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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.

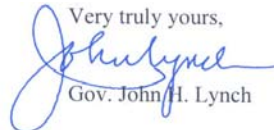
This Statewide Strategy sets forth a coordinated plan to check the spread of methamphetamine. It is a comprehensive approach including effective prevention and treatment services, protection for children and other vulnerable populations, tough law enforcement measures, environmental protection, and model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



Gov. John H. Lynch

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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.

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.

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