



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Fourth District  
Department No.:  
For Agenda Of: January 23, 2007  
Placement: Set Hearing  
Estimated Tme: 30 min. on 2-13-07  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Board Member(s) Fourth District Supervisor Joni Gray  
737-7700  
Contact Info: Kathy Gallagher, Director, Social Services Department 681-4451  
Al Rodriguez, Assistant Director, Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health  
Services 681-5442

**SUBJECT: Methamphetamine Prevention Network Summit Report**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Other Concurrence:** N/A

As to form: Select\_Concurrence

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

Set a hearing for February 13, 2007 to consider recommendations regarding the Methamphetamine Prevention Network Summit Report:

1. Accept a report on the Methamphetamine Prevention Network Summit;
2. Support the creation of a Methamphetamine Prevention Network to continue to refine and ultimately implement strategies to combat methamphetamine, which will include representatives of stakeholder groups;
3. Designate a member of the Board of Supervisors, and/or their designee as alternate, to serve as liaison to the Network;
4. Endorse the creation of a part-time Project Manager position within the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services Department, within existing budget allocation, to serve as staff to the Network;
5. Endorse the development of a countywide coordinated data system to facilitate measurement and monitoring of outcomes, in concert with the County Executive Office and General Services;
6. Encourage cities within the County to:
  - a. Designate a member of the City Council and/or appropriate staff to serve on the Network;
  - b. Contribute resources to coalitions in support of their local efforts.

**Summary Text:**

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors requested information about the impacts of methamphetamine (meth) on the county after departments reported that services were being strained, and circumstances such as county jail overcrowding, waiting lists for detoxification and increasing caseload for child welfare services were attributed, in part, to meth abuse. Subsequently, the Methamphetamine Prevention Network Summit was organized by the Inter-Agency Policy Council (IAPC) and various stakeholder groups, and held on December 14, 2006. This report summarizes the results of the Summit and recommendations to be considered by the Board of Supervisors.

**Background:**

Meth has been identified as a significant problem facing the County of Santa Barbara with broad consequences affecting individuals, families, communities and many branches of government. Meth:

- is a powerfully addictive stimulant and is associated with serious health conditions, including memory loss, aggression, violence, psychotic behavior (such as paranoia, hallucinations, repetitive motor activity), and potential heart and neurological damage. \*
- contributes to increased transmission of infectious diseases, especially hepatitis and HIV/AIDS. \*
- has long lasting effects: 50% of cocaine is removed from the body in 1 hour; 50% of meth is removed in 12 hours. \*
- is known by a variety of street names including speed, crank, crystal, CR, vitamin C, ice, go-fast.
- is cheaper than cocaine or heroin, therefore affordable to more people.
- can be easily manufactured in anyone's garage, at a great profit and its production leaves five pounds of waste, often toxic, for every pound of meth produced.
- Most meth users in Santa Barbara County are young adults: 64% of those in publicly funded treatment between 2004-2006 were between the ages of 21-40.
- In 2005, 78% of drug-related bookings to Santa Barbara County Juvenile Halls were for meth.
- Approximately half (52%) of the approximately 300 children in out-of home placement on July 1, 2006 in Santa Barbara County were removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect resulting from parental use of methamphetamine.
- Fortunately, some of the effects of chronic methamphetamine abuse appear to be, at least partially, reversible. Certain forms of drug treatment have been shown to be effective in reducing methamphetamine abuse. \* In Santa Barbara County, 46-58% of youth and 53-63% of adults (rates vary by region) successfully completed treatment for methamphetamine abuse from publicly-funded treatment programs in FY 05-06 (as defined by Federal Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration).

A report outlining the available data about meth, compiled by the County Executive Office along with other County departments, was provided to the Board in December 2006. Numerous grassroots, community and official efforts have been undertaken in an effort to minimize the impacts associated with meth use. The Santa Barbara County IAPC, made up of the Directors of Social Services, Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health, Probation, Housing and Community Development, Public Health and Child Support Services Departments, hosted the Santa Barbara County Methamphetamine Prevention Network Summit on December 14, 2006. Planning for the Summit involved representatives from: AEGIS Medical Systems; Fighting Back – Santa Maria; Good Samaritan Services, Inc.; Zona Seca, Inc; Lompoc Police Department; Sheriff's Department.

