established:** Legislative act in 2017 ([La. R.S. 49:219.5](#))
- Coordinate resources and expertise to assist in a statewide response to the opioid epidemic
- Responsible for establishing and updating an Interagency Heroin and Opioid Coordination Plan

State Epidemiological Workgroup (SEW)

- **Chair:** Dr. Emily George Tilley, MPA, LCSW-BACS, LAC, CFSW, SAP, O'Brien House
- **Established:** Standing Committee of the Drug Policy Board, March 2005; formalized within the Drug Policy Board Bylaws
- **Mission:** Identify, collect, analyze, and disseminate consumption and consequence data related to substance use from state and national sources
- Prioritize available data for substance misuse prevention needs
- Facilitate data-driven communication and decision making

Prevention Systems Committee (PSC)

- **Co-Chairs:** David Alvarez, La Voz de la Comunidad & Dr. Murelle Harrison, Gardere Initiative
- **Established:** Standing Committee of the Drug Policy Board, January 2006; formalized within the Drug Policy Board Bylaws
- **Mission:** Encourage standards for programs, policies, and practices for substance misuse prevention
- Support workforce development for the substance misuse and behavioral health prevention field
- Develop a stronger infrastructure for substance misuse prevention

In short: the Drug Policy Board sets the overall direction and brings everyone to the table, while each of the four statutorily established entities carries out focused, specialized work in its area.

Drug Policy Board Membership

The Drug Policy Board has 25 seats, each tied to a specific agency, appointing authority, or qualification rather than to an individual by name. All 25 seats are currently filled. The seats are:

Ex Officio (Agency Heads or Designees)	
1	The Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.
2	The Secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections or his designee.
3	The Superintendent of State Police or his designee.
4	The Secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services or his designee.
5	The Executive Director of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement or his designee.
6	The Superintendent of Education or his designee.
7	The Commander in Chief of the National Guard or his designee.
8	The Attorney General or his designee.
9	A representative of a federal agency with responsibilities in alcohol and drug abuse education, treatment, or prevention.
10	The Commissioner of Alcohol and Tobacco Control or his designee.
11	The Director, or his designee, of the Office of Drug Policy within the Office of the Governor.
12	A member of the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission.
13	A member of the Board of Pharmacy.
14	A representative of the Board of Regents specializing in collegiate recovery education and behavioral health services.
15	An individual who has been in recovery for at least five years and is actively engaged in substance use prevention and peer support efforts.
Legislative Appointees	
16	A member of the House Committee on Health and Welfare as designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
17	A member of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare as designated by the President of the Senate.
Governor's Appointees	
18	A representative of a private or nonprofit organization located within this state providing substance use education, treatment, and prevention.
19	The President or a representative of the District Attorneys Association.
20	The Director of the Louisiana Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court Office or his designee.
21	The President or a representative of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.
22	A representative of the indigent defender system.
23	A district court judge.
24	A representative from the alcohol industry.
25	A physician representing substance misuse treatment or substance misuse prevention.