

METH

Our Nation's Crisis

• TOOLKIT FOR CHANGE •

A GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS

 HAZELDEN®

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About Meth: Our Nation's Crisis—Toolkit for Change

The content that follows contains the latest information about methamphetamine (meth). This material can help individual communities create a comprehensive campaign against meth.

This guide is part of a larger toolkit, *Meth: Our Nation's Crisis*, a comprehensive CD/DVD. The CD offers 170 pages of printer-friendly material including a *Meth Primer*, *Campaign Resources*, *Meth Resource Directory*, and five action guides for community leaders, schools, parents, employers, and health care professionals. The DVD presents three meth-prevention videos—*Meth: Shadow Across America*, *Life After Meth*, and *Walking on Thin Ice*.

To order the *Meth: Our Nation's Crisis* CD/DVD (Order # 2395), log on to www.hazelden.org/bookstore or call 800-328-9000 for more information.

About Hazelden Publishing and Educational Services

Hazelden Publishing and Educational Services is a division of the Hazelden Foundation, which pioneered the model of care for alcoholism and other drug addiction that is now the most widely used in the world. Today, with more than fifty years of experience and an unparalleled breadth of services, Hazelden is an international provider of treatment, research, education, training, and publishing. Visit www.hazelden.org for further information about Hazelden resources.

The Hazelden Foundation originally developed the following content in 2005 in conjunction with the Initiative Foundation (www.ifound.org). The material was subsequently revised and updated in 2006 for *Meth: Our Nation's Crisis*.

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A GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS

Communities Fight Back against Meth

Methamphetamine use is one of the most serious crises facing our nation today. To address this issue effectively, communities throughout the United States need to get involved.

Use This Guide to Battle Meth in Your Community

The purpose of this guide is to help community leaders identify, organize, and mobilize local resources, expertise, and skills to combat meth and support those who are victimized by its devastation. It offers key information including

- specific examples of what's working in other communities
- ideas on how to start a community coalition to combat the issue of meth
- strategies to identify and mobilize local resources, and plan and implement local meth-prevention projects
- tips on promoting the additional toolkits for schools, parents, employers, and health care professionals that are available on the *Meth: Our Nation's Crisis* CD
- guidelines on creating a regional meth media campaign to include news stories, public service announcements, radio interviews, and opinion editorials
- additional resources for communities

You may want to photocopy this guide and distribute it to all of your community leaders. All the materials on this CD are reproducible. For more background information on meth, see the *Meth Primer* on this CD.

Meth Is Damaging Our Communities

These are difficult times for many communities. Budgets are being cut, resources are dwindling, and law enforcement personnel, county officials, social services agencies, and health providers are struggling to do more with less. At the same time, meth is hitting communities throughout the United States, and it's hitting hard. Our homes, hospitals, schools, workplaces, law enforcement agencies, and environment are all affected, and our resources are being stretched.

Meth use has a severe and costly impact on users' health and lives, the environment, and crime rates. Communities suffer when

"Remember, the end of meth will not come from experts. It will come from organized communities who have had enough."

— Kathy Gaalswyk, President, Initiative Foundation

the drug devastates the lives of users—students, parents, businesspeople, laborers—everyday people who become quickly addicted. Straight-A students steal from their parents to get meth. Small meth labs cause expensive and long-term environmental damage. Children who live in households where meth is cooked or used are often endangered, hungry, and neglected. Meth is accessible—it's often cheaper to buy than cocaine, and it can be made from household items. This is why a July 2005 report by the National Association of Counties calls it our nation's most serious drug problem.¹

The existence of meth in communities throughout the United States is responsible for

- serious environmental dangers caused by meth labs and meth chemical dumps
- increased child abuse, child neglect, and child endangerment
- increased crime and violence, including theft, sexual assault, and homicide
- increased demands on medical and social services, jails, fire departments, and law enforcement agencies
- additional pressure on educators, parents, units of government, and communities as a whole

“I look out my office window and see the kids going to and from the high school and wonder how many of those promising young lives we will lose to meth. The father within me cries for the children, and the county coordinator within me sees the awful financial burden.”

