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San Juan Safe Communities Connection eNewsletter

January
2010

www.sjsoci.org
www.umattr.com

DIRECTORS CORNER

Hello friends,

I hope the New Year is going well for each of you personally. The uncertainty behind the state of our local economy is, understandably so, a source of concern for many within our community, but I am hoping we can continue to count the many blessings we all see each day. We, here at Safe Communities, are continuing to press forward with the implementation of our goals and strategies, particularly as it relates to the implementation of our "Building a Bridges Community" project. I would like to take just a moment to recap our overall plan.



We developed the "drill down" strategy early last year, whereby our capital is focused on the parts of our community with the least amount of resources, and specifically at creating stronger homes with better parents and more resilient kids coming out of those homes. Toward that end, we are working with local governments to develop a community center system, and as a coalition are developing neighborhood programming to impact the parents, kids and homes in those neighborhoods. One specific project which is complimentary to the Community Center programming is "Building a Bridges Community."

Everyone will recall that author and consultant Phil DeVol came in back in August, 2009 to talk to us about what it meant to be a "Bridges" community, and to conduct a community assessment to see if we were ready to begin to implement the "Bridges" programming. His determination was very favorable which led to the two day "Bridges out of Poverty" seminar in October, 2009, where 81 persons from all across our county were trained with a better understanding of social class and poverty issues. The plan was to then present training focused on how to identify local resources and showing community members how to activate their own resources.

The first part of this resource development is targeted toward student-aged kids and young adults, through a training called "R Rules." This was presented in January, 2010, by friend and local author, Betti Souther. This was an instructor development class and was attended by 18 persons.

The next resource development training, targeting the adults in the community is being presented on February 25th, by Phil DeVol. His course is called "Getting Ahead, in a Just Gettin' by World." This class is open to anyone who attended the

Bridges training in October, and you can sign up by contacting me, or by going to our website, www.sjsci.org.

The individuals who are trained to instruct in these two resource areas will make presentations all across the county to neighborhood members, and the graduates of these classes would then be eligible to participate in a community mentoring program. These graduates would have access to mentors and services that they would not normally know about. This brings us to the final piece of this puzzle which entails our working on the creation of this community mentoring system itself. If you would like to help in this endeavor, please let me know and I can get you information about how to participate in our Bridges sub-committee.

We have spent the month of January putting together our Prevention Sub-Committees, and preparing for our Spring Conference. This year, we are going to be holding it in conjunction with the New Mexico Youth Summit, at the Farmington Public Library and the Farmington Boy's and Girl's Club, on April 30th and May 1st. It should be an exciting time for the community, our members and for the youth across the State.

Our office is working on a grant designed to inventory all the early childhood development efforts across the county, and to develop a community action plan to deal with early childhood development issues. We are partnering with the Farmington Municipal Schools, Safe Schools, Healthy Students; PMS; San Juan College and other service providers. I will keep everyone posted as to our progress in this area.

We have been working quite hard on locating funding to build a skate park at the Sycamore Park Community Center, and we have put in for a grant through the Pepsi Company. The interesting thing about this grant is that awards are driven by the number of persons from the community who vote in favor of the various grant proposals. There are various voting methods which we will share with everyone over the next couple of weeks, but they take the form of voting on various web sites, or through Myspace or Facebook, etc. Once we get a clearer picture of all the voting options, I will let you know. Any help you can give us by voting for this project would be greatly appreciated. I will stay in touch.

As always, if you have questions or comments about anything we are working on, please call our office at 505-599-1492 or by sending an email to info@sjsci.org. Until next month, take care.

Dan D.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

For All Community Events, Visit:

[San Juan Safe Communities Calendar](#)

[National Non-Profit Calendar of Capacity Building Training & Events](#)

:: FAMILY WELLNESS, PARENTING, MENTORING
 :: GRANT WRITING
 :: UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING
 :: YOUTH ISSUES
 :: LINKS

Safe Communities Spotlight

Farmington Police and Fire Heroes (Holsters and Hoses) Vs. Harlem Ambassadors Basketball Game March 3, 2010

Be sure to catch our Farmington Police and Fire heroes play a fundraising basketball game against the Harlem Ambassadors at the Farmington High School Gym on March 3, 2010! Tickets on sale now!

Advanced tickets are available now, Prices as follows:

Youth and Seniors (60+) - \$7
 Adults (19-59) - \$10
 Children Under 6 free

At the door:
 Youth and Seniors (60+) - \$9
 Adults (19-59) - \$11
 Children Under 6 free

Visit www.sjsci.org to buy your tickets online or call (505) 599-1490

UmattR Trading Card Program

There are still sponsorship opportunities available for the 2009-2010 uMattR Trading Card Program. Please email info@sjsci.org

Watch our UmattR Teens in the theater! We will be partnering with the Farmington Rotary to make a new anti-meth commercial which will be airing soon in local theaters!

