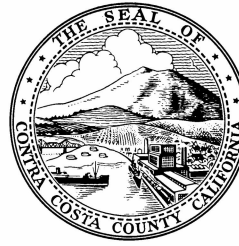


TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FROM: SUPERVISOR MARY N. PIEPHO
DATE: MARCH 6, 2006
SUBJECT: METHAMPHETAMINE USE



Contra Costa County

SPECIFIC REQUEST(S) OR RECOMMENDATION(S) & BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

DIRECT Supervisor Piepho's office to assemble a Methamphetamine Use Task Force to study the current impact of methamphetamine use in Contra Costa County.

DIRECT the task force to report back to the Board of Supervisors with recommendations for the Supervisors on increased Methamphetamine enforcement and prevention measures to implement Countywide.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Staff costs absorbed by District III Supervisor's Office.

BACKGROUND:

Methamphetamine, a derivative of amphetamine, is a powerful stimulant that affects the central nervous system. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' *Results From the 2002 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings*, more than 12 million people age 12 and older (5.3%) reported that they had used methamphetamine at least once in their lifetime (see [table 1](#)). Of those surveyed, 597,000 persons age 12 and older (0.3%) reported past month use of methamphetamine.

Since 1999, methamphetamine has been included in the University of Michigan's Monitoring the Future survey questionnaire. Survey results indicate that annual methamphetamine use (use within the past year) by secondary school students in 1999 ranged from 3.2% among 8th graders, to 4.6% among 10th graders, to 4.7% among 12th graders (see [table 2](#)). In 2002, estimates of annual methamphetamine use ranged from 2.2% among 8th graders, to 3.9% among 10th graders, to 3.6% among 12th graders.

The study also collected data on methamphetamine use by college students and young adults ages 19 to 28. During 1999, 3.3% of college students and 2.8% of young adults tried methamphetamine in the past year (see [table 3](#)).

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2001* study, 9.8% of high school students had used methamphetamine within their lifetime. Overall, white (11.4%) and Hispanic (9.1%) students were more likely than black students (2.1%) to report lifetime methamphetamine use.

Recent Bay Area news articles, as recently as March 3, 2006 in the San Francisco Chronicle, indicate that methamphetamine use in the Bay Area, particularly Contra Costa County, is greatly increasing and it would be prudent to focus attention on this growing problem and work to address it. It would be advantageous to study effective enforcement, prevention and treatment techniques in an effort to address the problem in Contra Costa County.

In addition, preliminary research by the District III Supervisor's office indicates that methamphetamine use has a powerful effect on the infant population, pre-natal care for infants and has effects that radically impacts a person's behavior in society and children raised in drug infested homes.

CONTINUED ON ATTACHMENT: YES

SIGNATURE: _____

RECOMMENDATION OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR RECOMMENDATION OF BOARD COMMITTEE
 APPROVE OTHER

SIGNATURE(S): _____

ACTION OF BOARD ON _____
APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED OTHER

VOTE OF SUPERVISORS:

___ UNANIMOUS (ABSENT _____)

AYES: _____ NOES: _____

ABSENT: _____ ABSTAIN: _____

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF AN ACTION TAKEN AND ENTERED ON THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON THE DATE SHOWN.

ATTESTED: MARCH 7, 2006

Contact: Ryan P. Klobas, Chief of Staff, District III

JOHN CULLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

cc: Members, Board of Supervisors
John Cullen, County Administrator
Robert Kochly, District Attorney
Judge Thomas Maddock, Superior Court
Judge Lois Haight, Superior Court, Dept. 10
William Walker, MD, Health Services Director
Alcohol & Other Drugs Advisory Board

By: _____ Deputy

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

The potential financial impact on the County is great due to the reported increase in use among all demographics. Reports to the District III Supervisor's Office indicate tremendous health problems to all segments of society, particularly to children and pregnant women. The use of methamphetamine continues to be a growing problem which, if left unaddressed, can be the underlying cause of aggressive and violent behavior in children and adults and has the potential to become a financial impact on the County in terms of treating and preventing methamphetamine use in the County.