

From Me to We:

A Report on the Collaborative Effort to Reduce Methamphetamine

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Methamphetamine is...

- A powerfully addictive stimulant
- Known as *meth*, *speed*, *crank*, *crystal*, *CR*, *vitamin C*, *ice*, *go-fast*, *chalk* and *glass*
- Associated with serious health conditions*
- Cheap and easy to produce*
- Used most commonly by adults: in Santa Barbara County, 64% of those in publicly funded treatment 2004-2006 were between the ages of 21-40**
- Certain forms of drug treatment have been shown to be effective in reducing methamphetamine abuse.*

* National Institute on Drug Abuse. Research Report Series – Methamphetamine Abuse and Addiction

** Santa Barbara County Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health Services.



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Meth Impacts: Santa Barbara County

- Children are impacted ...
 - Roughly 60% of all substance abuse related child welfare cases involve meth
 - In 2005, 78% of drug-related bookings to Juvenile Hall were for meth
- Individuals & Families are impacted...
 - Adult admissions to treatment for meth abuse continue to rise
 - Meth use is expanding across all ethnic groups compared to other drugs
- Communities are impacted...
 - Trafficking and associated crime is increasing
 - Threat to public health and environment

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Community Efforts...

- Community Forums, Presentations, *Trainings*:
 - *Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley*
 - *Fighting Back Santa Barbara*
 - *Carpinteria Cares for Youth*
 - *Sheriff's Department*
 - *ADMHS*
- Support Groups:
 - *Lompoc Parents*
- Policy Changes:
 - *District Attorney's Office Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Protocol*
 - *ADMHS Research-based treatment curriculum*

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- Need for Collaboration, Coordination & Communication
- Summit: Methamphetamine Prevention Network
 - Developed strategies to address meth
 - Reinforced interrelationship between Prevention, Treatment and Law Enforcement
 - Found a need for better data collection
 - Emphasized outreach and education



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Methamphetamine Prevention Network



Leadership Council (21 members)

- 15 Coalition Representatives
- 6 Countywide Agency Representatives

Task Force #1:

Educated
Communities &
Professionals

Task Force #2:

Meth-Free
Individuals,
Children &
Families

Task Force #3:

Safe
Neighborhoods



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Actions and Outcomes

- Launch Network Leadership Council to implement strategies
- Outcomes
 - Reduction in drug-exposed children cases
 - Reduction in out-of-home placements of children attributed to meth
 - Reduction in babies born with exposure to meth in utero
 - Increase in engagement of traditionally under-represented groups
 - Reduction in the jail recidivism rate
 - Adoption of policies or legislation to reduce barriers



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Recommendations

- Support the creation of the Methamphetamine Prevention Network;
- Designate a BOS member and/or their designee as alternate, to serve as liaison to the Network;
- Endorse the creation of a part-time Project Manager position within ADMHS to staff the Network;
- 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;
- Encourage cities within the County to:
 - Designate a member of the City Council and appropriate staff to serve on the Network;
 - Contribute resources to their local coalitions as they implement the strategies.



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