Watch the advertisement [here!](#)

Also, if you want the UmattR teens to come to your place of work or school,

Every Friday

RU Reformers Unamious
 7pm - 9pm
 Bible Baptist Church

Every Tuesday

9-10am
 Grandparent Support Group
 Sycamore Park Community Center, 1051 Sycamore St., Farmington, NM
 For more information call 505-565-2480, 564-4460

Every Wednesday

5:30-7pm
 Parent and Grandparent Support Group
 First Presbyterian Church, 865 N. Dustin Farmington, NM
 564-4460

Every Saturday

2-3pm
 Parent/Caregiver Support Group
 Farmington Civic Center, 200 W. Arrington, Farmington NM 87401
 505-860-5038

February 4, 2010

12-1pm
 Professional Support Group
 2800 Hutton Avenue, Farmington NM 87402

February 10, 2010

1pm-2pm
 UmattR Seniors Visit Sycamore Park Community Center

February 18, 2010

9am-12pm
 Dine' Ba Hozho Coalition / Drug Free Communities Meeting
 Please contact Raymond Keeswood at raykeeswood@yahoo.com for more information

February 18, 2010

3:30-5:30pm

please email umattr@hotmail.com to schedule a date and time!

Mayor's Teen Advisory Council

The Mayor's Teen Advisory Council (MTAC) is looking for middle school to high school youth who are active and committed to their community and who want to have a voice in city government and get other youth involved in their community. MTAC is a youth-led organization with youth from diverse backgrounds. Youth provide a voice in local government and a "seat at the table" with regard to youth issues. MTAC meets monthly during the school year on the first Thursday of the month in the Teen Zone at the Farmington Public Library at 7pm.

Fill out an application for MTAC at www.infoway.org by clicking on TEEN ZONE and answer in narrative a response to the questions below.

Applications can be submitted to teenzone@infoway.org or taken to the Teen Zone at the Farmington Public Library, 2101 Farmington Avenue, Farmington, NM 87401 by 5:00 p.m. February 1, 2010. All questions can be directed by email to teenzone@infoway.org or by calling 566-2201.

Community Health Improvement Council Meeting
Rehabilitation Hospital 525
South Schwartz Avenue
Farmington, NM 87401

February 18, 2010

6-7pm
Professional Support Group
2800 Hutton Avenue,
Farmington NM 87402

February 20, 2010

6-8pm
2nd Annual Daddy Daughter Ball
Sycamore Park Community Center,
1051 Sycamore St., Farmington, NM
Contact (505) 566-2480
\$4.00

February 27, 2010

9am-5pm
First Time Home Buyer Education Class
Farmington Civic Center Board Room
To register call:
ECHO HOPE
505-325-7466

March 3, 2010

7-9:00pm
Harlem Ambassadors VS. Farmington
Holsters and Hoses
Farmington High School Gym
For tickets go to www.sjsci.org or call
(505)599-1492

Humor



Why, Why, Why???

Why do banks charge a fee on 'insufficient funds' when they already know there is not enough money?

The statistics on sanity is that one out of every four persons is

Interesting

Doug Landis art

Check this guy out. Please enjoy the art, then scroll all the way to the bottom of the newsletter for some important info about Mr. Landis:

suffering from some sort of mental illness.

Think of your three best friends -- if they're okay, then it's you.

Intervention/Treatment

We are looking for anyone who might want to volunteer to sit on one of our various sub-committees to drill down and focus on specific issues in the following Intervention/Treatment areas: Intervention Program Development, Treatment Program Development, Supportive Housing Initiative, or Street Gang Intervention System Development.

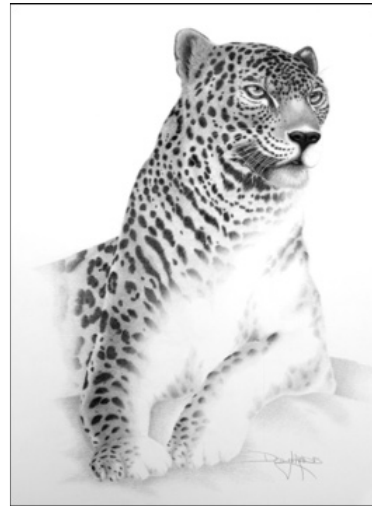
If you are interested in working in any of these areas, please email us at info@sjsci.org or call our office at 505-599-1492, or contact the Intervention Committee Chair, Rob Mitchell at rmitchell@sjcounty.net.

Paul Wellstone, Pete Domenici Parity Act Prohibits Discrimination

The U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Labor, and the Treasury today jointly issued new rules providing parity for consumers enrolled in group health plans who need treatment for mental health or substance use disorders.

"The rules we are issuing today will, for the first time, help assure that those diagnosed with these debilitating and sometimes life-threatening disorders will not suffer needless or arbitrary limits on their care," said HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. "I applaud the long-standing and bipartisan effort that made these important new protections possible."

"Today's rules will bring needed relief to families faced with meeting the cost of obtaining mental health



PREVENTION

Prevention Committee activities

We are looking for anyone who might want to volunteer to sit on one of our various sub-committees to drill down and focus on specific issues in the following areas: Community Center Programming, Bridges Community Programming, Business Partnership Development, Data Utilization or the Epi Workgroup, Violence Prevention, Gang Prevention or Alcohol Program Development.

