

State of New Hampshire
Government Leaders
Methamphetamine Task Force

Statewide Strategy



March 2006



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Governor

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To All Citizens of New Hampshire:

In New Hampshire, we are seeing an increase in the production and sale of methamphetamine, a horribly addictive drug that ruins lives. We must act now to prevent this insidious drug from gaining an even bigger foothold in New Hampshire.

Left unchecked, the growth in methamphetamine use presents a serious threat to the health and safety of our citizens. In other parts of the nation, methamphetamine has overwhelmed law enforcement, child welfare and social service systems.

This Statewide Strategy sets forth a coordinated plan to check the spread of methamphetamine. It is a comprehensive approach including effective prevention and treatment services, protection for children and other vulnerable populations, tough law enforcement measures, environmental protection, and model legislation.

The Government Leaders Task Force has called on experts from both the public and private sectors in developing this strategy. This effort reflects an unprecedented degree of cooperation among state and federal agencies, my office, and members of the New Hampshire General Court.

I commend Department of Health and Human Services Commissioner John A. Stephen, Attorney General Kelly A. Ayotte, U.S. Attorney Thomas P. Colantuono, and the other members of the Government Leaders Methamphetamine Task Force for the important work they have done to develop this comprehensive strategy.

I strongly urge all citizens to read the Statewide Strategy and participate in our effort to stop the spread of methamphetamine in New Hampshire.

Very truly yours,

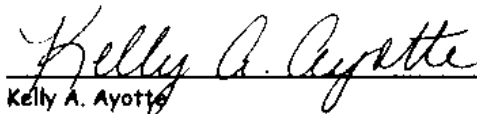
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John H. Lynch".

Gov. John H. Lynch

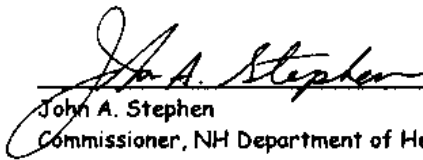
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the members of the Government Leaders Methamphetamine Task Force listed below for their help in producing this Statewide Strategy. This effort, which brought together a broad array of government leaders to address the issue, and the resulting strategy document, is the first of its kind in New Hampshire.

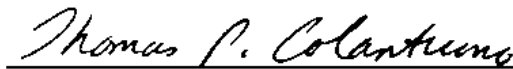
- John Barthelmes, Deputy Director, New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)
- Representative Peter L. Batuka, Chair, House Health and Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee
- Margaret A. Bishop, Acting Director, NH Division for Children, Youth, and Families
- Frederick H. Booth, Director, NH State Police
- Representative William Butynski, Secretary, Legislative Caucus on Methamphetamine
- Scott Carr, President, NH Sheriff's Association
- Leslie A. Cartier, Hazardous Material Response Coordinator, NH State Fire Marshal's Office, NH Department of Safety
- Major General Kenneth R. Clark, The Adjutant General, NH National Guard
- Virginia A. Clifford, Administrator, NH Department of Education
- Joe Diamant, Chair, Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment
- Timothy W. Drew, NH Department of Environmental Services
- Leo E. Ducey, Resident Agent in Charge, Manchester Resident Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Department of Justice
- Alice R. Ely, Bureau Chief, NH Division of Public Health Services Bureau of Prevention Services
- George Festa, Director, New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)
- Joseph P. Harding, Director, NH Office of Alcohol and Drug Policy
- Executive Major Barry Hunter, NH State Police, Department of Safety
- Representative Deborah J. Hogancamp, Co-Chair, Legislative Caucus on Methamphetamine
- Joseph N. LaPlante, First Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice
- Fire Chief Christopher LeClaire, President, NH Association of Fire Chiefs
- John Lynch, Governor
- Representative James R. MacKay, Vice Chair, House Health and Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee
- Caroline McCarley, Special Assistant for Policy, Governor's Office
- Michael P. Nolin, Commissioner, NH Department of Environmental Services
- Lisa Remick, Senior Special Agent, Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Department of Justice
- Nancy L. Rollins, Acting Director, NH Division of Community Based Care Services
- Nathaniel "Chip" Sawyer, President, NH Association of Police Chiefs
- Representative Joy K. Tilton, Co-Chair, Legislative Caucus on Methamphetamine
- Linda Tomlinson, Secretary to the U.S. Attorney and Media Relations Officer, U.S. Department of Justice
- Lyonel B. Tracy, Commissioner, NH Department of Education
- Suzi White, Representing the New Hampshire Association of Counties
- Jane E. Young, Senior Assistant Attorney General, NH Department of Justice



Kelly A. Ayotte
Attorney General, NH Department of Justice



John A. Stephen
Commissioner, NH Department of Health and Human Services



Thomas P. Colantuono
U.S. Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice

INTRODUCTION

The use of methamphetamine (meth) has had a devastating impact on individuals, families and communities in a number of states across the country. Until recently, the widespread use of methamphetamine and resulting problems (high rates of addiction, the abuse and neglect of children, crime related to the drug, environmental damage and associated clean-up costs) have occurred primarily in the western and midwestern United States. These states have had to allocate and expend significant amounts of funding for criminal justice costs, addiction treatment and to deal with the human and environmental destruction left in the aftermath. Oklahoma estimated that one meth lab can cost the state \$252,000 in corrections-related expenses, \$5,000 in court costs, \$17,000 in property damage, \$50,000 cost to employers, \$20,000 in mental health expenses, \$54,000 for treatment, \$12,000 in child welfare services and \$3,500 in toxic waste cleanup to decontaminate the area.¹

In contrast to other areas of the country, methamphetamine use in New Hampshire remains relatively low. However, increased admissions to publicly-funded treatment programs for methamphetamine addiction, and an increase in the number of drug lab seizures indicate that manufacture and use of the drug is on the rise in this state. The proliferation of small methamphetamine laboratories often occurs because they enable users to maintain an affordable and readily available supply of the drug for their personal use and possibly for sale to other drug-using associates.

