



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

EXECUTIVE ORDER 003-2022

**AN ORDER TO ESTABLISH THE
COMPREHENSIVE SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNCIL**

Section 1: Authority

This executive order is hereby issued in accordance with the powers and authority granted to the Governor by Article IV, Sections 6 and 7 of the Revised Constitution of American Samoa, and the American Samoa Code Annotated, Section 4.0111 (b).

Section 2: Preamble

WHEREAS, illegal drug use and substance abuse have a significant impact on those who are addicted, their families, and the Territory of American Samoa; and

WHEREAS, our strategy to respond to substance abuse must be based on evidence and take into consideration the culture of American Samoa and the communities that live in the Territory; and

WHEREAS, government action requires participation of senior government leaders and frontline staff who directly interact with those impacted by substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, substance abuse is a difficult problem to address that requires flexibility and openness to new ideas; and

WHEREAS, American Samoa is participating in the National Governors Association Policy Academy on Stimulant and Polysubstance Use in order to seek new ideas; and

WHEREAS, a new approach to solving substance abuse problems will be achieved through an effort coordinating **education, enforcement, and treatment.**

NOW THEREFORE, I, LEMANU P. S. MAUGA, Governor of American Samoa, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Constitution of American Samoa and the American Samoa Code Annotated, hereby execute this order.

Section 3: Establishment

- (a) There is established a Comprehensive Substance Abuse Council (Council) which will:
- (1) Coordinate their agencies' activities to eliminate substance abuse in American Samoa;
 - (2) Seek stakeholders in the government and the community to address substance abuse issues;
 - (3) Develop policies that reduce the effect of illegal drug use and substance abuse on families and children; and
 - (4) Provide advice to the Governor on legislation and activities that are designed to reduce or eliminate substance abuse in American Samoa;
- (b) The Council will consist of the following:
- (1) Lieutenant Governor, who shall chair the Council
 - (2) Secretary of Samoan Affairs
 - (3) Attorney General
 - (4) Commissioner of Public Safety
 - (5) Warden of the Bureau of Corrections
 - (6) Treasurer
 - (7) Director of Education
 - (8) Director of Health
 - (9) Director of Homeland Security
 - (10) Director of Human and Social Services
 - (11) Director of Port Administration
 - (12) Department of Youth and Women's Affairs
 - (13) Chief Executive Officer of the American Samoa Medical Center Authority (LBJ)
 - (14) Director of the Criminal Justice Planning Agency
 - (15) Director of the State Medicaid Agency
 - (16) Chief of Staff to the Governor
 - (17) Chief Legal Counsel to the Governor
 - (18) Three members at-large members who are appointed by the Governor for a term of one year and may include representatives of private business, non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, or consumers.
- (c) Council members who are directors may designate an employee to serve in their place.
- (d) The Council shall meet no less than once per quarter and shall have one annual town hall-style meeting that will be open to the public.

- (e) The Council shall be supported by the following organizations:
 - (1) The Governor’s Drug Control Office will provide staff support for the Council.
 - (2) The Substance Use Policy Working Group that is currently participating in the National Governor’s Association Policy Academy on Stimulant and Polysubstance Use will provide policy advice to the Council.
 - (3) The Fusion Center established by Executive Order 005-2017 shall provide intelligence support to the Council by providing information on drug trends, provided that no criminal intelligence information shall be disclosed in a manner inconsistent with 28 C.F.R. § 23.20 (e).
- (f) Additionally, the Council shall organize working groups of operational staff from multiple agencies and organizations to promote interagency cooperation.
 - (1) The working groups shall include, at a minimum
 - (A) Education and outreach;
 - (B) Enforcement and investigation; and
 - (C) Treatment and rehabilitation.
 - (2) The Council may form other working groups as it sees fit.
 - (3) Working groups are encouraged to have annual town hall meetings that are open to the public.
- (g) Minutes of all meetings of the Council and its working groups will be submitted to the Governor; provided that no information that may compromise an ongoing investigation will be included in any minutes.

Section 4: Flexibility

The approaches that are recommended or implemented by the Comprehensive Substance Abuse Council and their supporting working groups will change as we determine what does and does not work as we confront substance abuse. All members are encouraged to be open and creative as they develop new solutions.

Section 5: Repealer

This Order supersedes Executive Order No. 003-2003 and General Memorandum Numbers 36-1987 and 103-2017.

Section 6: Effective Date

This order shall take effect immediately.

Date: May 12, 2022



Lemanu P. S. Mauga
Governor of American Samoa