If you are interested in working on any of these areas, please email us at info@sjsci.org or call our office at 505-599-1492, or contact the Prevention Committee Chair, Pamela Drake at drakep@sjcpartnership.org.

and substance abuse services," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. "The benefits will give these Americans access to greatly needed medical treatment, which will better allow them to participate fully in society. That's not just sound policy, it's the right thing to do."

"Workers covered by group health plans who need mental health and substance abuse care deserve fair treatment," said Deputy Treasury Secretary Neal Wolin. "These rules expand on existing protections to ensure that people don't face unnecessary barriers to the treatment they need."

The new rules prohibit group health insurance plans-typically offered by employers-from restricting access to care by limiting benefits and requiring higher patient costs than those that apply to general medical or surgical benefits. The rules implement the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (MHPAEA).

MHPAEA greatly expands on an earlier law, the Mental Health Parity Act of 1996, which required parity only in aggregate lifetime and annual dollar limits between the categories of benefits and did not extend to substance use disorder benefits. The new law requires that any group health plan that includes mental health and substance use disorder benefits along with standard medical and surgical coverage must treat them equally in terms of out-of-pocket costs, benefit limits, and practices such as prior authorization and utilization review. These practices must be based on the same level of scientific evidence used by the insurer for medical and surgical benefits. For example, a plan may not apply separate deductibles for treatment related to mental health or substance use disorders and medical or surgical

Preventing Teen Cough Medicine Abuse: Looking For Voices to Raise Awareness

Data from the Partnership for a Drug-Free America indicate that one in 10 teens reports having abused OTC cough medicines to get high, and 28 percent know someone who has tried it.

[Read More.](#)

Bridges Out of Poverty / Getting Ahead training schedule:

Phil DeVol - Getting Ahead facilitator training (1 day), February 25, 2010

Local Instructors - Getting Ahead classes (15 two hour classes), beginning March, 2010

Local Instructors - Getting Ahead understanding, for School Districts, Spring, 2010

Phil DeVol - Community Resource Development, Summer, 2010

The Meth Project
www.methproject.org

The Meth Project News...

Prompted by the Meth Project's impact in Montana and other states, the Stanford Social Innovation Review recently featured Tom Siebel and the Meth Project's large-scale prevention campaign as evidence of new philanthropic leadership: "catalytic philanthropy," an approach to giving that solves social problems and delivers the kind of impact that is the exception, rather than the rule.

benefits-they must be calculated as one limit. MHPAEA applies to employers with 50 or more workers whose group health plan chooses to offer mental health or substance use disorder benefits. The new rules are effective for plan years beginning on or after July 1, 2010.

The Wellstone-Domenici Act is named for two dominant figures in the quest for equal treatment of benefits. The late Senator Paul Wellstone (D-MN), who was a vocal advocate for parity throughout his Senate career, sponsored the ultimately successful full parity act. He was joined by former Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM) who first introduced legislation to require parity in 1992. Champions of the legislation also included the bipartisan team of Representative Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) and former Representative Jim Ramstad (R-MN).

Narconon is offering their books and DVD's at a 10% discount if you purchase through their online bookstore. All you need to do is enter the coupon code "DISC" and you will receive 10% off your order. The more knowledge you have about drug addiction, the more you will be able to help others. Go to www.narconon.org.

Announcing the February Road to Recovery Webcast: Join the Voices for Recovery, Now More Than Ever!

Premieres February 3, 2010: For millions of individuals, the Recovery Month campaign celebrates their achievement of long-term recovery and living happy, healthy, and meaningful lives. For others, it is a promise of hope that they, too, will find the treatment and recovery services they need. The kickoff episode

The Stanford Social Innovation Review invited Tom to discuss catalytic philanthropy with Mark Kramer, founder and managing director of FSG Social Impact Advisors, in a national webcast that aired on Tuesday, January 26. Tom provided insights into the practice and practical aspects of applying catalytic philanthropy to improve donors' impact and effectiveness.

The Meth Project is highlighted by the Stanford Social Innovation Review as one of the projects that distinguishes the Siebel Foundation with its rigor, strong focus on research and measurement, and marked results.

The publication notes that catalytic philanthropy is a tool for donors who have the desire, opportunity, and resources to achieve social change-and see measurable impact from their efforts, as well as the potential to change social conditions in a meaningful way.

Read more about the Meth Project and catalytic philanthropy [here](#).

The Idaho Meth Project news...

The Idaho Meth Project released results of the 2009 Idaho Meth Use & Attitudes Survey. Compared to the 2007 benchmark survey, conducted prior to the launch of the Idaho Meth Project, the state's teens and young adults are now more likely to see great risk in trying Meth-more so than heroin, cocaine, or marijuana-and are now less likely to believe Meth provides certain benefits. There have also been significant increases in parent-child communications and the number of young people who have told their friends not to try the drug. At the same time, state experts are seeing a decline in those seeking treatment for Meth addiction.

of the 10th season of the Road to Recovery series will highlight the many successes enjoyed last year during the Recovery Month campaign's 20th anniversary. We look forward to another exciting Recovery Month in September 2010.