According to the latest information from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), over an 18-month period beginning in 2004, 12 of 18 methamphetamine labs seized in New England were located in New Hampshire. In addition, methamphetamine use is becoming more common among women and adolescents.

This rise in use of methamphetamine along with the severe consequences it brings to individuals, families and the environment provides a strong incentive for New Hampshire to get out in front of this issue before it becomes a major public health, law enforcement, child endangerment, and environmental problem for our state.

The federal government, through its National Drug Control Strategy and the National Synthetic Drugs Action Plan, has established a comprehensive and balanced approach to the methamphetamine challenge by directing significant resources to the prevention and treatment of methamphetamine addiction and by instituting tough law enforcement measures. John Walters, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP); Alberto R. Gonzales, U.S. Attorney General; and Mike Leavitt, Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), are spearheading the federal government's efforts.

¹ "Oklahoma Pseudoephedrine Control Act," PowerPoint Presentation prepared by Lonnie Wright, Director, Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control, p 11.

Similarly, New Hampshire's Statewide Strategy, which was initiated by Department of Health and Human Services Commissioner John A. Stephen, U.S. Attorney Thomas P. Colantuono, and Attorney General Kelly A. Ayotte, utilizes a comprehensive approach that combines effective prevention, treatment, and public awareness efforts with tough criminal justice measures and the enactment of model legislation to address this issue.

SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

The 2004 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) indicates that approximately 5% of people 12 and older nationally had used methamphetamine sometime during their lives. According to the same survey, between 2002 and 2004, an average of 6.6% of people 12 and older in New Hampshire had used methamphetamine sometime during their lives. Within New England, New Hampshire and Vermont have the highest rates of methamphetamine use.

It is important to note that less than 10% of the methamphetamine used in the state comes from local clandestine labs.² While the citizens of New Hampshire must act to prevent the harm caused by toxic and explosive clandestine labs, they should not lose sight of the fact that demand drives local production, and that reducing demand should be an important priority for the state. Reducing demand will also have an impact on the amount of methamphetamine that is produced elsewhere and imported into New Hampshire.

BACKGROUND

Representative Peter L. Batula, from the New Hampshire General Court, organized a presentation facilitated by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) to make legislators and other interested parties aware of methamphetamine and the potential impact it could have on our state. This conference was the catalyst for the creation of a number of initiatives that were formed to examine the existing and possible future impact of methamphetamine on New Hampshire.

The New Hampshire Legislative Caucus on Methamphetamine was formed by three members of the New Hampshire House of Representatives to provide an ongoing opportunity for legislators and others to increase their awareness and knowledge about methamphetamine. Caucus participants include legislators, staff from a number of State and Federal agencies, including the Attorney General's office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC), the Office of Alcohol and Drug Policy, the Division of Public Health Services Bureau of Prevention Services, and the Department of Education, as well as stakeholders from a number of private sector organizations, including the New Hampshire Alcohol and Drug Abuse

² Information provided by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Counselors Association (NHADACA), and the New Hampshire Alcohol and Other Drug Service Providers Association (NHAODSPA). Representatives from pharmaceutical and retail associations also participated. As a result, legislation has been introduced that:

- Supports enhanced public awareness and education about methamphetamine;
- Imposes stricter penalties for the manufacture, distribution and use of methamphetamine;
- Addresses the protection of children and incapacitated adults;
- Focuses on environmental protection; and
- Deals with restriction and control of the pharmaceutical and chemical components used in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

Commissioner Stephen, Attorney General Ayotte, and U.S. Attorney Colantuono met with staff in their respective agencies to discuss steps necessary to directly address the impact of methamphetamine on the state. The Government Leaders Methamphetamine Task Force grew out of this meeting (see the list of members in the Acknowledgement section above). The Task Force decided to create a comprehensive Statewide Strategy, and determined that it should address the following specific areas:

- Legislation
- Law enforcement
- Protection of Children and Incapacitated Adults
- Prevention
- Treatment
- Environmental Protection; and
- Public Awareness/Outreach

It was decided that a workgroup should be established for each section of the Strategy and that one or more members of the Task Force should lead each of the workgroups. The Government Leaders Methamphetamine Task Force reached out to a wide array of individuals and groups from both the public and private sector, who brought their own particular knowledge and expertise to help develop this Strategy (see list of workgroup members attached to this document).

Each of the workgroups studied the issues relevant to their individual area of expertise to develop specific sections of the strategy. Each section of the strategy was then brought back to the full Task Force for review, input, and approval. Because there were many interrelated issues, it should be noted that extensive communication took place between and among each of the workgroups to assure that overlapping issues were collectively addressed and that the end result would be a comprehensive and integrated strategy. Joseph Harding, Director of the NH Office of Alcohol and

Drug Policy at the Department of Health and Human Services, and his staff were designated to coordinate this effort and compile the individual sections into this final document.