— Alan B. Peterson, Coordinator, Kanabec County, Minnesota

In addition to devastating lives, meth is driving up community costs. For example, a 2004 Crow Wing County, Minnesota, study found that the predominantly rural county's meth-related costs (court, law enforcement, hazardous waste cleanup, medical, jail, child placement, and social services) came to \$1,845,581 that year. As Crow Wing County Commissioner Terry Sluss points out, the meth problem is just “too big and too costly” for one community to handle alone.² About 45 percent of meth's economic damage—burglary, vandalism, theft, and environmental pollution—is borne by the community of the user, according to an anti-meth Community Action Team in Roy, Washington. By working together, communities throughout the United States can rein in this monster of a drug. Urge your other local leaders to familiarize themselves with the information contained on the *Meth: Our Nation's Crisis* CD and take action to stop meth production and use.

Combat Meth by Creating a Community Coalition

The main goal of *Meth: Our Nation's Crisis* is to provide communities with needed information and tools to combat meth and minimize its social and economic impact. Community coalition building is a key strategy to achieve this goal. This process creates new relationships in communities, increases public awareness about issues related to meth, and strengthens support to local governments in their community meth-abatement efforts.

Seven Steps to Create a Community Coalition

1. **Identify coalition members to participate in your meth-awareness campaign.**

Recruit members from diverse sectors of the community. Get participation from recovering users and their families, businesses, youth, faith-based personnel, school leaders, public health and human services personnel, treatment professionals, and law enforcement and county court services personnel, as well as other committed individuals. Find people who are energized, enthusiastic, and ready to move meth to the forefront of public discussion.

2. **Hire or assign a local coordinator.**

Select a coordinator to serve as the liaison between coalition members and the community at large. This individual will be responsible for overseeing local administrative, communication, and evaluation efforts. This does not need to be a paid position; however, if you live in a large community, a paid person may be able to move things forward more quickly.

3. **Conduct a local visioning session.**

Schedule a brainstorming session with the coalition and the broader community to define what your community would look like if you reduced the impact of meth. Remember that a vision is not a plan—it's knowing what you want to do. Your vision statement should describe the ultimate goal for your community and its language should be inspirational.

4. **Gather relevant information.** Once you have a vision, you'll need to gather information before planning ways to achieve your goal, such as:

- Determine how meth is currently affecting your community and identify existing local efforts to reduce its production and use. Where is meth being sold or used in your community? What specific events have recently raised awareness of the problem locally? What sources of data exist about meth in your community or in your state? Who are the people in your community most affected by the drug?
- Identify efforts that are working and areas that need more attention. Then identify priorities that will serve as a road map for the coalition's energy and efforts in creating a community united against meth.
- Decide which audiences you want to target first. Are there specific geographic areas that need to be given more attention than others? Is your target population parents, youth, school administrators, employers, health care workers, or taxpayers? If your target is youth, you should involve coaches, teachers, school administrators, recreation center representatives, and others who have a vested interest in your target population.

Remember, you must have the key leadership of the community involved to make the coalition a success.

Local Meth Coalition Building

The meth coalition process is designed to help build strong communities in order to reduce the production, distribution, and use of methamphetamine. This will be accomplished successfully if a diverse group of key community stakeholders come together to offer their gifts, knowledge, and resources.