[View the Television and Radio Series Schedule](#)

[Women face tough challenges in overcoming addiction](#)

Women often find it harder than men to recover from addictions, according to the January 2010 issue of the Harvard Mental Health Letter.

[Read more.](#)



SUCCESS STORIES

**Success Stories - Life after Meth
From drugfree.org**

The Idaho Meth Project, now entering its third year, also launched Wave 3 of its statewide public messaging campaign, featuring television ads by award-winning filmmaker Darren Aronofsky-acclaimed for his films *The Wrestler* and *Requiem for a Dream*-accompanied by radio, print, and outdoor ads that continue the Project's effort to reduce Meth use.

For the complete article and study, click [here](#).

Meth Project Wave 5

The Meth Project launched Wave 5 of its hard-hitting media campaign in Montana. New radio, print, outdoor, and online ads will appear across the state, along with new television spots directed by cinematographer and Academy Award nominee Wally Pfister, whose critically acclaimed work can be seen in films such as *The Dark Knight*, *Memento*, *Batman Begins*, and *The Prestige*.

The latest Montana Meth Project media campaign follows recent recognition for the Project's strategic approach and impact. *Barron's* magazine ranked the Montana Meth Project #5 among the world's 25 most effective foundations. In addition, the Stanford Social Innovation Review has cited the Project as an example of "catalytic philanthropy," characterized by strategic determination of an unmet need, and deployment of resources to fulfill it and achieve measurable results. Read the results [here](#).

NEWS & PUBLICATIONS

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

The ONDCP Update, a new e-newsletter of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), will be produced



Sterling Cannon
High Point, NC
47

What Made Me Try It

I first picked up drugs when I was around 11 or 12 years old. I remember taking some pills my friend got from his grandmother. That feeling I got was wonderful, and for years I tried to get that same feeling again.

Moments of Truth

That moment with me was my second year of high school. I had already been kicked out of three schools, and this was supposed to be my last chance to do good. I had such a hard time getting ready for school every day, but after I got high, things went a little smoother. I knew then that I had a problem, but I didn't want to do anything about it.

Recovery from Relapse

Thank God it has not been necessary for me to use again. I have been clean for 34 months, and it will be three years on April 23. I just turned 47 years old in January, so I used for over 30 years. I was done when I stopped in 2005. Just for today my desire to stay clean is greater than my desire to use.

My Keys to Recovery

monthly and is available on ONDCP's Web site. The ONDCP Update is created by ONDCP's Office of Public Affairs (OPA) and the Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison (OIPL), which is a new component office dedicated to building partnerships with state, local and tribal government leaders; law enforcement officials; substance abuse professionals; and state and national organizations.

Marijuana Legalization Fails in Wash. Legislature

A bill that would have legalized marijuana possession for adults ages 21 and over has been rejected by a House committee in the Washington state legislature, the [Associated Press](#) reported Jan. 20.

The House Public Safety Committee voted 6-2 against the bill, as well as another measure that would have decriminalized adult marijuana possession. The legalization bill would have imposed a 15-percent tax on marijuana sales; the money would have been used to pay for addiction treatment and prevention. The decriminalization bill failed 5-3; it would have downgraded marijuana possession from a misdemeanor to a civil offense with a maximum penalty of a \$100 fine.

Update: New Mexico Seeking New Behavioral Health Contractor

After the New Mexico Behavioral Health Collaborative reached an agreement with OptumHealth New Mexico, under which Optum agreed to pay \$1.5 million to settle behavioral health reimbursement issues, Governor Bill Richardson (D) has directed the collaborative to put the state's contract

There are a number of keys to recovery. First of all having a relationship with God, a loving and caring God. Second having a sponsor in Narcotics Anonymous that I do the twelve step program with, and going to NA meetings. Third is having a community of faith that loves me and cares for me, and one that I belong to not only on paper but in doing service work for them. Also important is participating in church activities, bible studies and helping other people. And last but not least, I have been going back to school, I am in my fourth semester and am doing very well. I have a 3.30 GPA, and I am studying to be a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor (CSAC).

Lessons Learned

I try to do the right thing for the right reasons. I make sure my motives and intentions are in line with what I am doing and why I am doing it. My life today is much better than it was using. I have a life worth living.

My advice

There is hope for anyone who has a desire to stop using. I would suggest starting with finding a Narcotics Anonymous meeting. Getting some of the literature and reading it. Talking to other addicts and seeing how they did it. I used for over 30 years and have not used any drugs in almost three years. If I can do it, anyone can.

[Read my full story here.](#)

Humor

AN EXERCISE FOR PEOPLE OVER 60

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side. With a 5-lb potato

out to bid.

OptumHealth took over the state's 4-year, \$1-billion contract in July, replacing ValueOptions New Mexico. OptumHealth's contract has been plagued by billing delays and technical problems; however, a spokesperson for the governor said that, while Optum's performance was a factor, the decision to issue a new request for proposals was based on the budget, the Medicaid redesign, and health care reform.

