



*Empowering Kansas communities in the fight against methamphetamine*

# Record

Number 13

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## Kansas Hosts National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children Conference

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children Conference was held October 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center in Kansas City. The event, hosted by the Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children, attracted 360 attendees representing thirty-nine states, plus Canada.

The conference featured forty speakers, all experts in their respective fields. Commander Lori Moriarty, Executive Director of the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children, provided a pre-conference overview of Drug Endangered Children efforts for those new to the strategy.

Plenary sessions featured speakers including Dr. Nicolas Taylor of Taylor Behavioral Health and Linda Silvas, of Little Tree Creations. During the two-and-a-half day event, twenty-five breakout session options were offered.



Members of the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department Honor Guard perform during the Opening Ceremonies of the 4th Annual National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children Conference held at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center in Kansas City.

Thank you to the many Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children volunteers who committed time and resources to make the conference a success!

The 2008 National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children

will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah from October 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>. Visit the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children website ([www.nationaldec.org](http://www.nationaldec.org)) for more information about the 2008 conference.

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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**

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**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](http://www.ksmethpreventionproject.org).

## Johnson Co. Med-Act Named Partner of the Year



Johnson County Med-Act staff display their awards with Kansas Methamphetamine Prevention Project staff at the annual Shawnee Regional Prevention and Recovery Services Partner of the Year Ceremony. Pictured (left to right) are Jeff Johnson, Loretta Wyrick Severin, Virgel Swanson, Cristi Cain and Dan McManigal.

Johnson County Med-Act was named the Kansas Methamphetamine Prevention Project/Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children Partner of the Year at the Shawnee Regional Prevention and Recovery Services Partner of the Year Ceremony held September 27, 2007.

Three employees who have been key partners of the Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children received special recognition at the event: Virgel Swanson, Community Education Officer and Paramedic; Dan McManigal, Lieutenant and Head of the Video Media Group; and Jeff Johnson, Division Chief of Community Education.

Johnson County Med-Act's full-time staff of 134 employees provides emergency medical services to the 476 square miles of Johnson County. They have a call volume of over 25,000 calls

per year and operate 17 fixed stations.

During 2006 and 2007, the Johnson County Med-Act team was very involved in the production of two Drug Endangered Children (DEC) training videos for the Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children. The Kansas Alliance for DEC identified the need to create a training video to further knowledge regarding the importance of DEC team creation in communities throughout Kansas. However, after contacting various production companies, it became clear that the video project would be a very expensive undertaking and one that the Kansas Alliance could not afford to complete.

Virgel Swanson, a Kansas Alliance board member, volunteered Johnson County Med-Act resources, equipment and staff time to make the video

possible. After initial planning sessions with the Johnson County Med-Act team, Kansas Alliance staff realized that two videos would need to be created to fully address the training topics. Med-Act generously agreed to complete all aspects of production for both videos at no cost.

The creation of the two videos was a significant undertaking, requiring many hours of filming, editing and production. Dan assisted the Kansas Alliance staff through all steps of the development process, providing guidance on the video content, script and filming locations. The Med-Act team donated many hours filming in multiple locations and in conditions as unsavory as mid-August Kansas heat. Med-Act provided resources that the Kansas Alliance staff never would have thought necessary, including a make-up artist and use of an ambulance.

It is estimated that the Med-Act donation is equivalent to \$40,000 of video production. This community resource would never have been created without the commitment and generosity of Johnson County Med-Act.

Thanks to the dedication of Johnson County Med-Act, the Kansas Alliance for DEC now has two excellent training videos—one video to educate medical professionals about their critical role in DEC cases and the other a community-oriented video intended to train partners from a variety of disciplines. These videos are available at no cost to communities throughout Kansas. To order the videos, please contact Loretta Severin at [lwyrick@parstopeka.com](mailto:lwyrick@parstopeka.com).

# Kansas Couple Honored as “Angels In Adoption”

Congressman Jerry Moran recently nominated Nick and Jennifer Keller of Home City, KS as 2007 "Angels in Adoption" for their outstanding advocacy regarding adoption issues and care for children who have been prenatally exposed to methamphetamine. The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) honored the Kellers in Washington, D.C on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

“Nick and Jennifer are the parents of a remarkable family with an amazing story,” Moran said. “Their humble work to help drug endangered children - both by influencing public policy and by giving children a home - is inspiring. The Keller's are making a real difference in the lives of children and truly are angels for those in need.”

Over a period of three years, the Kellers and their daughter, Brooke, opened their home to six children, each of whom was prenatally exposed to methamphetamine. The children range from eleven months to eight years old.

Due to childcare and funding limitations, the Kellers were unsure if they would be able to travel to Washington D.C. to accept their award in person. KVC Behavioral HealthCare, an agency providing foster care and adoption services, provided the Kellers with nearly \$600 in funding to offset the costs of airfare and hotel during their stay. Thank you to the staff of KVC, especially Wayne Sims, CEO, and Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children board member Angie Gabel, for the generous donation that helped make this trip possible!

The presence of illegal drugs,



Jennifer and Nick Keller stand with Senator Mary L Landrieu (D-La.) at the Angels in Adoption Celebration Event held October 4th, 2007 in Washington D.C. © Max Taylor Photography

specifically meth, is a very serious problem in many Kansas communities and threatens families and children, including infants who are prenatally exposed. It is estimated that more than 4,300 Kansas children are prenatally exposed to alcohol and other drugs every year (Ira Chasnoff, M.D., Children's Research Triangle). Approximately 60,767 Kansas children live in environments where alcohol and other drugs are abused (Office of Applied Studies, 2003; 2007 Census).