5. **Develop an action plan.** Create an action plan to identify and prioritize activities, projects, programs, partnerships, and policy changes around enforcement, education, prevention, and treatment to be undertaken by the larger community. This will lead to a more intentional process to prevent the use, manufacture, and distribution of meth, and to support those families already affected by it. Agree on a plan to inform your target audiences. Here are a few ideas:
 - Form a marketing committee to prepare print media for events and distribute press releases and public service announcements (PSAs) to the media.
 - Hold a roundtable discussion or community event aired on a local cable station.
 - Train a speaker or group of speakers to address groups or schools. Train adolescents to speak to other students at events. Use the presentation outlines provided in the *Campaign Resources* on the CD.
 - Meet with school administrators to talk about meth education.
 - Submit press releases to newspapers (use the sample releases found in the *Campaign Resources* on the CD).
 - Submit public service announcements to local radio stations.
 - Write an article for your city newsletter.
 - Be a news source—gather statistics on meth use in your community and prepare fact sheets for news reporters. Offer contact information for experts on the subject.
- Attend city, township, and county meetings.
- Create meth-awareness posters, brochures, and billboards (see the *Campaign Resources* on the CD for samples).
- Create a meth-awareness commercial to air before the movies at a local theater.
- Create a map showing where meth busts have occurred in your area.
6. **Implement the action plan.** Encourage all community members to help implement the plan to reduce the impact of meth. As goals are reached, the coalition will revisit the prioritized list of action steps and the vision.
7. **Participate in regional and statewide efforts to battle meth, including additional training.** Coalition members may also want to participate in (and possibly present at) workshops and peer support opportunities to help other coalitions stay up-to-date and build their capacities to collectively act and organize. Look for ongoing training that covers
 - the current impact of meth
 - life after meth—effective treatment strategies
 - meth prevention in schools and communities
 - meth’s impact on children
 - resources on meth prevention, enforcement, and treatment

How to Create a Regional Media Campaign

Inform citizens about your vision to reduce meth's impact on your community by providing meth education and statistics to daily newspapers, television and radio stations, and other smaller local media such as weekly community newspapers, school and church newspapers, and newsletters.

Here are tips on gaining media coverage:

- **Submit press releases to local media outlets.** Build a list of local newspapers, television and radio stations, magazines, and other media. Include the name and contact information for key people (editor, communication director) at each media outlet. Keep a record of correspondence with these people and make notes about how they would like to be contacted and items of interest. This will help you develop good media relationships.
- **Submit a letter to the editor or opinion column to voice the vision or opinion of the coalition.** Possible topics include the growth of meth labs in rural communities, or a proposal for a new meth ordinance that requires hazardous waste cleanup and child protection measures for every meth lab intervention.
- **Create a public service announcement (PSA) or radio interview** that can air for thirty to sixty seconds on a local access cable TV channel or be shown to a school. PSAs are noncommercial announcements that often promote nonprofit activities and events. To create a television PSA, first write the script using a storyboard to create the scenes, decide on props and costumes, if used, and determine roles in the production

(actor, camera operator, director, lighting, sound, and so on).

See the Office of National Drug Control Policy's Web site, www.mediacampaign.org/mg/television.html, for several video examples and transcripts of drug-prevention PSAs ready to air on television.

How to Create a Community or Media Event

Community and media events, no matter how large or small, can go a long way in building awareness and keeping the meth issue in the forefront. They also build networks, connect neighbors, empower families, and acquaint citizens with valuable resources. Events of solidarity let meth "cooks" and dealers know that a community united is a force to be reckoned with. Best of all, such events are an effective way to engage all community citizens, including children, in a common purpose.

Here are tips on creating an event:

- **Host a meth-education forum or round-table discussion** in a local place of worship or public facility. These are consistently well received and attended. (See the *Campaign Resources* for tips on conducting meth-awareness discussions.)
- **Create a community meth-awareness Web site.** (See the Web resources in this guide for examples.)

Community and media events, no matter how large or small, can go a long way in building awareness and keeping the meth issue in the forefront.

- **Encourage stakeholders**, including businesses, health service organizations, social services, law enforcement, schools, and families in your community, to join together to plan and participate in events. Health fairs, essay and poster contests, and drug- and alcohol-free concerts are just some of the ways communities can empower citizens to become part of the meth solution.
- **Start a local youth “improv” troupe to perform vignettes** and to lead community discussions about meth.
- **Invite recovering meth addicts to tell their stories** to audiences throughout the county. Encourage parents to attend these presentations with their teens.
- **Invite local artists to create pieces** that depict the tragedy of meth addiction and the hope of recovery.
- **Join with other communities** to hold a “Put the Heat on Ice” walk or bicycle ride.
- **Hold a mock drug court** to demonstrate the benefits of this concept to the community.
- **Use press releases, public service announcements, and flyers to promote your event.** (See the *Campaign Resources* on the CD for sample releases, PSAs, and flyers.)
- **Have community video discussion evenings for teens and adults.** Documentaries and educational videos can be effective resources to enhance prevention programs. Schedule a screening of the three meth videos listed on page 8 that are found on the *Meth: Our Nation’s Crisis* DVD.



