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.

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



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



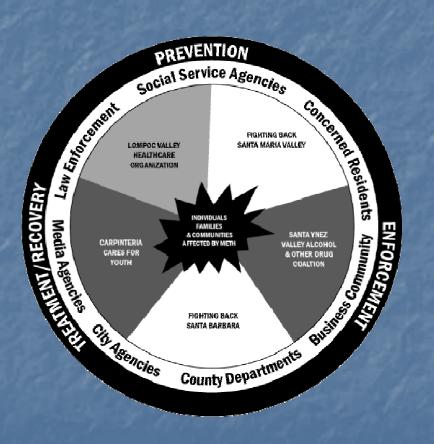
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- Need for Collaboration, Coordination & Communication
- Summit: Methamphetamine Prevention Network
 - Developed strategies to address meth
 - Reinforced interrelationship between Prevention, Treatment and Law Enforcement
 - Found a need for better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





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

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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