



Empowering Kansas communities in the fight against methamphetamine

Record

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Link Between Meth Use and Copper Theft Increasing Throughout Kansas and U.S.

Meth users in Kansas and across the United States are resorting to unusual means to obtain funds to purchase methamphetamine: stealing copper to resell as scrap metal. Copper thieves commonly target telephone lines, cell phone towers, electric utilities, homes and businesses under construction, railways, and air-conditioning units, among others.

The rise in copper theft and resale is driven by an increased worldwide demand for copper, which has resulted in dramatic increases in value. In 2003 copper sold for 80 cents per pound. By 2007 the value of copper had risen to \$3.50 per pound, an increase in price of more than 330%.

Copper theft is costly to businesses, farmers and homeowners. The United States Department of Energy estimates that copper thefts cost the economy about \$1 billion per year. According to a report

provided by the United States Department of Energy, Kansas ranked in the top ten states in reports of copper theft from electric utilities during the time period of January 2006 through March 2007.

Evidence of the link between copper theft and methamphetamine can be found in local Kansas communities. In December 2007, \$2,500 in copper equipment was stolen from linemen's trucks parked at a South Hutchinson motel. The stolen items were later recovered from a vehicle containing stolen copper wire and equipment, as well as methamphetamine.

In Cowley County in March 2008 two individuals were arrested after a search of their vehicle uncovered methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia, along with cable and other materials belonging to BNSF Railway.

Recent legislation in Kansas attempts to deter the theft and

resale of copper and other scrap metals. The law requires scrap dealers to record the name and address of sellers as well as view the seller's photo ID.

Additionally, dealers are not permitted to resell copper for a minimum of fifteen days after the initial sale. If a law enforcement agency alerts the dealer that a theft has occurred, the dealer is required to retain copper material for thirty days. These measures are intended to increase the likelihood that the stolen materials can be recovered by the rightful owner.

In order to combat copper theft, community members must be aware, alert and vigilant. If you see suspicious activity near electric substations, phone companies, construction sites or railroad property, contact local law enforcement immediately.

Sources: Hutchinson News, KVUE.com, Pittsburgh Morning Sun, USA Today, Winfield Daily Courier

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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, KS	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.

Kansas Alliance Participates in Statewide Grant

The Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (KADEC) has partnered with Kansas Social and Rehabilitation Services and the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare to participate in a targeted grant from the Administration for Children and Families to increase the well-being of, and to improve the permanency outcomes for, children affected by methamphetamine or other substance abuse.

The title of this new initiative is Kansas Serves Substance Affected Families (KSSAF). The award amount is \$500,000 annually for five years.

KSSAF has two areas of focus. One is to serve substance-affected families who have children at risk for out-of-home placement or have children who have been placed in foster care. Selected families participate in the Strengthening Families Program, a model program of the National Institute of Drug Abuse and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Families across Kansas who are impacted by

substance abuse will participate in a 14 week program to build parenting, children's life skills, and family skills.

The Strengthening Families Programs began in sites throughout the state in March 2008. Kansas is the first state to pilot the Strengthening Families Program for effectiveness in child abuse prevention.



The other focus area of the grant will target youth ages 15 and older in foster care or former foster care youth currently receiving independent living services. This initiative will include the integration of substance abuse prevention and early intervention with existing life skills and independent living services utilizing a web-based format and will be implemented in 2009.

As a partner agency on the grant, KADEC will create public awareness materials and provide collaboration and evaluation support.

“The Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children is pleased to partner with SRS, KU, and other organizations committed to assisting families affected by substance abuse. This initiative has the potential to positively affect the lives of many children throughout our state,” Cristi Cain, Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children Chair, said.

Partner agencies involved in the Kansas Serves Substance Affected Families initiative include Kansas Social and Rehabilitation Services—Children and Family Policy Division and Addiction and Prevention Services, University of Kansas School of Social Welfare, KVC Behavioral Healthcare, Inc., TFI Family Services, Inc., St. Francis at Salina, Inc., Youthville, Inc., DCCCA, Inc. and inDepth Learning.

National DEC Conference Set for Salt Lake City

The 5th Annual National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children Conference will be held Monday, October 6th through Wednesday, October 8th, 2008 in Salt Lake City, Utah. All conference-related activities will take place at the Radisson Hotel Salt Lake City Downtown.

The conference will begin at approximately 1:00PM on Monday, October 6th. Two preconference sessions will be held that morning—one is an

introduction to DEC topics while the other is designed for members of established DEC programs. The conference will end at



approximately noon on Wednesday, October 8th.

Topics to be covered at the conference include strategic

planning, community-based treatment, foster care, forensic interviewing, treatment for children, Level II protocol procedures and drug court.

Early bird registration pricing for the conference will be available for \$215 through September 5th. After that date, conference registrations will cost \$235. More information regarding the conference can be found at www.nationaldec.org.

Northeast Kansas Mother Named Semi-Finalist in America's Favorite Mom Competition

A Northeast Kansas woman recently received national recognition for the love and generosity she demonstrated while adopting six drug-affected children. Jennifer Keller, of Home, KS, was nominated by her husband, Nick, to participate in the *America's Favorite Mom* competition, sponsored by Teleflora.

Nick and Jennifer 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. During a four-year time period the Kellers adopted the six children, who now range in age from 1 to 9 years old. The three biological mothers of the Kellers' adopted children have 18 children total.