CLIMB Theater Educates Youth on Dangers of Meth

CLIMB Theater is an educational touring children’s theater that performs plays and drama classes in schools throughout the country. Its 2006 play *It Will Never Happen to Me* features a popular high school student who, in one moment, makes a choice to try meth. The theater’s 35- to 45-minute productions are supported by activity workbooks for teachers and a parent letter.

Supplementary products like posters, CDs, books, and videos that reinforce each play’s message may be purchased. Immediately after a performance, the actors can visit classrooms for a 20-minute interactive class.

For more information, call 800-767-9660 or log on to www.climb.org.

Meth-Awareness Videos

1. *Meth: Shadow Across America* is a 28-minute video for general audiences that covers the extent of emerging meth problems from the perspective of law enforcement and treatment professionals. The Hazelden Foundation and TPT's (Twin Cities Public Television) Minnesota Channel present experts who discuss what meth is, the dangers of meth labs, meth addiction, and possible solutions to this growing menace.
2. *Life After Meth* is a 28-minute video for general audiences that shows that although meth devastates individuals and families, recovery from addiction—even meth addiction—is possible. The Hazelden Foundation and TPT's Minnesota Channel present the compelling personal stories of six people who are living in recovery from meth addiction.
3. *Walking on Thin Ice* is a 21-minute teen-oriented video that describes how meth is seeping in from society's fringe to infect mainstream America. It offers straight facts from the perspectives of teens who are recovering from meth addiction, and from police and a paramedic who relate true stories detailing the ravages of the drug. Viewers learn about meth, its negative effects on the body, brain, and behavior, and its side effects. This video also covers refusal skills—advice given to teens directly from their peers.

What's Working: Follow the Lead of Successful Communities

Model communities nationwide have united their citizens and lawmakers to keep meth off the streets in their neighborhoods. Follow their lead by implementing these five basic strategies that have been proven to reduce the drug's impact.

1. *Restrict Pseudoephedrine Sales*

State legislation that makes pseudoephedrine, a key ingredient in the production of meth, hard to get has been proven to inhibit small-time meth lab operators. In April 2004, Oklahoma passed the nation's most stringent state meth precursor control law, according to the 2004 *National Synthetic Drugs Action Plan*. The law restricts the sale of nonprescription pseudoephedrine; only licensed pharmacists or pharmacy technicians can sell these medicines from behind the pharmacy counter. Customers must also show ID to the pharmacist, who keeps a monthly record of individual purchases. Only nine grams of pseudoephedrine may be sold to a person in a thirty-day period. Other states including Iowa, Missouri, and Minnesota have similar laws.

"I strongly urge communities to not only implement an ordinance, but to do so in the context of a broader community response by creating task forces, providing education and prevention efforts, developing agency and community collaborations, clearly designating roles and responsibilities, and openly sharing information with each other."

— Deborah Durkin, Program Director, Minnesota Department of Health

The law has been shown to reduce the number of meth labs in many participating states. Officials in Oklahoma were busting about 1,300 smaller labs a year in 2002 and 2003, according to a statement by Oklahoma's Drug Task Force.³ Since the law passed, the number of lab seizures dropped by 80 to 90 percent, and the state's child welfare and other social services programs have handled fewer meth-related cases.⁴

After Iowa passed its law restricting pseudoephedrine sales, meth lab seizures in that state plummeted by 75 percent, according to an investigative report by the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*. Minnesota noticed a sharp decline in the number of lab seizures within four months of passing its law in mid-2004. While officials hope that the law will continue to reduce the number of smaller labs in Minnesota, meth brought in from large labs in California and Mexico is still a huge problem. State law enforcement officials estimate that 80 percent of the meth in Minnesota comes from Mexico. This reinforces the need for tighter import laws to restrict the entry of illegal pseudoephedrine that fuels these "super labs."⁵

