



DIANNE JACOB

**CHAIRWOMAN
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: June 15, 2004

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: **FOCUS ON FEMALE METHAMPHETAMINE USE** (District: All)

SUMMARY:

OVERVIEW

Use of the intense stimulant methamphetamine is soaring in communities across the nation. In many areas, explosive labs and ruthless dealers have stretched resources dangerously thin. In San Diego County however, problems associated with meth are holding relatively steady. Regional law enforcement agencies report fewer seizures of toxic meth labs. Still, the artificial stimulant remains the illicit drug-of-choice among lawbreakers in the region, fueling crime, violence and disorder.

Since its inception in 1996, the County of San Diego Methamphetamine Strike Force has tackled meth-related community problems with measurable success. Recently, Strike Force officials have become concerned about the number of females using meth. In 2002, 37 percent of women arrested for crimes in San Diego County tested positive for meth at the time of their arrest.

There is a need to explore the dangerous bond between meth and women who enter the region's criminal justice system. By deepening our understanding of this particular drug, we can develop more calculated ways to lessen its historic chokehold on our region.

Approval of this item will authorize County staff to work with the Methamphetamine Strike Force to develop a Board-hosted conference on female meth use.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHAIRWOMAN JACOB AND DISTRICT ATTORNEY DUMANIS:

Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to work with the Methamphetamine Strike Force to conduct a Board-hosted conference on female meth use.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with the proposal.

SUBJECT: FOCUS ON FEMALE METHAMPHETAMINE USE

BACKGROUND:

Use of the intense stimulant methamphetamine is soaring in communities across the nation. In many areas, explosive labs and ruthless dealers have stretched public safety resources dangerously thin. Unruly meth addicts, many who are the parents of young children, are a drain on social service resources.

In San Diego County however, problems associated with meth are holding relatively steady. Regional law enforcement agencies report fewer seizures of toxic meth labs and healthcare providers report that more users are seeking treatment to end their addictions. Without question, San Diego County has renounced its dubious title as the “Meth Capitol of the World.” Still, the artificial stimulant remains the illicit drug-of-choice among lawbreakers in the region, fueling an inordinate amount of regional crime, violence and disorder.

Since its inception in 1996, the County of San Diego Methamphetamine Strike Force has tackled methamphetamine-related community problems with measurable success. Over the years, the Strike Force has worked to limit the sale of over-the-counter ingredients used to manufacture meth, expand the highly-successful Drug Court program and find stable funding for the Drug Endangered Children program, which aims to rescue children from dangerous drug homes. In addition, the regional Meth Hotline lets anonymous callers report suspicious activities or seek treatment referrals 24 hours a day.

Recently, Strike Force officials have become concerned about the number of females using meth. In 2002, 37 percent of women arrested for crimes in San Diego County tested positive for meth at the time of their arrest, according to the 2002 Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring report, the latest figures available. Similarly, anecdotal information from drug treatment facilities suggests that the physical and psychological effects of the drug may be particularly enticing to women.

As stated in the 2004 State of the County Address in February, there is a need to explore the dangerous bond between meth and women who enter the region’s criminal justice system. By deepening our understanding of this particular drug, we can develop more calculated ways to lessen its historic chokehold on our region. Approval of this item will authorize County staff to work with the Methamphetamine Strike Force to develop a Board-hosted conference on female meth use.

Respectfully submitted,

DIANNE JACOB
Chairwoman
Supervisor, Second District

BONNIE M. DUMANIS
District Attorney

SUBJECT: FOCUS ON FEMALE METHAMPHETAMINE USE

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

CONCURRENCE(S)

COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Written Disclosure per County Charter Section 1000.1 Required	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	[X] No
GROUP/AGENCY FINANCE DIRECTOR	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	[X] N/A
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	[X] N/A
Requires Four Votes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	[X] No
GROUP/AGENCY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	[X] N/A
COUNTY TECHNOLOGY OFFICE	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	[X] N/A
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	[X] N/A

Other Concurrence(s): N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: District 2

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Jennifer Stone	_____
Name	Name
619-531-5522	_____
Phone	Phone
619-696-7253	_____
Fax	Fax
A-500	_____
Mail Station	Mail Station
Jennifer.Stone@sdcounty.ca.gov	_____
E-mail	E-mail

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE: _____