Mexican Drug Decriminalization Has Little Impact

Mexico's decision to decriminalize possession of small amounts of narcotic drugs has had little of the hoped-for effect on drug violence or addiction, local residents and experts say.

The [Arizona Republic](#) reported Jan. 10 that buying drugs in cities like Agua Prieta is as easy as ordering a pizza, and that police still arrest drug users and throw them in jail.

On the other hand, fears that the law would encourage American "drug tourists" to cross the border have not been realized, either.

Most significantly, the law has done nothing to ease drug trafficking or its attendant bloodshed in Mexico.

Publications

[Building Relationships: A Guide for New Mentors](#)

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention-Sponsored

[How to Build a Successful Mentoring Program Using the Elements of Effective Practice](#)

MENTOR, The National Mentoring

sack in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax. Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.

After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato sacks. Then try 50-lb potato sacks and then eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato sack in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. (I'm at this level).

After you feel confident at that level, try putting a potato in each sack....

Suppression

We are looking for members who might want to volunteer to sit on one of our various sub-committees to drill down and focus on specific issues in the following suppression areas: Street Gang Intervention System Development (there is a Suppression component in it), and taking a look at new policing strategies in context of the "drill down" approach.

If you are interested in working on any of these areas, please email us at info@sjsci.org or call our office at 505-599-1492, or contact the Suppression Committee Chair, Sheriff, Mark McCloskey at mccloskeym@sjcounty.net.

Leading Criminologist Highlights Effectiveness of "Hot Spots" Policing

The hardest-to-solve crime problems usually occur in concentrated places, often termed "hot spots." Research has shown that if law enforcement authorities can pinpoint those locations, they can make them

Partnership

[Toolkit: National Mentoring Month](#)

Corporation for National and Community Service

[Stalking Victimization in the United States](#)

Bureau of Justice Statistics

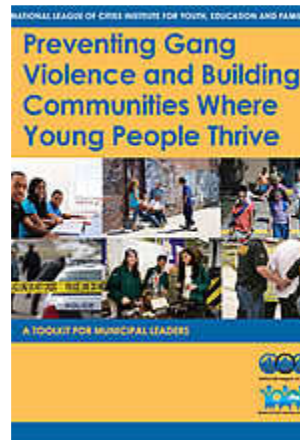
[A Statewide Study of Stalking and Its Criminal Justice Response](#)

National Institute of Justice-Sponsored Understanding Intimate Partner

[Stalking: Implications For Offering Victim Services](#)

National Institute of Justice-Sponsored

Street Gangs



[Preventing Gang Violence and Building Communities Where Young People Thrive](#)

Published by the Youth, Education, and Families (YEF) Institute, the Gang Prevention Toolkit draws upon lessons

learned over the past three years from the California Cities Gang Prevention Network to identify strategies for reducing gang violence and victimization. Each of the network cities has developed and is now implementing a comprehensive gang reduction plan that blends prevention, intervention and enforcement techniques.

FAMILY WELLNESS, PARENTING, AND MENTORING

Teens who drink with parents may still develop alcohol problems

less hospitable to criminals through proactive policing.

Dr. David Weisburd, a distinguished criminologist and leading researcher in the field of hot spots policing, provided an overview of this groundbreaking approach to crime control in an interview with Mary Lou Leary, Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs, on October 26, 2009. The discussion, called hot spots Policing and Why It Works," was sponsored by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ).

Dr. Weisburd discussed why geography matters, the techniques for identifying hot spots, and the strategies for using hot spots policing, also known as "[placed-based](#)" policing. The seminar examined how the use of intensified patrols in high-crime areas, or hot spots, can reduce the level of crime. Dr. Weisburd said he and his colleagues found that an intensive focus on place will not simply displace crime, but can actually help to lower crime in adjacent areas.

Included among the numerous research studies cited at the seminar was an OJJDP-sponsored study of juvenile crime in Seattle, WA, between 1989 and 2002. Findings from this study are providing the first portrait of the distribution of officially recorded juvenile crime events in smaller geographical areas-such as a favorite gathering place in a mall, restaurant, subway station, or bus station-rather than certain police precincts or beats, the larger areas usually patrolled by police. Dr. Weisburd and his colleagues have found that crime tends to concentrate in discrete areas where youth congregate, and that police resources are used most efficiently when law enforcement focuses specifically on these places to deter crime. OJJDP will release the preliminary findings of the Seattle study in early 2010.

Despite the research on the negative effects of alcohol use on young people, many parents still believe that teen drinking is a right of passage. Many take the approach of trying to teach responsible drinking by letting their teenagers have alcohol at home. However, a new study published in the latest issue of the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs, shows that this approach is ineffective.

[Read more](#)

Parent's Choice Awards for Best Teachable Moment - [Vote Now!](#)

It's award season -- the Golden Globes, Grammys, Critic's Choice, the upcoming Academy Awards, and now... The Partnership and Time To Talk® bring you:

But what is the very BEST time to talk to your kid?

[Vote now in Time to Talk's "Parent's Choice Awards for Best Teachable Moment"](#) and tell us what you think is the most valuable opportunity to talk with kids about living a healthy drug-free life.

