



# Governor's Methamphetamine Task Force

## Background and Authority

The Methamphetamine Task Force was established in August 2006, in response to Arizona's decade-long increase in the number of individuals regularly using methamphetamine and the resulting increase in social and economic cost. Governor Napolitano instructed the Task Force to approach Arizona's methamphetamine problem holistically, focusing equally on enforcement, prevention, and treatment.

In January 2007, the Task Force convened more than 400 professionals, program and policy experts and community leaders from across the state to develop recommendations for effectively confronting Arizona's methamphetamine crisis. Utilizing the input from the participants of this summit, the Task Force formulated 10 priority recommendations for the state and an accompanying action plan to implement the recommendations.

The recommendations are based on a multi-system approach in which all relevant assets, agencies, and personnel are involved in addressing the crisis from all sides. Each recommendation is accompanied by a clear and focused set of action steps. The action steps are strategic- that is; they are aimed at creating systemic changes in the way that Arizona addresses its methamphetamine problem so that the plan's objectives become reality.

In May 2007, the Task Force released the 10 priority recommendations in *A Plan for Action: Addressing the Methamphetamine Crisis in Arizona*. In keeping with the multi-sector nature of the plan, more than a dozen agencies are responsible for overseeing and implementing the action steps. The Task Force ensures that each action step is oriented toward measurable outcomes that can be tracked.

By establishing measurable outcomes for each recommendation month by month and tracking progress towards them, *A Plan for Action* will continue to be a relevant document—a perpetual declaration of the commitment to eliminate methamphetamine in Arizona.

### Outcomes

- The Access to Recovery (ATR) grant has served 485 individuals in fiscal year 2009, and has expanded services Cochise and Coconino County Drug Courts.
- ATR grant implemented a pilot project to provide treatment and recovery support services to the general population in Maricopa and Pima County for methamphetamine addiction.
- Meth Task Force members and the Arizona Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Alliance have provided training to 7 Tribal communities, to support the creation of DEC protocols in tribal communities.
- Arizona was selected to participate in *Methamphetamine: The National Summit to Promote Public Health, Partnerships and Safety for Critically Affected Populations*. Following the summit a state plan was developed to expand the states response to critical populations.
- During Phase III fifteen Anti-Meth Coalitions implemented environmental prevention strategies to reduce methamphetamine use/abuse reaching 34% of the states population.

### Activities

- Completing GIS maps depicting "hot spots" for methamphetamine by Community Health Analysis Areas that will be used to target prevention, treatment and enforcement resources.
- Task Force members are working with the United States Attorneys Office to host regional roundtable discussion on methamphetamine with Tribal Law Enforcement.
- Continue to track quarterly progress on implementation of the 7 priority recommendations for 2009.
- Providing technical assistance and support during Phase III to 15 Anti- Meth Coalitions through funding from The Parents Commission in Drug Education and Prevention.
- Develop plans for to ensure adults and juveniles have access to reentry treatment services for methamphetamine once released from county jails, tribal jails and state prisons.

For additional information  
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