METHAMPHETAMINE IN VENTURA COUNTY

Report of the Ventura County Meth Task Force

To the Board of Supervisors
VENTURA COUNTY
METHAMPHETAMINE TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

Kathy Long,
Chair
Supervisor, District 3

Rae Hanstad
Meth Task Force Coordinator

Lauren Bianchi
District 3 Field Representative

Duane Dammeyer
Public Defender

Barry Fisher
Director, Public Health

Michael K. Frawley
Chief Deputy, District Attorney

Alan Hammerand
Chief Deputy, Probation Agency

Vanessa Hernandez
District Representative
Congresswoman Lois Capps

Daniel Hicks
ADP Prevention Services

Marie Pelkola
Manager, VCMC Emergency Service

Gary Pentsis
Commander, Ventura County Sheriff’s Department

Bob Roper
Chief, Ventura County Fire Department

Meloney Roy
Director, Behavioral Health Department

Shannon Sergey
District 4 Constituency Services

Karen J. Staples
Director, Probation Agency

Judge Toy White
Superior Court

Patrick Zarate
Division Manager
Alcohol & Drug Programs

Barry Zimmerman
Director, Human Services Agency

Greg Totten
District Attorney
• Ventura County Meth Task Force convened Dec. 2007
• Based on successful 12-year San Diego model
• 18 members including leaders of meth-impacted systems
• Determined multi-agency indicators of meth problems
• Collected and analyzed 5 years of county-wide data
• Discussed impacts and available resources
• Developed baseline report card and status report
METH TASK FORCE GOALS

- Determine the nature and extent of meth problems across County systems
- Develop multi-agency baseline Meth Report Card using local data
- Raise agency and department awareness of meth impacts
- Begin the process of coordinating efforts among agencies to leverage existing resources
- Present status report and recommendations to Board of Supervisors
METHAMPHETAMINE FACTS

- Meth is a highly-addictive, powerful CNS stimulant
- “Speed, crank, ice, tweak” etc. comes in many forms
- Easily made; frequently imported.
- Commonly smoked; also injected, inhaled and swallowed
- “Equal opportunity” danger to any community or individual
- Meth problems affect multiple County systems

Misconceptions
- Meth addicts have a specific appearance
- Meth addiction is too powerful to treat
- Meth addicts begin and end with meth only
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ventura County Meth Report Card 2004–2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2004</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Methamphetamine abuse admissions to Ventura County Medical Center/Santa Paula Hospital</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source: Ventura County Medical Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of meth-related admissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of meth-related admissions of persons 20 years and under</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Methamphetamine death of Ventura County residents</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source: Ventura County Public Health and Medical Examiner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of meth-related deaths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of drug deaths due to methamphetamine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. WIC Participants</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source: California Women Infants and Children Nutrition Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of women who admit using meth during lifetime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of infants exposed to drug in utero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. Proposition 36 Program</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source: Probation Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of probationers with meth as primary drug problem*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5. Treatment Admissions to County Alcohol and Drug Programs</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source: Ventura County Behavioral Health Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of meth-related treatment admissions*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of youth (under 18) admitted to treatment for meth use*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of pregnant women admitted to treatment for meth use*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6. Drug Bookings by Ventura County Sheriff’s Department</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source: Ventura County Sheriff’s Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possession of meth (11377a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possession of meth with intent to sell (11378 and 11378.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation of meth (11379a, 11379b, 11379.5a, 11379.6a, 11379.8a, 11379.8a3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7. Lifetime Use by Students</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source: California Healthy Kids Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of 11th graders who reported ever using meth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8. Ventura County Jail Bookings</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source: Ventura County Jail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of arrestees who appeared to be under the influence of a controlled substance (11550)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent arrested for 11550 who tested positive for meth use</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In Ventura County during 2004 through 2008:

- Meth-related hospital admissions (VCMC and SPH) decreased from 750 to 522
- Total meth deaths decreased from 18 in 2006 to 6 in 2008
- Almost 60% of referrals to Prop 36 are meth abusers
- FY 2007-08 meth treatment admissions up by 70 to 1,105
- VCSD meth-related drug bookings decreased dramatically from 1671 in 2004 to 869 in 2008.
- 2008 CHKS reports 9% of 11th graders have used meth at least once, compared to 7% in 2006.
- In 2006 and 07 over 70% of drug arrestees tested + for meth
METH TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Meth Task Force supports:

- Increased community awareness
- Positive meth treatment messaging
- Enhanced alcohol and drug prevention efforts
- Alcohol & Drug Advisory Board engagement
- Update and analysis of County substance abuse data
- Continued meth-specific training and education
- Implement County meth online resources
- Advocate CCVC focus on substance abuse issues
- Pursuit of grants and other State/Federal funding options
- Annual MTF meeting; BOS updates as warranted.
In Ventura County:

- The Meth Report Card shows the threat of meth abuse to be declining somewhat at this time.

- Meth is a problem with greater depth than breadth

- Continued collaboration of all agencies is critical to “staying ahead of the curve”

- Treatment works: If someone you know needs help, call 805-981-9200.