Thank you for participating!
Your friends at The Partnership for a Drug-Free America

MENTORING from The After School Experience Newsletter, 21st Century Community Learning Center

President Barack Obama in one of his first declarations of the new year, proclaimed January 2010 as National Mentoring Month. There are many perspectives on the definition of mentoring, simply stated, a mentor is an individual, usually older, always more experienced, who helps and guides another individual's

Dr. Weisburd won the [2010 Stockholm Prize in Criminology](#) for his work on hot spots policing. He is the director of [George Mason University's Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy](#).

To learn more about hot spots policing, please visit [NIJ's Web site](#). To read about Dr. Weisburd's research in place-based policing, see his January 2008 article, "[Place-Based Policing](#)."

Border Violence - an epidemic

We are providing three sources of information which will provide great details about the violence occurring along our southern border due to the drug trade in the United States. As you will see, the majority of these drug-related homicides are occurring just less than a half day south of us in the El Paso area. Just to contrast the issue, we have lost 4400 American lives in the Iraq war since March, 2003, while in 2009 alone, there have been 7300 drug-related homicides along our southern border.

Here is a link to our first report: [Justice in Mexico, violence study](#)

The second report is: [Drug Violence in Mexico, 2001 - 2009](#)

The third source of information is the intelligence section of your [Safe Communities website](#).

Drug Czar Urges Police to Advocate Against Legalization

White House drug czar Gil Kerlikowske's thinking about drug addiction has moved from disdain to enlightenment over the past decade, but the former police chief views drug

development. This guidance does not have to be between an adult and a child and is not done for personal gain. In many cases it's a high school student mentoring an elementary or middle school student or it can be senior staff in your program mentoring front-line staff.

According to mentoring.org, more than 17 million American young people between the ages of 10 and 18 are at risk of not living up to their potential because of circumstances in their lives. As volunteers, coaches, and tutors, mentors commit their time, knowledge, skills to those who need additional attention from a caring person. Specific to students, mentors do things like help them to focus on their studies, provide a positive alternative during free time, and help them self-actualize and develop good healthy relationships with their families, friends and peers.

Many of us can remember a teacher, coach or other role model who positively impacted our life by pushing us to succeed or deterred us from making a poor decision. My mentor was a custodial worker named Nick. He was a good-looking blue-eyed Italian who, when I was in elementary school, would consistently deter me from participating in anti-social behavior. When presenting keynote presentations, I would always talk about Nick and how he impacted me. One day while I was walking down a street in my city, I saw Nick. Two things surprised me; he remembered my name and now, he didn't seem that much older than me and indeed was only about 8 years my senior. I told him of all the educators in my life, from elementary to post-graduate, that he, a humble custodian, impacted my life the most. He blushed, hugged me and walked away with tear-filled eyes.

Youth development experts agree that mentoring is a critical component in every child's healthy development.

legalization as a "non-starter" and is urging law-enforcement officials to speak out against the idea.

A new Justice Department policy directive not to prosecute legitimate medical-marijuana programs in states that allow medical use of the drug has [sparked concerns](#) in some precincts that the Obama administration is laying the groundwork for legalizing the drug -- or at least blurring the distinction between legal and illegal drugs.

However, in an Oct. 6 speech (PDF) before the [2009 International Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Conference](#), Kerlikowske, the director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), was clear in his opposition to legalization. Scorning a recent [opinion published in the Washington Post](#) by two members of the group Law Enforcement Against Prohibition ([LEAP](#)), Kerlikowske urged the police officials at the conference to advocate against legalizing drugs. "We owe it to the people we serve to speak out about the unintended consequences legalization would have and the toll it would take on the health and safety of our communities," said Kerlikowske, who announced that ONDCP is creating a new fellowship program in order to give a policy platform to law-enforcement personnel who have firsthand knowledge of drug problems.

"Recycling the same people through the system, the default approach in place now, is not working," Kerlikowske later added. "But let me be clear: A balanced and more effective approach does not mean legalization. It does mean being smarter about drug policy." Tom Angell, a spokesperson for LEAP, said that the fellowship program announced by Kerlikowske "looks like it could be an attempt to create an anti-LEAP speaker's bureau of anti-legalization cops."

During National Mentoring Month, we recognize those who give generously of themselves by mentoring. We salute ALL mentors especially those who change the lives of our local children and youth. You too can take action today. Be the CHANGE: mentor a child.

Promise to Take Time To Talk with Your Teens

Many parents tend to pull back during their kids' teenage years, but in fact it's critical for parents to talk even more frequently with their children during adolescence.

Your teens are looking to you for support and guidance as they begin to make difficult choices - for instance, whether or not to use drugs or alcohol. Make the promise to take the time to talk with your kids now by [Making the Time To Talk Promise](#).

