

**METHAMPHETAMINE-FREE INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND CHILDREN:  
PROPOSED STRATEGIES (TREATMENT TASK FORCE)**

**MINUTES**

Monday, January 28, 2008

4:00 – 5:30 PM

Solvang Superior Court Chambers

Solvang, CA

1. **Attendance:** Lois Craig, Rogelio Flores, Nancy Gottlieb, John MacKinnon, Asia Eichmiller, Merith Cosden, and Bob Montgomery
2. **Announcements:** A brief report on the January Council Meeting was presented. Discussion centered on a potential media blitz and its effects on prevention and the need for additional treatment resources as a result of the blitz.
3. **Short Term Strategies:** Made decisions on how the two strategies would be presented to Judges and CWS workers.

Action Item	Description	Completed
#1	At their next quarterly meeting, Judge Flores will provide an informational briefing to all County Judges on the importance of a Methamphetamine treatment model that is appropriate for the needs of the abuser.	
#2	Asia Eichmiller will take the lead in developing a training module for CWS workers that would offer CEU's. A draft module will be presented at the next Task Force meeting. Before the module is finalized, it will be reviewed by staff from CWS.	
#3	Action Plan for legislative strategy is to submit policy issues to legislators, lobbyists, and others who can assist with converting policy issues into legislative bills. Several policy issues are listed below:	

- *Federal Title IV-E funding pays for children who are removed due parental care and placed in foster care. Many of these cases involved very young children where drugs and/or alcohol are a contributing factor to abuse or neglect. Federal Title IV-E funding does not pay for the care of children who live with their parents. Title IV-E funding is not capped, that is, the reimbursement is based on a per child bases and is not limited to a pre-determined number of children.*
- *Federal Title IV-B is available for a wide variety of child welfare programs and services, including drug and alcohol treatment of mothers and their children together. This funding is very limited and insufficient to meet the needs of mothers and children.*

- *CALWORKS and TANF provide funds to single parents and children when the child is living with the parent. When the child is removed from the parents care, to protect their safety, this support is removed. Mothers, who seek treatment when their children are in foster care, have lost their financial ability to live independently and/or pay for the treatment.*
- *CALWORKS and TANF may not provide financial support if the mother has a felony. (Check this factually.) If a mother has a past felony due to her drug use and she is now ready and willing to go into treatment, the regulations forbid financial assistance. This is a barrier for the mother to obtain treatment and provide safe care for her child. Financially, the government will extend federal financial aid for the child's foster care, often long-term, and the mother will likely not obtain needed treatment. This results in additional trauma for mother and child and additional long-term costs.*
- *Santa Barbara County has a paraphernalia ordinance that makes it illegal to possess, manufacture and advertise drug paraphernalia. Similar legislation should be considered statewide.*

**4. Long Term Strategy: The task force agreed to recommend a change in the language of our primary long term strategy. The new language to submit to the Council for approval is:**

Action Item	Description	Completed
#4	<b>Establish a System of Care in Communities to ensure that the services and supports needed to obtain and maintain recovery are present where the individuals and families need it most – where they live.</b>	

**5. Activities in support of the long term strategy are:**  
**Nancy Gottlieb will provide some outcome data from other jurisdictions that have utilized the “Crystal Darkness Campaign. We will be able to use the information for potential treatment needs. She will also provide data on the current public funding of treatment facilities in the county. She agreed to look at the treatment numbers for individual areas including the Santa Ynez Valley.**

**The task force will also look at resources in the communities including such programs as Family Resource Centers, transitional living and sober living facilities. The task force will look for gaps in the ‘system of care’ and support activities that improve the delivery of treatment services.**

**Judge Flores and John MacKinnon agreed to read the “Nonviolent Offender Rehabilitation Act Of 2008” and give us a critique of the legislation. This will place the task force a better position to make a decision on a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ support.**

6. **Our next Task Force meeting is Monday, February 25, 2008 at 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM in the Robert Ramos Conference Room at the Santa Maria Police Department.**