

A photograph of laboratory glassware, including a round-bottom flask on a stand, connected by glass tubes and hoses, set against a blurred background of a lab bench.

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Methamphetamine FORUM

Coming To Terms With
Methamphetamine
in the Greater
Washington, D.C. Area

May 31, 2006

9:00 am—3:30 pm
MWCOG Board Room
777 North Capitol Street, NE, 3rd Floor
Washington, D.C.



Background

Communities across America are beginning to feel the social, economic and health impact of methamphetamine production, distribution, and use. Ten years ago methamphetamine was a West Coast drug problem that appeared to be limited to “biker gangs” and had little impact on the rest of the nation. At that time, the Drug Enforcement Administration warned public health and law enforcement officials that meth was soon to make its way to the Midwest and then to the East coast. Nobody listened – but we should have!

“Meth production and use causes more damage to communities than all other drugs combined.”

Methamphetamine manufacturing, distribution, and use are on the rise and according to the National Association of Counties and the National Sheriff’s Association, it is the number one law enforcement problem facing communities throughout the country. While its use rates are not as high as alcohol, marijuana, cocaine or heroin, meth production and use causes more damage to communities than all other drugs combined. The Metropolitan Washington Area and the States of Maryland and Virginia cannot afford to ignore this threat to our public safety and health. Coupled with this threat is the reality that on the West Coast, meth distribution has now become a favored activity of gangs, particularly MS-13. Also, in large urban areas on the East Coast, we are seeing an increase use of Crystal Meth (ICE) among the gay community creating a significant health issue as many crystal meth users participate in “risky” sex and or unprotected sex.

Public policy makers and administrators will be introduced to the unique risks and management issues associated with the manufacturing, distribution, and use of methamphetamine. The FORUM will explore the proactive steps we can take to reduce the impact of the problem in the region. The unique characteristics of this drug require regional cross-sector collaboration. This FORUM is the beginning of that collaboration.



Objective

The objective of a one day FORUM is to inform participants about recent developments in the meth problem which is affecting the country, the states surrounding the COG region and now COG members. The FORUM will help identify policies and strategies that will prevent the increased use of methamphetamine and mitigate its threat to our region. Participants will be exposed to the most recent data for the region, explore model policies and strategies, and determine a coordinated and collaborative approach to enhance enforcement, reduce the risks to first responders and children, provide adequate treatment, and prevent the spread of this epidemic.

“Methamphetamine use is the number one law enforcement problem facing communities throughout the country.”

Timing



A three-quarter day workshop to be co-hosted by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and Strategic Applications International in collaboration with the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Office for Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), with funding from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the Department of Health and Human Services will be held on May 31, 2006 from 9:00

a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the COG Board Room located at 777 N. Capitol Street, NE, 3rd floor, Washington, DC 20002. The FORUM shall include panel presentations and interactive discussions facilitated by national meth experts from Strategic Applications International.

Agenda

8:15—9:00	Continental Breakfast
9:00—9:15	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Robertson, Executive Director, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments • Shawn Johnson, Special Agent in Charge, Washington Division Office, Drug Enforcement Administration
9:15—9:30	Coming to Terms with Meth—A Regional Overview in the Context of a National Problem This session will look at the history of methamphetamine use and its emerging impact on the region. Data will be presented showing the economic and social consequences of meth use in the region and why it is essential that policy makers, law enforcement and public health take an aggressive and integrated enforcement, intervention, and prevention approach to addressing this emerging threat. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James E. Cople, Strategic Applications International/Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation
9:30—10:15	The Prevention and Treatment Challenge for Public Health This session will introduce the participants to the addictive nature of methamphetamine and its impact on families. It will explore the treatment ramifications for methamphetamine, and what strategies and policies are most effective in response. Dr. Clark will highlight the emerging federal role in methamphetamine prevention and treatment. This session will also provide a brief overview of the crystal meth problem in DC and the public/private partnerships that are addressing it with prevention and treatment. The session will include airing a 60-second public services announcement called “Party-n-Pay” funded by APRA in partnership with the Whitman-Walker Clinic, which shows the chaotic whirlwind of meth and its ambiguous relationship to HIV/AIDS in the Gay male crystal meth population. Copies of the “Let’s Talk About Meth” campaign launched by a grassroots coalition of activists, government representatives, and former meth users called the DC Metro LGBT Community Center will also be provided. <p><i>Treatment, Prevention, and Education and the Federal Response</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Westley Clark, Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services <p><i>Crystal Meth and its Connection to HIV-AIDS and the Growing Threat to the Gay Community</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin Shipman, MHS, LPC, Manager, Office of Special Population Services/DC Department of Health, Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration
10:15—10:30	Questions and Answers
10:30—10:45	BREAK
10:45—11:30	Law Enforcement and Methamphetamine: A New Drug Requiring New Strategies This session will focus on the demands that meth production, distribution, and use has created for local, state, and federal law enforcement. The National Association of Counties and the National Sheriff’s Association have said that methamphetamine is now the number one law enforcement problem facing this country. Speakers will explain why and how this will affect our region. This

Agenda, cont.