GRANT WRITING

For full list of grant resources, go to:

[San Juan Safe Communities Grant Funding](#)

[San Juan Safe Communities Grant Writing](#)

[SAMHSA Funding Opportunities](#)

[2010 Drug Free Communities Program Grants Now Available](#)

Funding for the 2010 Drug Free Communities program is now available. The 2010 DFC Request for Applications (RFA) is available online. ONDCP expects to award approximately \$18.75 million for 150 new competing grants to support the efforts of community

"It's great see that 'legalization' is finally working its way into the drug czar's vocabulary," Angell said. "I guess it's difficult to ignore the growing political clout of the drug-policy reform movement when you've got police officers who fought on the front lines of the war on drugs calling for legalization on the op-ed pages of the Washington Post."

Following the release of the medical-marijuana policy directive to federal prosecutors, Kerlikowske issued a lengthy statement ([PDF](#)) explicitly repudiating the notion that the guidelines represented either a tacit endorsement of medical marijuana or the first step toward legalization.

"To test the idea of legalizing and taxing marijuana, we only need to look at already legal drugs -- alcohol and tobacco," wrote Kerlikowske. "We know that the taxes collected on these substances pale in comparison to the social and health care costs related to their widespread use."

The Obama administration's drug czar promised to deliver a new National Drug Control Strategy in January that "will strike a balance between public health and public safety, recognizing that reducing demand through a community-wide approach is critical to our success." But Kerlikowske also warned, "Legalization would only thwart our efforts and increase the economic and social costs that result from greater drug acceptance and use."

coalitions working to prevent and reduce substance use among youth.
Deadline: March 19, 2010.

[Webinar Next Week to Discuss Grant Opportunities from OSDFS](#)

The Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools will hold a webinar next week to discuss grant opportunities that will be available in 2010. The webinar will take place on Tues., Feb. 2nd, from 2 to 3 p.m., EST.

[The Sprint Foundation](#)

The Sprint Character Education Grant Program awards grants to school districts and individual schools in support of resources that facilitate and encourage character education among K-12 students. The program will accept applications for character education programs that promote and/or address youth leadership, youth volunteerism, a positive school culture, and dropout prevention. The Foundation will award individual school grants between \$500 and \$5,000 each and school district grants between \$10,000 and \$25,000 each.

Deadline: February 5

[Finish Line Youth Foundation](#)

The Finish Line Youth Foundation is accepting applications for its Grants for Youth Programs. The purpose of this program is to support youth athletic and wellness programs that place importance on living a healthy lifestyle, bolstering confidence and leadership skills, and teaching the importance of teamwork. Grant size ranges from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations in the areas where Finish Line stores are



Research and Resources

Annual Prison Population Numbers Released

"Prisoners in 2008" (NCJ 228417, 46 pp.) presents data on prisoners under jurisdiction of federal or state correctional authorities on December 31, 2008, collected from the National Prisoner Statistics series.

Report Describes Efforts To Assist Tribal Youth

Published by the American Youth Policy Forum, **"Strengthening Indian Country Through Tribal Youth Programs"** describes how OJJDP's Tribal Youth Program is empowering Native American youth and reinforcing cultural connections in tribal communities. A **summary** of the report is also available online.

BJS Launches Redesigned Website

located, or where donations to the Foundation are raised.

Deadline: March 31

The Starbucks Foundation

The Starbucks Shared Planet Youth Action Grants are designed to help young people realize their natural potential to reinvent their local communities. The Starbucks Foundation accepts applications from organizations that provide young people (ages 6-24) with a continuum of service opportunities in social entrepreneurship. Grants will range from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

Deadline: Rolling

Humor

Little Johnny watched, fascinated, as his mother smoothed cold cream on her face.

"Why do you do that, mommy?" he asked. "To make myself beautiful," said his mother, who then began removing the cream with a tissue.

Little Johnny watched for a minute then asked, "What's the matter? Give up?"



Upcoming Events and Training Opportunities

For all events, please visit the SJSCI online calendar

Meth 360

We offer presentations specifically

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) website has been redesigned and is now available at: <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov>. Many new features and tools have been added, and the site's content has been completely reorganized to allow users to quickly find the information they're seeking. New features include enhanced search capabilities, prominent placement of new products and announcements on the homepage, RSS feeds, and more. Tutorials are available to help users become familiar with the new site and its features.

Study Shows Gene Changes in Brain Caused by Cocaine

Long-term cocaine use can alter the function of genes in the brain, leaving "pleasure circuits" stuck in the open position and increasing craving for the drug, according to a new animal study conducted by researchers at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

[Reuters](#) reported Jan. 9 that researcher Ian Maze and colleagues found that the gene 9A -- which produces an enzyme responsible for switching other genes on and off -- was repressed in the brains of mice given repeated doses of cocaine. Researchers also found that restoring the activity of gene 9A reversed cocaine preference and craving in lab mice.

"This finding is opening up our understanding about how repeated drug use modifies in long-lasting ways the function of neurons," said Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

The research was published in the Jan. 8, 2010 issue of the journal [Science](#).

targeting: community groups, parents, teachers, and churches. The presentations will begin a dialog with these groups about what each can do to impact the problem of methamphetamines within our community. To schedule an event, go to [our website](#) and click on the Meth360 button.



YOUTH ISSUES

Many Adolescent Girls Involved in Violence, SAMHSA Says

More than one in four girls ages 12-17 was involved in fighting within the past year, according to new survey data from the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#).