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\* National Institute on Drug Abuse. Research Report Series -Methamphetamine Abuse and Addiction.  
<http://www.drugabuse.gov/ResearchReports/methamph/methamph3.html#DIFFERENT>

The Summit was envisioned as one in a series of phases to achieve collaboration among stakeholders and to maximize the effectiveness of available resources. The Summit was attended by 125 representatives from community groups, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), recovering residents and family members, schools, elected officials, County and City law enforcement, and social services agencies. The Summit's theme was "From Me to We" and the goals included: 1) Identify and agree on inter-agency goals and strategies; 2) Prioritize evidence-based strategies that fit Santa Barbara County; 3) Agree on an infrastructure to support achieving the goals and implementing strategies. A report entitled "From Me to We: Report of the Methamphetamine Prevention Network Summit" provides detail about the day's events and outlines plans for the future.

Several recurring themes emerged during the Summit, as participants reiterated the need for the following: improved collaboration, coordination and communication of all affected individuals, businesses and agencies, both public and private; build upon the efforts of existing local anti-drug community coalitions; increase the availability of information and coordinated data collection in order to facilitate measurement of the actual impacts of this and other issues as they recur; development of strategies for effective public outreach to communities and citizens across the county.

At the conclusion of the Summit, agreement was reached on the need to assemble a group (or Network) to continue to develop the strategies identified during the Summit, explore other potential strategies, and subsequently oversee their implementation. Additional goals of this Network would be to: establish subcommittees to focus on the three areas emphasized during the Summit (Educated Communities & Professionals; Meth Free Families & Children; Safe Neighborhoods); conduct additional public forums to solicit feedback from the community; establish outcome measures and collect and report data measuring progress on the measures. It was agreed that a Planning Team would convene in order to define the scope, membership and responsibilities of this Network which would include a leadership body to guide the Network's efforts, possibly modeled after the Leadership Council for the 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. The Board will receive an update on the Planning Team's progress at the hearing of February 13, 2007. In addition, regional bilingual and culturally appropriate town hall meetings will be conducted throughout the spring of 2007 as part of a plan to involve local citizens and professionals from different communities across the county with particular attention to under-represented groups.

### **Recommendations:**

The recommendations in the report would enhance current efforts in combating meth in a number of ways. The Board can provide support to the proposed Network through endorsement of the Network, endorsement of a Project Manager and designation of a Board liaison. In addition, the development of a coordinated data system would facilitate improvement in departments' ability to measure and track outcomes related to meth abuse. Furthermore, enlisting the support of city governments within Santa Barbara County will be beneficial in achieving their cooperation and buy-in as well as providing additional support to existing local coalitions and agencies that will implement the strategies. In summary, the Summit presented a unique opportunity to bring together community leaders toward the mutual goal of mitigating the destructive impacts of meth within Santa Barbara County.

### **Performance Measure:**

Approval of the recommended actions will assist in meeting the following Performance Measures:

- ADMHS will hold a minimum of eight town hall meetings during FY 06-07, in English and Spanish, to further educate the community about meth and strategies to reduce its use.

Any measures will be developed by the Network to adequately reflect the specific strategies they select to implement and the Board will be updated as the measures evolve. The following performance measures are preliminary and illustrate the nature of outcomes that may ultimately be employed:

- Reduction in the number of out-of-home placements of children prompted by meth use;
- Reduction in the number of drug-exposed children cases that occur;
- Reduction in jail recidivism rate for meth offenders;
- Reduction in meth-related bookings to juvenile halls.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

No additional funds are being requested.

**Staffing Impacts:** No additional positions are being requested at this time. In the future, one additional part-time position is requested and is to be included in the ADMHS budget, and funded by ADMHS and other IAPC agencies.

**Special Instructions:**

Please send one (1) copy of the minute order to:

Fourth District Office  
Supervisor Joni Gray &

Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health Services  
ATTN: Christina Toma, ADP Analyst  
300 N. San Antonio Road Bldg. 1  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

**Attachments:**

Report of the Methamphetamine Prevention Network Summit

**Authored by:**

Christina Toma, Departmental Analyst

**cc:**

County Executive Office  
Child Support Services Department  
General Services Department  
Housing & Community Development  
Probation Department  
Public Health Department