LEGISLATION

Overview

There are currently only a few laws in effect in New Hampshire that deal specifically with issues related to the manufacture and use of methamphetamine. Existing statutes include criminal offenses for the possession, manufacture, and sale of methamphetamine, but do not address environmental and public health issues stemming from the manufacture and use of the drug. In addition, there are currently no laws regulating the sale of precursor drugs like pseudoephedrine and ephedrine, or the chemical reagents used in the production of methamphetamine. Neighboring states have recently enacted a variety of methamphetamine-related laws, which raises the possibility that, absent similar legislative action in New Hampshire, methamphetamine traffickers may view this state as a "safe harbor" for their illegal activities.

Strategy to Address the Issue

An effective legislative strategy related to the use and manufacture of methamphetamine should focus on the following areas:

- Prevention;
- Deterrence;
- Environmental Protection;
- Protection of Children and Incapacitated Adults;
- Public Awareness and Outreach; and
- Treatment.

With regard to the area of prevention, legislation should be considered that would emphasize the following:

- Imposition of conditions on the retail sale of so-called "precursor drugs," including pseudoephedrine and ephedrine-based products (P/EB products), that would include restrictions on the placement and display of such products, public access to the products, the quantities that can be purchased within a specified time period, and a requirement that any purchaser provide positive identification;
- Creation of a system for statewide tracking of the sale of P/EB products; and
- Misuse of anhydrous ammonia, which can be used in the production of methamphetamine.

In the area of deterrence, legislation should:

- Enhance criminal penalties for the production of methamphetamine, taking into account the scope of the production;
- Establish criminal penalties for possession of chemical reagents or precursor drugs in cases where an individual has them in his or her possession with the intent of using them to produce methamphetamine;
- Establish criminal penalties for causing injuries to first responders or any other person, as a result of hazards created during the production or attempted production of methamphetamine; and
- Establish criminal restitution provisions to cover the cost for cleanup and remediation of sites used for methamphetamine production, and emergency response costs.

With regard to environmental protection, the following legislation should be considered:

- Enacting restitution provisions to cover the cost for cleanup and remediation of sites used for methamphetamine production;
- Exploring the creation of a cleanup fund to address long-term environmental hazards created by methamphetamine production, such as water and ground pollution; and
- Other legislative initiatives as needed as additional information becomes available on the environmental impacts of methamphetamine production and methods of remediation.

Legislation related to the protection of children and incapacitated adults should include:

- Enacting penalties for exposing children and incapacitated adults to hazards caused by methamphetamine production; and
- Enacting penalties for involving children and incapacitated adults in the use, sale, distribution, and production of methamphetamine, or disposal of post-production waste.

In the area of public awareness/outreach, the following should be considered:

- Implementation of a "Meth Watch" or similar public awareness program;
- Education of legislators about the production and use of methamphetamine and its related hazards, so that legislative initiatives will be successful; and
- Education of state, county, and municipal elected officials to make them aware of the impact methamphetamine can have on the criminal justice system, including arrests, prosecution, and incarceration.

Because this is an emerging issue in the State, it may be necessary to pursue additional legislative initiatives to address identified areas of concern as the nature and scope of the problem become better defined.

What Citizens and Local Communities Can Do

Citizens, including legislators, and local communities can take the following actions:

- Legislators can and should implement laws to help stop methamphetamine use and production from having a serious negative impact on the citizens of this state;
- Community members can and should contact their legislators to advocate for legislation aimed at controlling methamphetamine production and abuse and its related hazards; and
- Stakeholders should provide legislators with information and offer testimony at public hearings to make legislators aware of the issues.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Overview

Since methamphetamine is a controlled substance, illicit manufacture, possession, and/or use is illegal under both state and federal law. Law enforcement and other criminal justice entities, including state and county corrections, will play an important and vital role in combating the spread of methamphetamine into our state.

Law enforcement is dedicated to stopping the importation of methamphetamine into New Hampshire from outside sources. It is also dedicated to locating and dismantling methamphetamine labs that exist in the state. Finally, law enforcement is committed to vigorous prosecution of all persons involved in the manufacture, sale, distribution, use, and possession of methamphetamine, and will utilize all available tools to combat the proliferation of this drug, including financial investigations, conspiracy prosecutions, as well as the forfeiture of assets obtained through drug-related activity. In addition, it should be noted that state and county corrections will play a vital role in incarceration, treatment, and re-entry into society of convicted offenders.

Strategy to Address the Issue

Law enforcement has identified the following partners who will help carry out the strategy described below:

- Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA);
- U.S. Attorney's Office (representing all other federal law enforcement agencies);
and

- NH Department of Justice, including NH Attorney General's Drug Task Force; NH State Police; NH Association of Police Chiefs; NH Sheriff's Association; the New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program; the NH Association of Fire Chiefs; and the New Hampshire Association of Counties.

The law enforcement portion of the Statewide Strategy will include the aggressive investigation and prosecution of persons involved in the methamphetamine trade, together with a comprehensive training program for law enforcement, corrections, and other professionals to educate them about all aspects of the methamphetamine problem.

In addition, law enforcement will assist other stakeholders by:

- Working with environmental protection authorities and local and regional hazardous material (HazMat) teams to dismantle and clean up meth labs;
- Educating and providing outreach to elected county and municipal leaders and other authorities in the public sector about the danger of methamphetamine;
- Assisting child and adult protection workers in the proper care and protection of children and incapacitated adults exposed to methamphetamine production; and
- Providing the legislature with assistance in drafting relevant legislation and providing information to legislative committees upon request.

