



Californians for Drug Free Youth

VOLUME ONE

Networking Newsletter

The purpose of this newsletter is to introduce you to CADFY's role in partnership with the California National Guard's Drug Demand Reduction Specialists in each region in connecting and supporting Drug-Free Community Coalitions.

- ◆ CADFY provides networking resources for community coalitions statewide.
- ◆ CADFY is the statewide representative for Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) to provide national prevention trainings and resources to communities.
- ◆ Regional coalitions are coming together to share resources and information to strengthen common goals around substance abuse issues such as methamphetamine, marijuana and pharmaceutical drugs.

National Partner Update

Partnership for Drug Free America Unveils a New Parent Tool

For every parent of a teenager who has ever wondered “who is this kid?” a new web destination, launched by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, aims to make answering the question a little bit easier. Designed to help parents navigate the confusing teen years, “A Parent’s Guide to the Teen Brain” translates recent scientific findings that shed light on how brain development shapes teens’ behavior and personalities into easy-to-understand tips and tools for parents. Log on to www.drugfree.org/teenbrain and discover how the human brain takes 25 years to fully develop, with the prefrontal cortex—responsible for complex judgment and decision-making—maturing last. Through video, humorous interactive segments, role-playing and advice from experts, parents learn how adolescent brain development explains the “normal” teen behaviors that often confound parents—impulsiveness, rebellion, high emotions and risk-taking—and how to use this new information to connect with their teens.

OUR MISSION:

WORKING IN COLLABORATION WITH INDIVIDUALS, AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO BRING ALL SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER TO FOSTER SAFE AND HEALTH ENVIRONMENTS.

Forces United

Forces United is a unique initiative developed by Californians For Drug Free Youth (CADFY) in partnership with the California National Guard (CNG) bringing military and surrounding communities together with existing community based organizations and agencies as a force multiplier to implement more effective community substance abuse prevention strategies with the primary goal of building a framework of awareness, knowledge, resources and ultimately shared capacity building to create safe and healthy communities.

Forces United provides a forum for its members to discuss and strategize how to address substance abuse issues unique to their community.

Forces United has had meetings in five regions in California: San Diego, Orange County, Imperial Valley, Sacramento and Redding with five more regions to follow.

Bay Area Region Update

Meth Project reaches out to community
Jennifer Squires - Sentinel Staff Writer
Article Launched: 08/27/2008 12:00:00 AM PDT

Four years ago, David Robles' 16-year-old daughter told her parents she was addicted to methamphetamine. She'd been using the drug since she was 13 and, by Robles' account, it nearly killed her.

Now she's been clean for 45 months, but the sometimes heart-wrenching, hellacious recovery process the family went through spurred Robles, a past-president of the Santa Cruz Rotary Club, to start a methamphetamine awareness program in hopes his family's experience could help others.

"What we went through was horrible," said Robles, who lives in Soquel and is the president of California Commercial Interiors in Santa Cruz. "My wife and I decided if we could help some people not go through that, it would be worth it to share the story despite whatever stigma comes out of that. ... We're not embarrassed."

The Santa Cruz Meth Project took form 2½ years ago, launching a series of community forums about methamphetamine use and bringing young people who are recovered methamphetamine addicts to speak to middle school students.

On Thursday, the Meth Project will host three simultaneous events in Santa Cruz and Watsonville to explain the signs of methamphetamine use to community members and give people resources to help addicts. One presentation will be in Spanish.

"The focus now is less on what to look for to see if people are cooking meth in your neighborhood," Robles said. "It's more on the drug and the use."

Sgt. Steve Carney, head of the Sheriff's Office Narcotics Enforcement Team and one of the panelists at Thursday's Santa Cruz forum, said meth production in the county has declined in recent years, but arrests for using and possessing methamphetamine have not dropped. The methamphetamine problem in the county is predominantly the use of the drug and the crimes that come with it -- like identity theft and burglary.

Robles said the Meth Project has adjusted its message as local drug trends have changed. The drug awareness presentations aim to educate people about helping addicts and preventing people -- especially teens -- from getting hooked on the drug he calls "an equal opportunity destroyer."

"I don't think we're ever going to get rid of the problem, but I think we'll damn well make an impact," Robles said. "I think we are."

Bay Area Region Update continued

The Rotary Club hasn't conducted any surveys to gauge the influence of their educational programs, but Robles said the regional Rotary organization, which includes Santa Cruz, Santa Clara and parts of Alameda counties, is considering expanding the Meth Project to all of its clubs.

Personally, Robles would like to see area schools adopt the educational portion of the Meth Project at the middle school level.

"If we can help some people a little bit, it's worth it," he said.

- ◆ The next Bay Area regional meeting will be held on Friday October 17th from **10:30 to 11 am** on the Friday Night Live call-in number, (559)733-6743.

Orange County Regional Update

Prevention Coalition of Orange County (PCOC), in collaboration with the County of Orange Health Care Agency, developed an Orange County Red Ribbon Theme – “Get Up! Stand Up! Speak Out for a Healthy Life!” and the “Red Ribbon Community Toolkit” in order to facilitate the promotion of Red Ribbon Week throughout the County, implementation of effective prevention, and encourage school and community collaboration. A copy can be downloaded at <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/adept>.

- ◆ The Prevention Coalition of Orange County meets the second Friday, every other month (next meeting to be held in October 10th) from **9:30 to 11 am** - Public Health Training Center- 1725 W. 17th Street, Santa Ana, 92706 - Building E.
- ◆ The next San Diego/ Imperial regional meeting is held quarterly, with the next meeting taking place on Thursday, November 6th, from **10am to 12 noon** at the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement 9425 Chesapeake Dr, San Diego, CA 92123

Please contact Aimee Hendle at (619)557-5753 or hendlea@cbag.hidta.org for further information.

California Red Ribbon Coalition

BTW...R U LIVIN UR NATRL HI?

Translation: By The Way...Are You Living Your Natural High?

This year the California Red Ribbon Coalition will be holding two events; the statewide kick-off in Sacramento, California on Monday, October 20th as well in San Diego, California on Thursday, October 30th. The Sacramento event will be held at Raley Field, home of the Rivercats baseball team, and will be attended by over 7,000 local 5th and 6th graders. The event will feature guest speakers including Geneva “Mika” Camarena, motivational speaker Brian Sharp, Olympic gold-medalist Deedee Trotter and many many more! There will also be many displays and activities for the kids to view and explore such as a F-16 flyover, helicopters, a Ghillie Low-Crawl Team demonstration, a DEA lab truck, Pararescue jumpers, SWAT team, DOJ Lab truck, K-9 units, police units, Dinger the Rivercat and much much more!!!

Please contact Aimee Hendle at (619)557-5753 or hendlea@cbag.hidta.org for further information.

If you are interested in more information please contact us at:

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