



Empowering Kansas communities in the fight against methamphetamine

Record

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Kansas Pharmacies Utilize MethShield Program to Combat Meth Manufacturing

An electronic pharmacy monitoring system has been launched in Kansas in order to combat the growing number of methamphetamine manufacturing labs in the state.

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) and the Kansas Board of Pharmacy have partnered on a pilot program with MethShield, a real time Web-based tool enabling pharmacists, retailers and law enforcement officials to track the sale of medications which contain pseudoephedrine, the main ingredient needed to manufacture meth.

The pilot program, which will run for one year, was launched in August 2008 at 128 independent pharmacies and drugstores across 62 western Kansas counties.

The KBI has reported the seizure of 125 meth labs through the first eight months of 2008, surpassing the 2007 total of 97 labs. "Meth abuse destroys

communities and tears families apart," said Jeff Brandau, Special Agent in Charge for the KBI.



"We are hopeful this partnership and program will greatly reduce the number of meth-related crimes and criminals in Western Kansas."

Laws enacted as part of the 2005 Sheriff Matt Samuels Chemical Control Act limit the purchase of medications which contain pseudoephedrine and require that these medications be stored behind the pharmacy counter.

However the written logbook system currently used to track those sales does not allow for sharing real time information between pharmacists and law enforcement authorities, making it possible for meth

manufacturers to purchase pseudoephedrine at multiple pharmacies in a practice know as "smurfing".

The MethShield software program is expected to reduce the amount of "smurfing" taking place in communities.

If a customer purchases medication containing pseudoephedrine at one pharmacy and then tries to buy more elsewhere, MethShield will alert the second pharmacy, as well as law enforcement, in real time.

MethShield is a version of a nationwide electronic log system initially developed in Australia. Meth lab numbers in the Australian state of Queensland fell 37% in the first year the electronic system was used there, according to Shaun Singleton, the company's chief executive officer.

For more information visit www.methshield.com

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PARTNER AGENCIES

Kansas Regional Prevention Centers

Shawnee Regional Prevention and Recovery Services

K-State Research and Extension

Kansas Bureau of Investigation

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Midwest HIDTA

Kansas Social and Rehabilitation Services—Addiction & Prevention Services and Children & Family Policy Division

Kansas National Guard

Safe Streets

Kansas Family Partnership

Kansas Farm Bureau

Reno County District Attorney's Office

Sedgwick County District Attorney's Office

Shawnee County Drug Court

United States Attorney's Office-Wichita

Community Systems Group

University of Kansas

Kansas Regional Prevention Center System

Regional Prevention Centers provide drug and alcohol prevention education and technical assistance to communities across the state of Kansas.

South Central	Newton	316-283-6743
Wichita/Sedgwick	Wichita	316-262-2421
Flint Hills	Emporia	620-343-2211
Flint Hills	El Dorado	316-321-6628
Southeast KS	Girard	620-724-6281
North Central KS	Salina	785-825-6224
Northwest	Hays	785-625-5521
Northwest	Colby	785-460-8177
Southwest Kansas	Garden City	620-276-9624
East Central	Lawrence	785-841-4138
Johnson/Miami/ Leavenworth	Olathe	913-715-7880
Wyandotte County	Kansas City	913-288-7685
Northeast KS	Manhattan	785-587-4372
Shawnee County	Topeka	785-266-8666

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This newsletter is available to download in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format from the Kansas Methamphetamine Prevention Project website.

Follow the "Resources" link at www.ksmethpreventionproject.org.

Jennifer Keller Honored for Commitment to DEC

Jennifer Keller is the recipient of the 2008 Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children Recognition Award.

Jennifer will receive the award during a luncheon ceremony on October 30, 2008 at the 32nd Annual Governor's Conference for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect held in Wichita, KS.

Jennifer and her husband, Nick, are parents to seven children—a biological daughter and six children who were adopted after either being prenatally exposed to methamphetamine or living with meth-abusing parents. Jennifer was selected as the award recipient in recognition of the regional and national attention she has brought to the issue of substance-exposed newborns and her advocacy on behalf of drug endangered children.