Communities can use collective action to lobby state officials for an ordinance that restricts the sale of pseudoephedrine. Often the first ordinance in a state sets a benchmark for surrounding communities to follow. While working to create an ordinance, request that retailers and pharmacies voluntarily restrict and monitor sales of pseudoephedrine products. Support the voluntary movement of those products from a store's open shelves to behind pharmacy counters or manned counters in nonpharmacy retail settings. Ask retailers to educate their store employees on how to respond to suspicious pseudoephedrine purchases.



Implement Meth Watch in Your Community

A voluntary program sponsored by the Consumer Healthcare Products Association, Meth Watch can help reduce the theft and suspicious sales of pseudoephedrine products and other common household products used to "cook" meth in small, toxic labs. Through participation in the program, retailers and law enforcement help raise awareness about the diversion of legal products to the illegal manufacture of meth, better equipping local communities to address the problem.

Learn how to implement Meth Watch in your community through the resource center at www.methwatch.com.

2. *Create a Meth Ordinance*

Many communities that have no laws specifically requiring cleanup of a hazardous waste site in a private residence have developed local meth lab ordinances. Such an ordinance can be used to require cleanup and child protection measures. It can also provide the framework for consistent local response to lab-related situations.

Communities within the same county can collaborate to develop their own meth ordinance. In Minnesota, the state's Department of Health Web site (www.health.state.mn.us) offers sample ordinances. These are similar in language and intent, but some communities have opted to include language on vehicles, have designated different agencies to handle various duties, or have drafted different language regarding treatment and support of children found at clandestine meth labs. Consider reviewing these samples and choose as a model one whose community resembles your own (size, rural versus urban, resources, and so on).

The "pioneers," the first counties to draft ordinances, have done the research and work already, so you need not start yours from scratch. You may also use the sample ordinance in the appendix at the end of this guide to develop your own. Of course, all ordinances should be reviewed and approved by a county board and attorney.

Partnership for a Drug-Free America Launches Ad Campaign

In 2005, the Partnership for a Drug-Free America launched a new ad campaign designed to bring communities together to fight the threat of methamphetamine. The thirty-second public service announcements started running on television in Springfield, Missouri—the third-largest city in a state that leads the nation in illegal meth lab seizures—and will also run in Atlanta, Austin, Cedar Rapids, Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Des Moines, Grand Rapids, Miami, Pittsburgh, Louisville, Minneapolis, Portland, Raleigh-Durham, Sacramento, Salt Lake City, San Antonio, San Francisco, Seattle, Savannah, and Tampa/St. Petersburg.

The ad campaign combines real-life stories of people affected by meth with scenarios that depict the drug's unique secondhand threat to communities at large. The campaign's two main themes—"So, Who Has the Drug Problem Now?" and "End Meth in Your Town"—challenge individuals to learn more about meth's dangers to both their families and their communities.

To learn more about the campaign, visit www.drugfree.org/meth or www.methresources.gov.

3. ***Start Meth Education Programs***

Education programs do work to reduce drug abuse. In 2005, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) reported that the vast majority of youth ages twelve to seventeen are receiving drug and alcohol prevention messages from sources such as TV, radio, posters, and pamphlets. A special report of the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH, 2004) confirmed that those who have been exposed to educational messages are significantly less likely to abuse drugs.