Law enforcement agencies must also be committed to providing the following training related to methamphetamine:

- Frequent regional trainings for law enforcement authorities and other emergency first responders on issues regarding the detection, dismantling, and cleanup of methamphetamine labs and the investigation and prosecution of methamphetamine-related cases, utilizing the resources of the HIDTA program, as well as existing statewide resources. As a strategic goal, the New Hampshire law enforcement community, in conjunction with Fire/HazMat services, will attempt to train all members of law enforcement and other emergency first responders who are called to the scene of a methamphetamine lab; and
- Training for members of the New Hampshire judiciary and other criminal justice professionals involved in the fight against methamphetamine.

In addition, the following protocols should be developed for local law enforcement to follow whenever they discover a methamphetamine laboratory:

- Contact the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) immediately so they can notify their Clandestine Laboratory Enforcement Team (CLET), which will, in turn, contact the local Fire Department; the local Health Department; Emergency

Medical Services (EMS); a DEA Chemist; the State Fire Marshal; the Department of Environmental Services (DES) and the Regional HazMat Team; DEA's contracted hazardous waste cleanup/disposal company; and other applicable federal, state, and local agencies as necessary;

- Utilize the existing DEA/HazMat/DES protocols regarding the discovery, dismantling, and cleanup of methamphetamine labs; and
- Collaborate with New Hampshire child and adult protection authorities in implementing protocols for the care and protection of drug-endangered children and incapacitated adults.

Law enforcement has also identified the following components that should comprise their overall strategy for dealing with methamphetamine:

- Cooperate and coordinate among federal, state, county, and local law enforcement partners to target those individuals who are involved in the illegal manufacture, sale, distribution, and use of methamphetamine for aggressive prosecution to the fullest extent of the law;
- Define and address issues related to the incarceration of people addicted to methamphetamine, with a focus on training that identifies potential safety and health hazards that may impact a corrections facility if an offender comes in from an environment where methamphetamine is being manufactured;
- Utilize the resources of the federal Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) program to prosecute significant targets;
- Utilize the existing resources of the New England HIDTA Program to handle cases which are appropriate under the guidelines of that program;
- Work on creating partnerships with local businesses to gain information about individuals who may be purchasing precursor chemicals, equipment, and other substances used to manufacture methamphetamine; and
- Provide and staff a centralized phone number which members of the public can call with information and tips regarding suspected illegal activity in their communities (see Additional Resources section at the end of this publication).

What Citizens and Local Communities Can Do

Law enforcement has identified the following things that citizens and local communities can do to help them deal with methamphetamine-related issues:

- Citizens can report any suspicious activity to local police departments;
- Citizens can support local law enforcement in "meth watch" and similar programs; and
- Civic, fraternal and community groups can invite law enforcement officials and others to give presentations about methamphetamine at community meetings and forums.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND INCAPACITATED ADULTS

Overview

Growing concern about the development of clandestine drug labs and use of methamphetamine in New Hampshire has warranted a review of all Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) program areas that are charged with protecting children and incapacitated adults, to identify the potential impact the production and use of methamphetamine could have on its clients, staff, providers, and the general public. DHHS staff provides direct services at 12 District Offices and purchases services from a myriad of public and private community-based human service and health care providers. Many of these services are provided in non-office-based settings, including private homes and community facilities.

Strategy to Address the Issue

Professionals working in the area of protection of children and incapacitated adults recognize that there are potential health risks and environmental hazards that methamphetamine creates for their clients and staff. This workgroup identified the following strategies to address these risks and hazards:

- Identify the potential impact that methamphetamine could have on the agencies' clients, staff, contracted service providers, and the general public, due to the proliferation of clandestine drug labs and increasing use of methamphetamine in New Hampshire;
- Develop methamphetamine-specific training material, targeted "messages," and information that can be used by state agency staff, as well as community-based service providers who work with children and incapacitated adults;
- Provide appropriate education, information, and training about the manufacture and use of methamphetamine to DHHS' frontline staff and their supervisors, as well as to contracted staff, so they will understand the potential impact methamphetamine can have on the people they serve, including what to expect if someone is actively using the drug. This is especially important for public and private child protection, juvenile justice, developmental services, behavioral health, and public health staff, particularly if they are providing services in clients' homes.
- Conduct training for community-based service providers, including foster parents, school personnel, as well as staff from local law enforcement agencies and a variety of local government entities, and community-based human service organizations.

What Citizens and Local Communities Can Do

Communities can support the activities described above by allowing the use of local and county facilities for training events and other public meetings about methamphetamine.

Citizens can report suspected danger to children and incapacitated adults resulting from the production or use of methamphetamine to local law enforcement authorities.

PREVENTION

Overview

The purpose of substance abuse prevention efforts is generally to deter the initiation of use, stop progression into more serious use, and reduce substance abuse-related problems. The tools used in prevention include education, communications, community mobilization, problem identification and referral, policy development, and law enforcement. These tools are already being used in most New Hampshire communities to address alcohol, tobacco, and other drug problems, and can be mobilized to address potential threats caused by a new and increasing demand for methamphetamine. It is critical, however, to ensure that an emphasis on methamphetamine use does not replace comprehensive and broad-based prevention, as that approach is what has been consistently proven to be most effective.

National trends indicate the greatest use of methamphetamines is among people aged 18 to 25, with rates more than double those of 12 to 17 year olds or people aged 26 and older.³ For this reason, the prevention strategy described below is recommended.