Jennifer was surprised when she learned Nick had nominated her for the award. "It amazes me that Nick thought so much of me and I was humbled, touched and surprised that he submitted my nomination. It is rewarding to have someone support you in everything you do and believe," Jennifer said.

After weeks of online voting, Jennifer was selected as one of 15 semi-finalists for the award. Jennifer traveled to New York City where she appeared on the May 8th episode of NBC's *TODAY* Show with two other semi-finalists, an experience Jennifer described as "exciting, nerve-wracking and *too fast!*" While appearing on-air, Jennifer learned that she



Jennifer Keller (left) stands with the semi-finalists of the America's Favorite Mom competition before the taping of a Mother's Day Television Special hosted by Donny and Marie Osmond.

would receive a \$10,000 cash prize for being named a semi-finalist.

The following weekend, Jennifer, Nick and two of their children traveled to Los Angeles to participate in the *American's Favorite Mom* television special, hosted by Donny and Marie Osmond. During the broadcast Patti Patton-Bader, the founder of Soldiers' Angels, was revealed as the contest winner.

Although she was not officially named *America's Favorite Mom*, Jennifer was impacted by the experience. "I am very blessed to have been chosen as a semi-finalist, and to have had the opportunity to meet the fourteen other extraordinary mothers that participated. It was a once in a lifetime experience that I will never forget. The contest made me feel like a winner and I know I am always America's Favorite Mom to my family!" Jennifer said.

Due to her experiences, Keller has become an active supporter of Drug Endangered Children efforts. Keller has co-presented at several state and national conferences and will speak during a plenary session at the 2008 National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children Conference in Salt Lake City, UT. In 2007 Jennifer and Nick were honored with an Angels in Adoption award based on a nomination by Congressman Jerry Moran.

Jennifer hopes her recent recognition will bring increased attention to the plight of drug endangered children. "I hope and pray that someone of influence saw my story and will come alongside to partner with me to make a personal difference in the lives of drug endangered children and their mothers. I am very passionate about this issue and will not stop until something is done to help all involved," Jennifer said.



2008 Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children Conference

Hilton Wichita Airport, Wichita, KS
September 10, 2008

Wednesday, September 10, 2008
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Registration begins at 7:30 a.m.
Lunch is included

Featuring
"Healing for Children from Addicted Families"

Jerry Moe

Jerry Moe, MA, MAC, CET II is the National Director of Children's Programs at the Betty Ford Center in Rancho Mirage, CA, Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX and Denver, CO. He is internationally known as an author, lecturer, and trainer on issues for young children from addicted families.

"Creating Effective Treatment for Drug Affected Parents"

Dr. Nicolas Taylor

Dr. Taylor, a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and a Level III Certified Addictions Counselor, is the Director of Taylor Behavioral Health in Montrose, CO. He is the author and program developer of the biopsychosocial model for treating addiction to methamphetamine. Dr. Taylor is actively involved in regional and national efforts to improve community responses to meth addiction.

"Journey Through the System"

Panel Discussion

This panel includes an adoptive parent of drug endangered children, a mother in recovery from addiction and a woman who aged out of the foster care system.

Registration: \$50. Deadline to register is August 27, 2008. Please complete the attached registration form. Online registration is available at www.parstopeka.com.

Location: The conference will be held at the Hilton Wichita Airport in Wichita, KS. For directions to the hotel please visit www.wichitaairport.hilton.com.

Hotel: A limited number of rooms are available at the Hilton Wichita Airport for the night of September 9th, 2008. Conference participants may reserve rooms at the rate of \$94 plus applicable fees and taxes. This rate will be available until **August 26, 2008**.

To secure accommodations, please call (316) 945-5272 or 1-800-AIR-HILT (247-4458). Mention the Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children when making your reservation in order to secure the reduced room rate. Reservations can also be made online at www.wichitaairport.hilton.com (enter code "KAD" when making reservations online).

Contact Hours: Certificates for contact hours totaling 7.5 hours will be distributed at the conclusion of the conference. These contact hours can be used to apply for continuing education credits.

For more information, please visit www.ksmethpreventionproject.org
Questions? Contact Cristi Cain at ccain@parstopeka.com or (785) 266-8666.

2008 Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children Conference

September 10, 2008 – Hilton Wichita Airport – Wichita, KS



REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete the registration form using the name/title/agency as it is to appear on the attendance certificate.

First Name:		Last Name:	
Title:			
Agency:			
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip Code:
E-Mail (receipt/confirmation will be sent via e-mail):		Profession:	
Phone:		Fax:	
Special Accommodations (Please list):			

An attendee list may be provided to all conference participants. If you do NOT want your name included, please indicate so by checking the box.

Payment: Conference registration fee is \$50. Payment can be made via check or money order made payable to "PARS". Credit card payments will *not* be accepted.

\$_____ Enclosed (please make checks payable to "PARS") or _____ Please bill my organization

Mail completed registration form with payment to:

KADEC
c/o Prevention and Recovery Services
2209 SW 29th Street
Topeka, KS 66611

or fax to: (785) 266-3833
or register online at www.parstopeka.com

Deadline: Deadline to register is August 27, 2008.

Cancellations: Registration fees will not be refunded if cancelled less than five (5) business days before the conference. No refunds will be given for "no shows".

Questions? Contact Cristi Cain at (785) 266-8666 or ccain@parstopeka.com