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Nevada's Meth Epidemic Problems and Potential Solutions

Problem #1: Methamphetamine drug abuse has destroyed families and lives throughout Nevada.

Potential Solution: Through a comprehensive, integrated, multi-disciplinary approach using Prevention, Treatment, Enforcement, and Judicial remedies, methamphetamine drug abuse could be greatly diminished in Nevada.

Problem #2: Lack of a comprehensive, integrated, multi-disciplinary approach in Nevada for the eradication of meth drug abuse. Currently, there are many public and private organizations trying their best to eradicate meth abuse in Nevada such as sheriffs, police, State law enforcement, juvenile services, district attorneys, public defenders, courts, human services, schools, counties, cities, state and federal agencies, treatment centers, non-profit organizations, etc. However, typically each is attacking the problem within their own discipline. A new comprehensive, integrated, multi-disciplinary approach is needed to eradicate Meth abuse in Nevada's communities.

For example, grant mechanisms are established through the federal and state governments which do not attack the problem comprehensively but on a select basis. If a community wanted to start a prevention program, they could go through a State or federal grant process for prevention funding. But in doing so, is anyone asking if the community is ready for the onslaught of people seeking treatment and assistance after meth awareness campaigns have reached their community? Are we making people aware of this dangerous drug and when they come for help, we don't have the resources available to actually help them with treatment, drug court services or enforcement? Is this like a private company advertising for a product but when people come to the store to buy it, it isn't there? A new, comprehensive, integrated, multi-disciplinary approach is needed in Nevada.

Potential Solution: Create an umbrella organization which would provide leadership and oversight of the dispensation and monitoring of State grant funds to community organizations in the effort to eradicate methamphetamine drug abuse. The umbrella organization would also be tasked to develop a Statewide plan to eradicate meth in Nevada.

The umbrella organization would require that grant funds be given only if communities step forward with grant requests which are comprehensive, integrated and multi-disciplinary. For example, a community could develop a prevention, treatment and enforcement program and request funding of the program to the umbrella organization for their comprehensive plan. Other communities may have enforcement but they don't have funding for their drug court or for treatment. They could request funds to fund those areas which they are deficient in. It should provide flexibility in order for it to be a true community-based initiative.

Attached is one potential way an umbrella organization could be utilized.

Task Force for a Meth Free Nevada Proposal

1) Purpose of the Committee:

a) To develop a Statewide Plan to Eradicate Meth in Nevada. The plan would include recommended solutions to eradicate meth. The solutions would include utilizing best practices found in other states and in Nevada for the disciplines of juvenile services, law enforcement, prosecution, criminal laws, judicial practices, treatment, prevention, education practices and human services. These solutions could be compiled in a handbook for federal, state and local agencies and communities to utilize in the development of their plans to eradicate Meth in Nevada.

b) To develop a grant process to disseminate State funds (the amount to be determined by the Governor's Meth Task Force) to local government, schools and/or non-profit organizations Statewide for the purpose of eradicating meth in Nevada using a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary, community based approach.

2) Committee Membership:

Chairman of the Assembly Health and Human Services Committee, or their designee

Chairman of the Senate Human Resources Committee, or their designee

Governor's Appointment, First Lady, or their designee

Attorney General, or their designee

1-3 Others

3) Technical Advisory Committee:

- 1) Sheriff and Chiefs Representative selected by the Nevada Sheriff and Chief's Association.
- 2) District Attorney Representative selected by the Nevada District Attorney's Association.
- 3) Public Defender
- 4) Drug Court Judge selected by the Nevada Supreme Court.
- 5) Juvenile Services Representative selected by the Nevada Association of Counties.
- 6) County Human Services Representative selected by the Nevada Association of Counties
- 7) Director of the Nevada Department of Human Services
- 8) County Commissioner from Southern Nevada selected by Clark County Commission.
- 9) County Commissioner from Northern Nevada selected by Washoe County Commission.
- 10) Rural County Commissioner from Rural Nevada selected by the Nevada Association of Counties.
- 11) Representative from the League of Cities.
- 12) Director of the Nevada Department of Public Safety
- 13) Representative from Nevada Schools, South.
- 14) Representative from Nevada Schools, North.
- 15) Representative from Treatment Center, South.
- 16) Representative from Treatment Center, North.
- 17) Representative from Media.

4) Grant Process Overview:

Grants to be provided to local government, schools and non-profit organizations who develop a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary, community based approach to the eradication of meth in their communities. This includes the establishment of or enhancement to existing community based organizations in each county or community which would include local judges, sheriff, district attorney, human services, public defender, juvenile services, county commissioners, city council members, schools, media, treatment centers and other private parties. These community based organizations may apply for grants requesting funds to implement or augment a comprehensive community based approach to eradicate meth in their communities. The comprehensive approach would include prevention, education, enforcement, treatment, prosecution and judicial elements required for a successful community based approach to this epidemic.

The grants would be submitted to the Statewide Task Force for a Meth Free Nevada. The Technical Advisory Committee would review all grant requests and forward their recommendations to the Task Force. The Task Force would have the final determination on the grant requests. Periodic reports and monitoring would be given by the organizations to the Task Force in order for the Committee to monitor the progress made.

It is recommended the grant process be in place no later than October 1, 2007.