Strategy to Address the Issue

The Methamphetamine Strategy Sub-Committee of the Governor's Commission's Prevention Task Force brought together prevention, child welfare, policy experts, and the NH National Guard, to review federal guidelines for prevention and lessons learned from other states in order to better coordinate with other sections of the Statewide Strategy. As a result, the following three-pronged prevention approach is recommended:

1. Use public education and media strategies that are coordinated around one clear anti-methamphetamine message to increase the public's knowledge of the nature and scope of the problem;
2. Use community-based coalitions, local government entities, the business community, schools, and youth-serving organizations to employ evidence-based education and mobilization strategies and promote social norms that discourage use and increase awareness of the dangers of methamphetamine use among all age groups; and
3. Train professionals likely to come into contact with methamphetamine users to identify the signs of use so they will be able to intervene more effectively.

Preventing problems with drugs like methamphetamine takes commitment and action on the part of stakeholders across the prevention, criminal justice, and treatment

³ 2004 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH).

continuum. Prevention activities, especially those targeted at youth, must adhere to evidence-based and age-appropriate approaches. To ensure that all prevention strategies are consistent and effective, the Bureau of Prevention Services within the Division of Public Health Services, in conjunction with the NH Department of Education, should serve as a coordinating body and technical assistance resource for all stakeholders involved in public education efforts.

What Citizens and Local Communities Can Do

Key public and private stakeholders across the prevention, criminal justice, treatment, and environmental protection continuum should collaborate to develop and implement an evidence-based media campaign that use resources such as the Partnership for a Drug Free New Hampshire and community-based coalitions, for the dissemination of effective anti-methamphetamine messages.

The Department of Health and Human Services can serve as the centralized location for the development and dissemination of education and training materials to provide a consistent set of messages about methamphetamine. This initiative would enhance efficiency and would have three primary objectives:

1. Develop tool kits that community-based coalitions, county and municipal governments, the business community, schools, and youth-serving organizations can use to engage, educate, and mobilize their communities around prevention;
2. Develop tool kits that community-based coalitions, county and municipal governments, schools, and youth-serving organizations can use to integrate prevention information about methamphetamines into broad-based prevention efforts; and
3. Collaborate with training specialists in various professional categories to customize education and training materials they can use to increase the ability of their colleagues to identify the signs of use so they can intervene, make appropriate referrals, and protect their own safety. These professional categories may include, but are not limited to, health care providers, emergency first responders, school personnel, law enforcement and corrections professionals, youth workers, in-home care providers, child protective workers, substance abuse prevention providers, and employers.

Citizens and local communities can do the following:

- Use local access media to share information about methamphetamine problems, promote social norms that discourage use and increase awareness of the dangers of methamphetamine use among all age groups, and mobilize local response;
- Provide information and education to people of all ages through public forums, schools, civic organizations, and other groups;

- Implement evidence-based prevention approaches using tool kits and resources provided by the state and/or other sources; and
- Publicly support local law enforcement and retailers when they implement new control strategies to reduce clandestine labs.

TREATMENT

Overview

The number of people who are addicted to methamphetamine is increasing throughout the United States. This growth in methamphetamine use requires a comprehensive and coordinated strategy to prevent and reduce the extensive and complicated problems associated with methamphetamine addiction. Assuring that treatment providers have the training that will allow them to provide evidence-based practices to treat youths and adults addicted to methamphetamine is a critical and interdependent component of the State's overall comprehensive methamphetamine strategy.

Strategy to Address the Issue

Several strategies are recommended to best address the treatment needs of persons addicted to methamphetamine, including:

- Identifying and implementing evidence-based, age- and gender-appropriate treatment;
- Assuring access to treatment;
- Establishing accountability for treatment outcomes;
- Continuously monitoring and improving practices for treating methamphetamine addiction;
- Collaborating with other New England states to provide evidence-based practices; and
- Engaging and educating stakeholders about the need for effective treatment.

The State currently provides services for people with a wide spectrum of alcohol and other drug disorders through an existing network of dedicated and skilled professionals. However, it should be noted that individuals in need of residential treatment services often have difficulty accessing these services in a timely manner. The State is committed to increasing the capacity of its treatment system, particularly for individuals who present with multiple addictions and co-occurring health and mental health needs, and is currently working to address these and other issues by developing a comprehensive Alcohol and Other Drug Plan for the State.

Additional resources, including funding targeted to treatment services for methamphetamine addiction, will be necessary to address what will in all likelihood be a growing demand for treatment. The first step in assuring the delivery of effective

services is to make certain that treatment providers are utilizing evidence-based practices (practices that have scientific evidence that shows they are effective) for the treatment of methamphetamine addiction. The Governor's Commission's Treatment Task Force has accepted the responsibility of identifying treatment needs and making recommendations to address these needs. The Treatment Task Force will clearly identify those treatment practices that are demonstrated to be most effective for people addicted to methamphetamine.

In addition, it will be important to provide treatment professionals in the State with the education, training, supervision, and technical assistance they need to be able to provide evidence-based services for youth and adults addicted to methamphetamine. The Treatment Task Force, working in conjunction with the NH Office of Alcohol and Drug Policy, will engage the Addiction Technology Transfer Center of New England (a federally-supported resource that assists states with the implementation of treatment "best practices") to enhance the infrastructure necessary to support evidence-based practices for the treatment of methamphetamine addiction in New Hampshire.

Providing evidence-based treatment for people addicted to methamphetamine will be effective only to the extent that access to these services is assured for people who need treatment. Ensuring access to treatment will require close cooperation between both public and private treatment providers and payers for treatment services.