	<p>session will also explore the impact of new federal legislation regulating the sale of precursor chemicals used in the production of methamphetamine.</p> <p><i>The Federal Perspective: The Federal Response to Methamphetamine</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scott Masumoto, Office of Dangerous Drugs, Drug Enforcement Administration <p><i>The Local Perspective: Understanding and Responding to Local Meth Trends and Their Impact on Local Law Enforcement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Ray Colgan, Assistant Chief of the Criminal Justice Division for the Prince William County Police Department
11:30—11:45	Questions and Answers
11:45—12:15	LUNCH
12:15—12:45	<p>Drug Endangered Children</p> <p>Methamphetamine has created a whole new challenge for local communities and first responders—it is the presence of children in meth labs and in meth families. Children exposed to the waste and chemicals associated with meth production are often the silent victims of a drug that permeates bedding, toys, hair and skin. Needing to provide decontamination, clothing, and immediate medical attention, law enforcement and child protective services must establish protocols and procedures for responding to the needs of children found in these homes. This session will focus on model policies and programs responding to drug endangered children in meth homes.</p> <p><i>Drug Endangered Children and New Strategies for Law Enforcement Collaboration with Child Protective Services</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marjean Searcy, Member of the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children and Methamphetamine Coordinator for the Salt Lake City, UT Police Department
12:45—1:00	Questions and Answers
1:00—1:30	<p>First Responders: Understanding the Threat and the Environmental Impact of Meth</p> <p>Methamphetamine poses a unique and dangerous threat to first responders because of its volatile production, its chemical composition and the violence associated with the addict/user. Speakers will address the substance of the threat and the needs of first responders to prepare for the toxic nature of a meth lab. Participants will leave with an understanding of the need for new protocols, education and training for law enforcement, fire and EMS, home care workers, HAZMAT professionals and child protective services.</p> <p><i>The National and Local Toxic and Chemical Threat of Methamphetamine Production</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shane Flynn, Nebraska State Patrol and National Methamphetamine Trainer • Mike Love, Assistant Fire Chief- Montgomery County Fire Department
1:30 -1:45	Questions and Answers
1:45—2:30	<p>Comprehensive Community Responses to Methamphetamine</p> <p>Methamphetamine is fought in local communities, presenting challenges and opportunities to local leadership. This presentation will focus on community organizing models and policies that have had an impact on enforcement and prevention programs in cities and counties around the country.</p>

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	<p>Emphasis will be placed on how the business community can respond with better precursor chemical controls, how the faith community can assist in child protective service activities and in supporting families going through treatment. A brief outline of model public awareness campaigns to inform and mobilize citizens will also be presented. Effective responses require interagency collaboration involving the courts, prosecutors, corrections, law enforcement, social workers schools, and treatment providers.</p> <p><i>Mobilizing Communities for Prevention</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated by Colleen Copple, Strategic Applications International/Sagamore Institute for Policy Research • Priscilla Lisisich, Safe Streets Coalition and National Leader on Community Mobilization Models and Resource to the Congressional Meth Caucus on Methamphetamine
2:30—3:20	<p>Policy and Program Alternatives to Address Methamphetamine Use in the Region with a Focus on Next Steps</p> <p>This session is a discussion between FORUM presenters and the audience on model local and state policies that have been tested and evaluated and have an impact on methamphetamine manufacturing, distribution and use. The discussion will focus on strategies and best practices related to treatment, clandestine lab clean-up, precursor chemical controls and child protection protocols between law enforcement, prosecutors and child protective services. Materials will be provided to FORUM participants that outline effective policy in this area. The West and Midwestern States have implemented a number of these policies with mixed reviews. In order not to reinvent the policy wheel on methamphetamine, this interactive discussion between workshop participants and the panel will generate recommendations on next steps that should be pursued by the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated by James E. Copple with Content Experts
3:20—3:30	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Robinson, Executive Director
3:30	<p>Adjourn</p>

Strategic Applications International: *James and Colleen Copple are content experts in the area of comprehensive planning for methamphetamine. Over the last six years the Copples have been instrumental in the planning, development, and facilitation of 16 Meth Statewide or Regional Summits throughout the country. Their approach engages all the key stakeholders from a local, state, and federal perspective and generates concrete action plans that drive policy, legislation, interagency collaboration, administrative protocols, training, public awareness, and implementation of best practices for enforcement, prosecution, prevention, treatment, child protection, clan-lab response and remediation, public health, and more.*

In addition to their work on the Summits, Mr. Copple led Project Freedom, a coalition in Wichita, Kansas that dealt directly with the issues of crime, violence, and substance abuse, during a time when the DEA confiscated its single largest cache of meth, which was found in Goddard County, Kansas. Additionally, Mrs. Copple wrote the first major grant to develop a comprehensive strategy to combat methamphetamine in Salt Lake City, Utah. She received funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Office of Community Policing Services to help Salt Lake City deal with their meth problems. In their work, the Copples have positively affected meth policy in numerous states and local jurisdictions.