Based on their experiences as adoptive parents, the Kellers are advocating for legislation in Kansas to better protect children by allowing authorities to intervene when a pregnant woman is using substances and putting her child at risk. Jennifer Keller has spoken at state and national conferences about prenatal methamphetamine exposure and the family has been profiled on local news broadcasts.

Recognizing the destructive impact of methamphetamine use, Congressman Moran has worked to obtain federal funding to assist Kansas law enforcement in combating meth. Former Kansas Bureau of Investigation Director Larry Welch is serving as a congressional fellow in Moran's office to help Moran better understand the challenges Kansas law enforcement face in stopping meth production and distribution.

"The fight against meth requires the cooperation of all members of a community," Moran said. "The Kellers are an example of caring Kansans doing what they can to break the cycle of meth in our state."

Moran is a member of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Caucus and the Congressional Caucus to Fight and Control Methamphetamine.

*(Some information in this article was originally printed in a news release published by the office of Congressman Jerry Moran.)*

# Drug Paraphernalia Education Resources Developed

On May 17, 2007 changes took effect that strengthen and clarify the existing drug paraphernalia statute in Kansas, making it illegal for stores to offer for sale items that are “primarily intended or designed for use to consume or ingest illegal drugs”. In an effort to educate the public about the recent statutory changes, the Drug Paraphernalia Task Force has developed informational flyers (see below). One flyer is directed at retailers that may have illegal items available for sale. The second flyer is intended to educate the law enforcement community about the changes to the existing statute. Both flyers are available for download under “Publications/Forms” at <http://www.accesskansas.org/drugenforcement/>. Community coalitions are encouraged to play an active role in educating local law enforcement and retailers about the revised statute.

## Law Enforcement Flyer



**It is now a crime to sell drug paraphernalia**

New Kansas drug paraphernalia law is now in effect

It is now illegal for stores to offer for sale items that are intended or designed for use to consume or ingest illegal drugs.

<http://www.kalegislature.org/bills/2006/2062.pdf>

**These items have been identified as drug paraphernalia:**

- Glass/metal pipes
- Bong and water pipes
- Pipes disguised as pens, incense, key chains or other items
- "Jewelry" or "Postal" scales
- This list is not all-inclusive. See KSA 65-4150

**Penalties for the sale of drug paraphernalia:**

**A person who violates section 6622:**

- A level 4 nonperson felony with a jail sentence of up to 12 months and a fine not exceeding \$2,000.
- A person who delivers paraphernalia to a person under 18 years of age: A level 4 nonperson felony with a sentencing range of 6 months to 17 months imprisonment and a possible fine of \$100,000.00 or both fine and imprisonment.
- If such person is 18 or more years of age and the items involved were possessed with intent to sell, deliver or distribute, sold or offered for sale in or within 1,000 feet of any school property for grades one through twelve: A level 4 nonperson felony with a sentencing range of 6 months to 17 months imprisonment and a possible fine of \$100,000.00 or both fine and imprisonment.

**A person who violates section 6623:**

- A level 4 nonperson felony with a sentencing range of 6 months to 17 months imprisonment and a possible fine of \$100,000.00 or both fine and imprisonment.
- A person who delivers paraphernalia to a person under 18 years of age: A drug severity level 4 nonperson felony with a sentencing range of 16 months to 42 months imprisonment and a possible fine of \$100,000.00 or both fine and imprisonment.
- If such person is 18 or more years of age and the items involved were possessed with intent to sell, deliver or distribute, sold or offered for sale in or within 1,000 feet of any school property upon which is located a structure used by a unified school district or an accredited nonpublic school for student instruction or attendance or within or under shelter for of people enrolled in kindergarten or any of grades 1 through 12: A sentencing range of 16-42 months imprisonment and fine of \$100,000.00 or both.

For more information visit <http://www.accesskansas.org/kbi/>

## Retailer Flyer



**Attention retailers: Are you selling drug paraphernalia?**

New Kansas drug paraphernalia law is now in effect

It is now illegal for stores to offer for sale items that are intended or designed for use to consume or ingest illegal drugs.

<http://www.kalegislature.org/bills/2006/2062.pdf>

<p><b>Illegal items under the new law:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glass/metal pipes</li> <li>• Bong and water pipes</li> <li>• Pipes disguised as pens, incense, key chains or other items</li> <li>• "Jewelry" or "Postal" scales</li> <li>• This list is not all-inclusive. See KSA 65-4150</li> </ul>	<p><b>Penalties for the sale of drug paraphernalia:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 24 months in prison</li> <li>• Fines up to \$100,000</li> <li>• Possible forfeiture of assets</li> </ul> <p>Local law enforcement officers conduct random, unannounced inspections of retailers to ensure compliance.</p>
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Communities that have paraphernalia for sale in retail stores establish unhealthy conditions that make it more likely that kids will use illegal drugs. Help keep our kids safe and obey the law!

For more information visit <http://www.accesskansas.org/kbi/>

## Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children Update

The Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children is pleased to welcome four new members to the Board of Directors in 2008. The expertise of our new members will greatly enrich our Board. Welcome to our new members!

- Dona Booe, Vice President of Program Services, Kansas Children’s Service League
- Tom Buell, Director of Addiction Services, DCCCA, Inc.
- Janine Gracy, Director, Regional Prevention Center of Johnson, Leavenworth and Miami Counties
- Janae Talbott, Community Prevention Consultant, Regional Prevention Center of Northwest Kansas—Hays

