



December 2007

Dear colleagues,

2007 has been exciting year for NIATx. Our first national conference, the NIATx Summit, brought us together to learn from each other as we had in earlier Learning Sessions. The Summit also set the stage for new initiatives such as the ACTION Campaign, NIATx 200, and the Communities of Commitment.

The ACTION Campaign is well on its way to recruiting 500 new agencies to adopt the key changes that improve access to and retention in treatment. ACTION Campaign partners and participants join the growing NIATx community in making a difference in the lives of those who suffer from substance abuse disorders. If you have not already, you can join the Campaign today by visiting [www.actioncampaign.org](http://www.actioncampaign.org).

NIATx 200, also launched in 2007, is our first randomized trial and will yield important information on the cost-effectiveness of different components of the NIATx model. (See accompanying article.)

More than 30 organizations joined the NIATx Communities of Commitment, which challenges participants to apply the NIATx model to create organizational cultures where everyone teaches, everyone leads, and everyone learns. Look forward to reports on their progress in this year-long pilot program.

The Strengthening Treatment Access and Retention-State Initiative (STAR-SI) and Advancing Recovery (AR) initiatives made significant gains while building new models for organizational change. As they activate exciting state payer/provider partnerships, these projects are extending process improvement from individual providers to larger systems. Both programs demonstrate that incremental improvements *can* transform complex systems.

In 2007, we introduced the *NIATx Workbook*, an introduction to the NIATx model of process improvement. The Business Case series, also introduced in 2007, shows the financial benefits of process improvement—a top priority for our expanding community.

The year ahead promises more unique opportunities—among them, the joint NIATx/SAAS conference. **I look forward to seeing you in Orlando on June 22–25!** This joint conference promises to inspire and entertain you with nationally recognized keynote speakers, hands-on learning, and networking with your colleagues from across the country. Visit [niatx.net](http://niatx.net) regularly for updates and information.

From all the staff at the NIATx National Program Office, best wishes of the season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Gustafson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "D".

Dave Gustafson  
Director