The NSDUH report also reaffirms the crucial role parents play in keeping their children off drugs. While fewer youth reported hearing anti-drug messages from their parents than through media sources (58.9 percent versus 83.6 percent), those who had talked with a parent about the dangers of drug use were less likely to report past-month illicit drug use than those who had not talked with a parent (10 percent versus 13 percent).⁶

4. ***Invest in Meth Treatment***

Treatment is one light at the end of the very dark tunnel of meth: meth treatment does work, and it is a wise investment. Every dollar spent on treatment saves up to twelve dollars in health, social, and criminal justice costs.⁷

Meth addiction *can be* and *has been* successfully treated. When Hazelden looked at outcomes among 952 residential patients, 14.2 percent of whom were meth abusers, it found that the meth group and the non-meth group had similar rates of continuous abstinence one year after treatment and similar satisfaction with psychosocial and health functioning.⁸



Create Meth-Awareness Posters

To educate others about the drug's dangers, students at a Bend, Oregon, middle school created meth-awareness posters for a community-service and peer-mentoring class. The posters included startling pictures of long-term meth addicts. To create the posters, the students researched meth, watched the news, and learned "scary" details, such as "body temperatures in meth users can reach 107 degrees." The students also created an attention-getting slogan, "Meth rhymes with death, think about it." Other students at the school have reported that they are less likely to use *any* drug based on what they learned from the class. These students plan to hang more posters in the local community to inform a larger audience about the meth crisis. Use the sample posters in the *Campaign Resources* section on the CD to support your meth-awareness campaign.

5. *Use Drug Courts to Fight Meth Addiction and Trafficking*

Drug courts are designed to handle cases involving offenders who abuse addictive substances. Offenders charged with less serious crimes of being under the influence or possessing a controlled substance—or even drug-using offenders charged with a non-drug-related crime—may be given the option of entering the drug court system in lieu of serving a jail sentence. They must plead guilty to the charge and agree to take part in treatment, regular drug screenings, and regular reporting to the drug court judge for a minimum of one year. If offenders fail to comply with one or more of the requirements, they may be removed from the drug court and incarcerated at the judge's discretion. If they complete the drug court program, the charges brought against them are dropped.

According to an article in the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance May 2005 *Bulletin*, many states and counties now share law enforcement resources through multi-jurisdictional task forces in their efforts to battle the meth scourge.

Find a Meth Treatment Center

SAMHSA has created an online substance abuse treatment facility locator—a searchable database of more than 11,000 U.S. addiction treatment programs for alcohol and other drug abuse problems. To find the nearest facility to you, go to www.findtreatment.samhsa.gov.

C. West Huddleston III, the director of the National Drug Court Institute and the author of the article, points out that joining forces in this way makes manpower and expertise available to underserved areas.⁹

But he says it is the drug court that has become a primary tool for fighting meth addiction and trafficking. Drug courts combine intensive drug rehabilitation for addicts with legal requirements to complete treatment. They offer longer treatment periods, emphasize addressing co-occurring mental health disorders, and provide intensive supervision and monitoring. They also help meth-exposed children by providing them with care, educational services, and child protective services.

With drug courts, substance abuse treatment plays a central role, and public health and public safety work together to optimize outcomes for offenders. Of course, communities must have effective and accessible treatment strategies in place. Huddleston writes that many drug court professionals join local or state meth action committees or task forces, and many drug court prosecutors and police personnel volunteer to speak to community groups, churches, and businesses about the issues surrounding meth.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) provides leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy to support local, state, and tribal justice strategies to achieve safer communities.

For more information about BJA, its programs, and its funding opportunities, contact

Bureau of Justice Assistance
810 Seventh Street NW
Fourth Floor
Washington, DC 20531
Phone: 202-616-6500
Web site: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA
E-mail: AskBJA@usdoj.gov

Print and Distribute the Guides for Schools, Parents, Employers, and Health Care Professionals in Your Community

In addition to this *Guide for Community Leaders*, the *Meth: Our Nation's Crisis* CD/DVD Toolkit includes three videos (contained on a single DVD) and four other print-ready guides. All may be printed, photocopied, and distributed to important stakeholders in your community. Distribute the *Guide for Schools* to teachers, guidance counselors, school nurses, and administrators in all the schools in your county. The *Guide for Parents* can be offered at community and school meetings on meth. Distribute the *Guide for Health Care Professionals* to physicians and stakeholders at your county's hospitals and emergency room facilities. Provide the *Guide for Employers* to employers developing a workplace drug policy, and to pharmacists and retailers who sell pseudoephedrine cold remedy products that could be used

Drug courts also help meth-exposed children by providing them with care, educational services, and child protection services.