The treatment system, including all associated providers, must be committed to establishing, tracking and monitoring outcomes for youths and adults who are receiving treatment for substance use disorders resulting from methamphetamine use. State agencies must utilize performance-based contracts when purchasing services from treatment providers, so that limited financial resources are utilized in the most efficient manner possible in order to provide the most effective treatment possible.

Clearly defined outcome measures need to be identified and recorded on an ongoing basis so that the data can be used to monitor and improve the effectiveness of treatment being provided in the State. Information about agencies that facilitate high rates of successful methamphetamine treatment outcomes, including innovative and effective treatment strategies will be used to improve agencies with less successful treatment outcomes. The Treatment Task Force will work in collaboration with a wide variety of stakeholders and state agencies to assure that quality improvement data is gathered and disseminated.

It is also vitally important that New Hampshire collaborate with other New England States to advocate for federal resources to support the implementation of evidence-based practices in the region. A coordinated examination of all federal funding and

other resources, along with a coordinated investment in the implementation of evidence-based practices will help strengthen New Hampshire's ability to attract federal resources.

Access to treatment for methamphetamine addiction and related problems will be improved by providing education to the general public and to staff in State agencies about effective treatment for youth and adults. A broad spectrum of providers, family members, and representatives will require accurate information about how to best help those in need to access treatment. The Office of Alcohol and Drug Policy will lead efforts to train state agency, county and municipal government staff, and state-funded treatment providers to make them aware of the signs and symptoms of methamphetamine addiction as well as available treatment resources. It will also work with the Governor's Commission's Public Awareness/Outreach Task Force to make this information available to outside stakeholders.

What Citizens and Local Communities Can Do

NH's citizens and communities have an important role in supporting this strategy, and can help ensure its successful implementation in the following ways:

- Local healthcare professionals and citizens can become familiar with treatment resources in their community and throughout the State. If people don't know what resources are available, they can contact the Office of Alcohol and Drug for more information;
- Individuals who need help with treatment can call a counselor at the Division of Public Health Services for a referral to treatment services;
- Citizens can support the coordination of care among local general healthcare, mental health, developmental disability, and alcohol and other drug treatment providers;
- Local alcohol and other drug service providers should make the public aware of the treatment resources available in their community; and
- Citizens should encourage and support the development of recovery networks within their own communities.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Overview

As mentioned above, the number of clandestine methamphetamine labs discovered in New Hampshire is steadily increasing. The process of manufacturing methamphetamine is simple, and many of the ingredients can be easily purchased at local retail stores. When these materials are mixed or mishandled, they can create hazardous wastes. Experience has shown that for every pound of methamphetamine produced, five to seven pounds of toxic waste is created.

Hazardous wastes from methamphetamine production have been deposited in dumpsters, dumped in wooded areas or roadsides, and flushed down toilets and drains. Improper disposal of wastes can cause contamination of soil, surface water, and ground water. Additionally, methamphetamine production can produce ignitable, corrosive, reactive, and toxic chemicals, which can cause fires, explosions, and toxic fumes that pose a threat to health and the environment.

The property on which methamphetamine is produced and where wastes are disposed typically requires assessment and cleanup. The degree of contamination and the amount of cleanup required is dependent upon a number of factors, including the production method used, the size of the laboratory, the length of time that the laboratory was in operation, how the materials were handled, and how the wastes were disposed.

Porous materials such as carpeting, wallboard, ceiling tiles, draperies, furniture, clothing, and children's toys, can become permeated with airborne contaminants. In addition, contaminants can be distributed throughout the structure via heating and ventilation systems.

Cleanup alternatives can range from simply removing the chemicals and materials used in production of the drug, to complete destruction and disposal of the structure that housed the laboratory. Additionally, environmental cleanup may require soil removal and disposal, along with groundwater remediation.

The cost required to clean up a methamphetamine laboratory will vary depending upon the degree of contamination. The average cost of a cleanup is about \$5,000 but some cost as much as \$150,000.⁴ Other ancillary costs associated with methamphetamine laboratory cleanups are: property damage, reduced property value, salaries and overtime for responders, medical costs for those affected, and criminal justice costs associated with arrest, prosecution, and incarceration.

Strategy to Address the Issue

Whenever a methamphetamine laboratory is discovered, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will be notified at the earliest possible convenience. At that point, DEA's Clandestine Laboratory Enforcement Team (CLET) will respond and, in conjunction with the local law enforcement authorities, ensure that the following tasks are accomplished:

⁴ The Partnership for a Drug-Free America Website (<http://www.drugfree.org>).