[HealthDay News](#) reported Jan. 15 that a SAMHSA survey of more than 33,000 adolescents found that 19 percent of the girls surveyed reported involvement in a serious fight at school or work, 14 percent took part in group fights, and about 6 percent said they attacked someone else intending to cause serious injury.

Girls who avoided alcohol or other drug use, got good grades and came from higher-income families were at the least risk of involvement in

Daily Marijuana Use Could Cause Permanent Brain Damage, Researcher Says

Animal studies show that daily marijuana use could permanently alter serotonin and norepinephrine levels in the brain, raising the risk of depression and anxiety, according to researcher Gabriella Gobbi of McGill University.

The [Canadian Press](#) reported Dec. 17 that Gobbi studied the brain chemistry of 18 adolescent lab rats exposed daily to marijuana and found that they had decreased levels of mood-controlling serotonin and higher levels of the stress hormone norepinephrine.

Gobbi said that the effects were magnified because the adolescent brain is still developing. "These permanent changes in the brain are also linked to certain mental illnesses, like schizophrenia," she said. "And we showed that even if we stopped the cannabis use at the end of adolescence, the changes were still detectable in adulthood."

A future study will concentrate on adolescent marijuana use among humans. The study was published in the journal [Neurobiology of Disease](#).

Adolescents Perceive Greater Risk to Smoking Cigarettes than Illicit Drugs or Binge Drinking

Adolescents across all age groups perceive a greater risk to smoking cigarettes than the use of alcohol and other substances including cocaine and LSD, according to a new report based on a national survey sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health

violence, researchers found.

Save the Date: San Juan Safe Communities Spring Conference and New Mexico Youth Forum

Friday, April 30th and Saturday, May 1st, 2010, events to be held at the Farmington Public Library as well as the Farmington Boy's and Girl's Club. For more information, log onto www.sjsci.org.

Kids with Addiction Issues More Likely to Play 'Choking Game'

Six percent of 8th-graders surveyed in Oregon said they had taken part in a dangerous game where kids choke each other to produce a sense of euphoria, and researchers said that adolescents with addiction or mental-health problems are among those most likely to play, the [Associated Press](#) reported Jan. 14.

The "choking game," sometimes called Pass-Out, Space Monkey, Flatliner, or Blackout, produces its desired effect by starving the brain of oxygen. The study found that it was especially popular in rural areas.

The survey of 8,000 students at 114 Oregon schools was conducted by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and reported in the Jan. 10, 2010 issue of the [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#).

Services Administration (SAMHSA). An individual's perception of risk about a substance can be a key factor whether they decide to refrain from using.

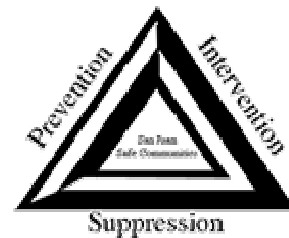
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Doug Landis

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www.sjsci.org



LINKS

For more...check out these links.

[Visit our new Safe Communities Facebook page and become a Fan.](#)

Please Join In The Rooms-an Online Social Networking Site for the Recovery Community

Join In The Rooms-the Web's newest and most comprehensive social networking site for the worldwide recovery community. In The Rooms provides resources for people seeking help or treatment, for people in recovery, and for friends, family, and allies of those in recovery. You can join online meetings and affinity groups, browse the library for articles, connect with other resources for recovery, and take an active role in promoting recovery. Join here: <http://www.intherooms.com/>.



[STAND \(Students Taking Action Not Drugs\)](#)

Keep up-to-date by [becoming a friend of the Partnership](#) on Facebook!

Find us [@drugnews on Twitter](#) for the latest news about drugs and alcohol

<http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov> : Bureau of Justice Statistics:

Related Resources

[Expand Your Universe - Mentor a Child](#)

[MENTOR, The National Mentoring Partnership](#)

[National Mentoring Center](#)

[Stalking Resource Center](#)

[Working Together to End the Violence: Stalking](#)

<http://www.datehookup.com/content-violence-in-dating.htm>

www.checkyourself.com (A place for teens to check out where they are with drugs and alcohol.)

www.drugfree.org/meth360

www.drugfree.org/parents360

www.drugfree.org/wrecked

[ONDCP National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign](#)

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) announces the availability of "[OJJDP News @ a Glance](#)," May/June 2009

<http://www.recoverymonth.gov> - Recovery Month Events (from CADCA)

<http://teacherpathfinder.org/Parent/drparent.html> -Parenting Resources

<http://www.crystalrecovery.com/>

[National Criminal Justice Reference Service \(US DOJ\)](#)

www.narconon.org

[Harvard Mentoring Project](#)

[Teachers Magazine](#)

[Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#)

[Parents The Anti-Drug](#)

[Drug Free America Foundation, Inc.](#)

[National League of Cities, Institute for Youth, Education, and Families](#)

[The Meth Project](#)

[Meth Awareness Project](#)

[Meth Resources.gov](#)

[The Office of National Drug Control Policy](#)

[Meth-Free Montana; Most of Us](#)

[National Gang Crime Research Center](#)



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