Cristi Cain, Chair of the Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children, said Jennifer is worthy of the recognition. "By sharing her family's inspirational story, Jennifer has brought attention not



The Keller family (left to right): Brendan, Victoria, Nick, Caty, Jennifer, Wyatt, Brooke, Jett and Myah.

only to drug endangered children issues, but also to the great need for foster and adoptive families in our state," Cain said.

In 2008 Jennifer spoke at several local conferences and presented a keynote address at the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children Conference in Salt Lake City, UT. She also helped draft legislation intended

to mandate treatment for pregnant women using substances. Jennifer made numerous media appearances throughout the year, each time using the opportunity to publicize the needs of drug endangered children.

Jennifer has recently started a blog to share her family's story: <http://www.kellerfamilyof9.com/>.



In Memoriam: Paul Belt

We are greatly saddened to share the news of the passing of a great partner in meth prevention efforts. Paul Belt died on September 17, 2008 following a sudden illness. Paul worked at the Kansas Department of Health & Environment as the Technical Specialist for the Clandestine Methamphetamine Drug Lab Clean-up Program and also served as the Spill Response Coordinator at KDHE.

Paul responded to meth lab clean-up incidences, distributed Meth Watch materials to Kansas communities, and spoke at meth awareness events, including Crank It Up trainings. Paul displayed a true passion for his work and made many contributions to the mission of the Kansas Methamphetamine Prevention Project.

Angie Gabel Named Partner of the Year



Angie Gabel has been named the Kansas Methamphetamine Prevention Project/Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (KADEC) 2008 Partner of the Year.

Angie is a permanency supervisor with KVC Behavioral HealthCare in Topeka, KS. She graduated from Washburn University and received her MSW from the University of Kansas. Angie has worked in the foster care arena for 8 years and is an LSCSW with specialization in mental health services for children and families, eating disorders, and

substance abuse counseling.

Angie was selected for the award due to the significant contributions she has made to both local and statewide Drug Endangered Children efforts. Angie has served on the KADEC Board of Directors for over 3 years and is involved in local Drug Endangered Children efforts in Shawnee County.

Angie is a member of the KADEC Data Collection subcommittee where she has provided important data from her own agency to help demonstrate the level of the problem of drug endangered children in Kansas. She also serves on the KADEC Conference Committee and volunteered during the National Alliance for DEC Conference which was hosted by KADEC in October 2007.

Angie frequently assists with Home Visitor Safety and Drug Endangered Children presentations at statewide and regional conferences. She contributes expertise from her direct service experience working with drug endangered children and their families and is willing to go the extra mile to improve the lives of these children and families.

Angie will be recognized during the Shawnee Regional Prevention and Recovery Services' Partner of the Year Ceremony to be held on November 13, 2008.

2008 Kansas Alliance for DEC Update

The 2008 Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children Conference was held September 10, 2008 at the Hilton Wichita Airport. More than 250 people attended the conference. Featured speakers at the event were Jerry Moe and Dr. Nicolas Taylor.

Both of these internationally recognized presenters have books and materials available for sale. Jerry Moe has authored and coauthored several books including "Understanding Addiction and Recovery Through a Child's Eyes: Hope, Help and Healing for Families" which is available for purchase on www.amazon.com and other book retail websites.

Mr. Moe also participated in

the development of the "Children's Program Kit for People Who Work with Children of Alcoholics or Drug Dependent



Parents" which can be ordered at <http://ncadi.samhsa.gov/promos/coa/>.

Dr. Taylor's book, "Helping People Addicted to Methamphetamine: A Creative New Approach for Families and Communities," is available for

purchase from Greenwood Publishing Group at www.greenwood.com/catalog/C9908.aspx

If you have ideas of topics or speakers for the 2009 Kansas Alliance for DEC Conference, please contact Loretta Severin at lwyrick@parstopeka.com.

A one-day Drug Endangered Children Training of Trainers will be held in Topeka in January 2009. The purpose of this training is to establish a cadre of trainers to serve as DEC resources in communities across the state. If you are interested in participating in the training, please contact Cristi Cain at ccain@parstopeka.com.