- Contacting the local police department, the local fire department, the local health department, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), a DEA chemist, the State Fire Marshal, the Department of Environmental Services (DES) and the Regional HazMat Team, DEA's contracted hazardous waste clean up/disposal company and other applicable federal, state, local agencies (*e.g.*, the Division for Children, Youth, and Families if children are present, the NH Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, etc.). Together, these agencies will assess the targeted methamphetamine lab and identify any potential hazards.
- Ensuring that law enforcement utilizes the existing DEA/HazMat/DES/DHHS protocols regarding the discovery, dismantling, and cleanup of methamphetamine labs, with a focused emphasis on public health and safety, environmental remediation, evidence collection and prosecution.
- Summoning and paying for a contract cleanup/waste disposal company. All chemicals, hazardous wastes, and contaminated equipment will be characterized and stabilized for removal by the waste disposal company for transportation and immediate destruction. It should be noted that DEA funding for each cleanup is for removal of gross contamination in the lab and lab waste only. It does not cover total remediation or the cleanup after-the-fact (*i.e.*, to make a residence livable after a lab was seized at a location). Nor is DEA funding provided for environmental remediation. [NOTE: In no instance will any personnel take possession of chemical waste or material determined to be hazardous other than the sample amount taken for analysis and evidentiary purposes.]
- Coordinating with local health officials to post the property with a Hazardous Material warning sign prominently displayed at site before leaving a methamphetamine lab site, and subsequently notifying the property owner in writing by certified mail that hazardous materials were discovered and removed from the property. This letter will be copied to DES, the local police and fire departments, as well as local health and child welfare officials.
- Ensuring that property owners, where methamphetamine labs were located, conduct a site assessment and waste characterization study. The assessment must include identifying the areas in need of remediation and preparation of a plan to clean up the site to applicable federal and state standards for soil, water, and air quality. All response actions must be conducted in compliance with applicable federal and state laws, municipal ordinances, and safety standards.

The NH Department of Environmental Services will do the following:

- Coordinate with the Division of Public Health Services to ensure that the interior of private properties is remediated to safe levels; and
- Oversee the cleanup of soil, groundwater, and surface water.

What Citizens and Local Communities Can Do

Citizens and local communities can do the following to support environmental efforts:

- Assist with education, prevention, and outreach efforts;
- Assist federal, state, and local agencies with information dissemination at public forums;
- Assist with detection and reporting of methamphetamine laboratories;
- Assist with evacuation and determining when a structure is habitable; and
- Provide public assistance (e.g., temporary housing, point-of-use water treatment units, etc.), and medical aid to those impacted.

PUBLIC AWARENESS/OUTREACH

Overview and Strategy to Address the Issue

The Governor's Commission's Public Awareness and Education Task Force served as the workgroup for the public awareness and outreach section of the Methamphetamine Strategy on behalf of the Government Leaders Methamphetamine Task Force. This workgroup identified the following public awareness and outreach activities:

- Conduct high profile media events to make citizens aware of the potential impact that methamphetamine could have on New Hampshire and make them aware that the State has developed a comprehensive strategy to address this issue;
- Target specific regions across the State where members of the Government Leaders Task Force can conduct public forums to roll out the strategy to local citizens;
- Work with the editorial boards of statewide and local newspapers to engage them in the process of making citizens aware of the potential impact of methamphetamine;
- Generate op ed (opinion editorial) letters for statewide and local media outlets;
- Identify the stakeholders for each section of the strategy (e.g., law enforcement personnel, front-line healthcare and social service staff, treatment and prevention providers, and emergency first responders);
- Develop a plan to determine the best way to educate identified stakeholders about the issue as it relates to their particular area, make them aware of the Strategy and what their role might be with regard to this issue; and
- Identify policy makers and make them aware of the issue and the existence of the Statewide Strategy.

To help accomplish the tasks identified above, the Public Awareness and Education Task Force will:

- Coordinate high profile media events in collaboration with and on behalf of the Government Leaders Methamphetamine Task Force;

- Develop lists of stakeholders for each section of the strategy who should receive copies of the Statewide Strategy;
- Make the Statewide Strategy available in various formats to facilitate wide distribution to a variety of audiences, including making the document available on the websites of various state and federal agencies; and
- Work with the Partnership for a Drug Free New Hampshire to develop a media plan related to methamphetamine.

Public Awareness is an integral part of each of each section and an important part of the overall strategy. The following provides a summary of some of the more salient public awareness elements from each section of the Strategy.

Legislation

The Government Leaders Methamphetamine Task Force will make legislators aware of this Strategy and all aspects of methamphetamine use, production, and distribution, so they will be informed about the issue and be familiar with proposed methamphetamine-related legislation.

Law Enforcement

Law enforcement will continue to provide educational material and presentations about methamphetamine and other drugs to a variety of audiences along with ongoing training of law enforcement agencies, emergency first responders, state and county corrections personnel, the judiciary, and other stakeholders.

Law enforcement will work with the following partners to distribute relevant information about methamphetamine:

- Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA);
- U.S. Attorney's Office (representing all other federal law enforcement agencies); and
- NH Department of Justice, including NH Attorney General's Drug Task Force, NH State Police, NH Association of Police Chiefs, NH Sheriff's Association, and the New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), the NH Association of Fire Chiefs, and the New Hampshire Association of Counties.

Protection of Children and Incapacitated Adults

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will develop training material for its own staff and contract agency staff who provide direct services to clients and their families, to make them aware of the potential health risks and environmental hazards associated with methamphetamine. In addition, DHHS will create fact sheets and written protocols and procedures to assist staff who may encounter

methamphetamine labs, clients who are users, and/or children or incapacitated adults who might be at risk.

Prevention

Some of the primary tools used by prevention professionals to deter the initiation of drug use are education, communication, community mobilization, problem identification and referral. To promote these prevention objectives, the state should develop an evidence-based media campaign that would use the Partnership for a Drug Free New Hampshire, community-based prevention coalitions, and Public Health Networks to disseminate coordinated and effective prevention messages.

Staff from the NH Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Abuse Clearinghouse will create packets of methamphetamine-related information that can be used by the Department of Health and Human Services, county and municipal governments, education personnel, and outside stakeholders to support any training and education activities they initiate relative to the Statewide Strategy. They will also work closely with the Public Awareness and Education Task Force to select and distribute to New Hampshire media outlets the most effective radio, television, and print media products available from the Partnership for a Drug Free America, and to distribute material from the National Prevention Network, which is a joint effort of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD).

