

June 9, 2015

DIRECTIVE:	JOB CORPS INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 14-43
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TO: ALL JOB CORPS NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS
ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS
ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS, AND CTS CONTRACTORS

FROM: LENITA JACOBS-SIMMONS
National Director
Office of Job Corps

SUBJECT: Overview of Potential Risks of Palcohol, a Powdered Alcohol, in the Job Corps Community

1. Purpose. To assist centers in preparing for the release of powdered alcohol, which may start appearing on store shelves as soon as the summer of 2015, under the brand name Palcohol.¹ This notice is to provide information to center staff in light of Palcohol's recent Federal approvals. There is much media coverage but limited credible resources regarding this new and concerning product.²

2. Background. The Food and Drug Administration approved Palcohol's non-alcohol ingredients for sale March 10, 2015. The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) formally approved the Palcohol formulation and labels March 11, 2015.³ The official Palcohol Web site indicates the product could appear on store shelves by this summer.

Palcohol will have two versions, a premium vodka version and a Puerto Rican rum version, which will be sold in white powder form. Each 4" x 6" packet will contain the equivalent of 5 ounces of alcohol, and weigh approximately one ounce. Additionally, three cocktail flavors will be available: Cosmopolitan; Powderita (a margarita); and Lemon Drop. The product will come with instructions to add 6 ounces of mixer or water to the contents of the packet.

¹ Palcohol (2015). Retrieved April 13, 2015 from: www.palcohol.com

² US Food and Drug Administration. (2015). FDA Clarifies Its Role on "Palcohol". Retrieved April 13, 2015 from: <http://www.fda.gov/Food/IngredientsPackagingLabeling/FoodAdditivesIngredients/ucm438163.htm>

³ CBS News (2015). "Palcohol" powdered alcohol wins federal approval. Retrieved April 13, 2015 from: <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/palcohol-powdered-alcohol-wins-federal-approval/>

A review of the Web site publications finds limited credible sources of information regarding this product, and much speculation. Media outlets raise concerns about the potential for abuse and the availability for minors.

The official Palcohol Web site dismisses concerns that Palcohol will be abused more so or differently from liquid alcohol, indicating the product cannot be snorted or used to spike someone's drink because of the powder's properties. Further, it states the product will be subject to the same regulations as liquid alcohol, and that selling Palcohol to minors will be illegal.

Despite the company's assurances, states have moved to legislate the product. Alaska, Colorado, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, South Carolina, and Vermont have already banned powdered alcohol, or have pending legislation to do so.

It is unclear how Job Corps students may be impacted by this recent Federal approval. Students may attempt to sneak Palcohol onto centers. Staff who could readily identify a liquor bottle may overlook a package of Palcohol. Like any of the other recent substance-related trends, including synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones (bath salts), the key will be providing education and information to students and staff about this substance as data becomes available.

3. Action. It is recommended staff members are provided with training on how to identify Palcohol, and respond appropriately. Webinars will be provided in the near future.

Addressees are to ensure this Information Notice is distributed to all appropriate staff.

4. Expiration Date. Until superseded.

5. Inquiries. Inquiries should be directed to Carol Abnathy at (202) 693-3283 or via e-mail at abnathy.carol@dol.gov; or Johnetta Davis at (202) 693-8010 or via e-mail at davis.johnetta@dol.gov.