

NORTHEAST VALLEY COALITION AGAINST METHAMPHETAMINE Planning Meeting Summary October 26, 2006

I. Welcome & Opening Remarks

Brent Stockwell welcomed participants and thanked them for attending. Participants introduced themselves and the organization they represented. Brent gave an overview of the coalition and its purpose. The current focus is to complete the needs assessment by the end of the year.

II. Coalition Announcements

Brent announced that the State has extended the Phase I grant to March 31st. The Phase II grant will commence on April 1, 2007 and will be non-competitive. There will be a statewide meeting in January and 3-5 people from each coalition will attend. The State will be creating statewide goals to be used by all of the coalitions. These should be available by the end of January.

III. Presentation By Orlando Alcorido, Director of Training/Education, PMT Ambulance and Capt. Sean Newton, City of Scottsdale Fire Department

Orlando Alcorido spoke about the hazards faced by EMS responders in relation to methamphetamine in the community. The first priority for EMS is scene safety. The ambulance does not have the protective suits the Fire Department has. They don't know what they are going into until they see and smell the environment. The environment where meth is being cooked is highly flammable and highly toxic. Some labs have deliberately set booby traps for EMS and law enforcement personnel.

The physical and behavioral symptoms of meth use may mimic medical conditions. The EMS worker has to be careful not to stereotype because the person may not be using meth. The common signs include delusion, paranoia, fast or slow heart rate, hypertension, diaphoresis, seizures, hypotension and dysrhythmias. The person is already paranoid and now sees a group of people in uniforms that all look the same coming toward him. Law enforcement is needed to secure scene safety. The person may also be taking more than one drug, which further complicates the issue.

Captain Sean Newton indicated that the number of meth cases impacts response times. Instead of four minutes, it's six minutes. Though the demographics of a meth user can be in any group of people, there are certain areas of the City that see more meth use than others. Some users took the drug intentionally and some took it unintentionally. Nobody knows the long term effects of the chemicals on innocent neighbors.

Because of the hazards, crews use crew resource management when responding to a call. The crew deals with a lot of ambiguity at the scene so everyone must be alert and looking for signs of what they are dealing with. Any crew member can say stop at any time and everyone stops. It doesn't rely on rank to decide.

Another trend the hospitals are seeing is teens and young adults having massive heart attacks. Scottsdale Healthcare is now conducting urine drug screens in these cases to verify drug use.

IV. Select Steering Committee

Karen Kurtz reminded the group of the characteristics desired for the steering committee. Three more candidates volunteered for the steering committee: Stephanie Kreiling, Community Bridges, Mary Ellen Tinsley, Scottsdale Prevention Institute, and Tom Ellis, Croft Consulting. The group approved the three new candidates and the candidates nominated at the last meeting:

Leslie Reeves, ASU, Needs Assessment Subcommittee Chair
Phil Riccio, Scottsdale PD, Needs Assessment Co-Chair
Donald Santeo, SRP-MIC
Gina Durbin, Cave Creek
Diane McMillan, Not My Kid, Resources Subcommittee Chair

Representation is still needed from Fort McDowell-Yavapai Nation, Paradise Valley, and Fountain Hills. Brent Stockwell will work on recruiting members from these areas and will schedule a first meeting with the steering committee.

V. Subcommittee Action Plans

The coalition convened two subcommittees: the Resource Inventory Subcommittee and the Needs Assessment Subcommittee. Brent Stockwell met with the Resource Inventory Subcommittee and Karen Kurtz met with the Needs Assessment Subcommittee.

Needs Assessment Subcommittee

The needs assessment subcommittee heard from Scott Peacock, a crime analyst from the City of Scottsdale Police Department. Scott described the crime data collected by the department. Drug offense data is not collected because it can't be verified. The officer may find a white powder, but only the lab can identify it as meth.

The subcommittee will conduct two levels of analysis in its data collection. The first level is to collect the basic data to document the crime trend by

geographic area. The second level is to document the connection of that crime to meth. Subcommittee members received data collection assignments for the next meeting.

Resource Inventory Subcommittee

Diane McMillan and Tom Ellis agreed to be co-chairs for the resource inventory subcommittee. Brent Stockwell agreed to be interim recorder in Judy Register's absence.

The resource inventory subcommittee discussed the format and criteria for collecting and reporting on resources. Diane agreed to compile the resources when they are provided by the subcommittee members.

At the next meeting in November, members agreed to bring all the resource information that they are aware of, and agreed to decide on the format for collecting information at their next meeting.