In addition, prevention staff from DHHS should collaborate with training specialists in various professional categories to customize education and training materials that can be used to educate health care providers, emergency first responders, school personnel, law enforcement professionals, youth workers, in-home care givers, child protective workers, substance abuse prevention providers, and employers.

Treatment

The general public and staff in state agencies need to be educated about effective treatment options for youths and adults addicted to methamphetamine. DHHS staff will work with State-funded treatment providers to encourage them to reach out to their local communities to let them know that effective treatment services are available and how to access them. This will result in improving access to treatment, helping reduce stigma, and making it more likely that people who need treatment will receive it.

Environmental Protection

The Department of Environmental Services and law enforcement partners should provide information to educate the public about the dangers to people and the environment generated by methamphetamine labs, and the costs associated with

cleaning them up. The public should be made aware of how to identify odors and other telltale signs of the manufacture of methamphetamine for their own safety, and so they can report possible methamphetamine labs to local and/or federal law enforcement agencies.

What Citizens and Local Communities Can Do

Citizens can mobilize their communities to become more aware of the dangers associated with the production and use of methamphetamine, can help distribute the Statewide Strategy, and can organize information-sharing events in their communities.

SUMMARY

The discovery of an increasing number of methamphetamine laboratories in New Hampshire presents significant challenges for local, state, and federal agency representatives. It also necessitates the development of new state, county and municipal government policies and procedures to ensure that the health and welfare of New Hampshire's citizens and the State's natural resources are protected.

Individually, the groups that comprised the Government Leaders Methamphetamine Task Force could have had an impact on their own stakeholder constituencies, but creation of the Task Force has enabled all participants to benefit from collaborating with other concerned agencies to share information and develop one comprehensive Statewide Strategy for dealing with all aspects of methamphetamine.

The momentum generated by the Government Leaders Methamphetamine Task Force must and will continue throughout the coming year to strengthen working relationships and increase communication and coordination between and among affected agencies, and to involve stakeholders from the public and private sectors, as appropriate, in ongoing efforts to effectively address the production, distribution, and use of methamphetamine in New Hampshire.

WORKGROUP MEMBERS

Legislative

Associate Attorney General Ann Rice, NH Department of Justice - Co-Lead
Senior Assistant Attorney General Jane Young, NH Department of Justice - Co-Lead
Joseph P. Harding, NH Office of Alcohol and Drug Policy
Representative Deborah Hogancamp, NH General Court
Caroline McCarley, Office of the Governor
Stuart Trachy (representing the NH Association of Chain Drug Stores)

Law Enforcement

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John Barthelmes, Deputy Director, New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)
Colonel Frederick Booth, Director of State Police, NH Department of Safety
Carroll County Sheriff Scott Carr, President of the NH Sheriff's Association
Leo Ducey, Resident Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
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Executive Major Barry Hunter, NH State Police, NH Department of Safety
Joseph Laplante, First Assistant U.S. Attorney
Lisa Remick, U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration
Chief Nathaniel 'Chip' Sawyer, President of the NH Association of Police Chiefs
Linda Tomlinson, Secretary to the U.S. Attorney/Media Relations
Senior Assistant Attorney General Jane Young, NH Department of Justice

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Treatment

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Steven Arnold, Northern Human Services
Representative J. Gail Barry, NH General Court
Mary Bock, Friends of Recovery NH
Paula M. Bundy, Concerned Parent
Ann Corson, Concerned Parent
Peter DalPra, Serenity Place
Joe Diamant, Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment
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Lindy S. Keller, NH Office of Alcohol and Drug Policy
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John McDermott, NH Division of Juvenile Justice Services
Alicia Preston, Meridian Communications
Lisa Remick, U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration
Representative Joy Tilton, NH General Court
Lauren Wool, United Way of the Greater Seacoast

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The following resources might be helpful to individuals interested in obtaining additional information:

Child Welfare Information

- National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare - <http://www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov/>
- National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information - Impact of Methamphetamines on the Child Welfare System - <http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/topics/issues/meth.cfm>
- Enforcement, Office of National Drug Control Policy - Drug Endangered Children- http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/dr_endangered_child.html

Environmental Information

www.MethResource.gov

Drug Enforcement Administration Information

The public can use the following phone number to provide drug-related information to the DEA: (603) 225-1574.

Prevention and Treatment Information

The public can use the following phone number to obtain information about alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention programs and resources: (603) 271-4524.

General information about prevention programs can be found at:

<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/ATODPREVENTION/default.htm>

General information about treatment programs can be found at:

<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/ATODTREATMENT/default.htm>

The public can use the following phone number to obtain information about alcohol, tobacco, and other drug treatment programs and resources: (603) 271-6109.

An on-line version of the Office of Alcohol and Drug Policy's Resource Guide, which lists contact information about state-funded prevention and treatment programs and services can be found at is available as a link from both the prevention and treatment website addresses listed above.

The public can call the following number to obtain material from the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Clearinghouse and Partnership for a Drug Free NH: 800-804-0909, press 2 or 603-271-2677.

Updated 4-24-06

IMPORTANT!

If you think that there might be a meth lab in your neighborhood, call the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) at:

(603) 628-7411

(You don't have to give your name when you call.)



If you'd like information about **treatment** for methamphetamine addiction, call this number:

(603) 271-6100