"When you think of treatment of drugs like methamphetamine, you have to think of it like fixing a broken leg—treatment provides a structure to allow their brain chemistry to return to normal. Their brain is out of tune. It's not working very well, and it takes awhile to recover . . . We have data from treating several thousand patients. Treatment patients are about 50 percent to 60 percent drug-free at the end of one year."

— Richard Rawson, Associate Director,
UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs

to “cook” meth. Use the samples provided in the *Campaign Resources* to create your own press releases, posters, and brochures. Screen the three meth-education videos at community and school drug education events.

Communities throughout the United States have made significant progress toward reducing the impact of meth, but continuing preventative action at the state and community levels is essential to ensure that meth will not become the next drug of choice of a new generation.

“Drug courts provide the added accountability and service coordination that methamphetamine addicts desperately need to recover . . . Drug courts provide the means for a number of systems to work together within a community to ensure public safety, effectively treat methamphetamine addicts, and restore hope to families ravaged by this destructive drug.”

— C. West Huddleston III, Director,
National Drug Court Institute

The Ten Key Components of a Drug Court

Drug courts combine intensive judicial supervision, mandatory drug testing, escalating sanctions, and treatment to help substance-abusing offenders break the cycle of addiction and the crime that often accompanies it. Drug court judges work with prosecutors, defense attorneys, probation officers, and drug treatment specialists to determine appropriate treatment for offenders, monitor their progress, and ensure the delivery of other services, such as education or job skills training, to help offenders remain crime- and drug-free. Following are the ten key functions of a drug court, as described by the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the National Association of Drug Court Professionals.

1. Drug courts integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing.
2. Using a nonadversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.
3. Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the drug court program.
4. Drug courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.
5. Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.
6. A coordinated strategy governs drug court responses to participants' compliance.
7. Ongoing judicial interaction with each drug court participant is essential.
8. Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.
9. Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective drug court planning, implementation, and operations.
10. Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances drug court effectiveness.

For the full text of this document and more information on drug courts, visit www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/drugcourts.html.

Web Resources for Communities

For additional resources on how to combat the meth crisis in your community, check out the following Web sites:

Hazelden Foundation

www.hazelden.org
800-257-7810

Hazelden pioneered the model of care for alcoholism and other drug addiction that is now the most widely used in the world. Today, with more than fifty years of experience and an unparalleled breadth of services, Hazelden is an international provider of treatment, research, education, training, and publishing. Here you'll find suggested steps for establishing drug-free workplaces, articles about meth use trends, information about *The Matrix Model* treatment program, a comprehensive bookstore of materials on drug addiction and treatment, and much more.

Health Services/Technology Assessment Test

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?rid=hstat

The site lists treatment improvement protocols (TIPs) for methamphetamine and other substances.

Institute for Intergovernmental Research

www.iir.com/centf/guide.htm
850-385-0600

This site provides an in-depth question-and-answer guide that describes what meth is, explains how it affects the body, and discusses the costs of meth lab cleanup. It also addresses questions that law enforcement officials may have about lab investigations and raids—for example, what to do if they encounter a meth lab and how to stay safe. Locations and dates of meth training sessions are also listed.

Meth Action Coalition

www.methaction.org/about_meth11.htm

This organization's goal is to combat meth in Central Oregon. Downloadable brochures and handouts feature advice for family and friends of addicts, information on the signs of meth use, and so forth. Links to information on state initiatives are also provided.

MethResources.gov

www.methresources.gov

Here you'll find links to information on state programs and bills that attempt to combat meth use, meth conferences, and articles about lab cleanup and its costs.

National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children

www.nationaldec.org/news/news.htm

Meth-related articles from many news sources discuss children endangered by meth, its effect on a person's appearance, mothers who use the drug, and meth arrests. Contact information is listed by state, and there are links to DEC alliances.

National Association of Counties

www.naco.org
202-393-6226

This site provides the results of meth-related surveys, links to other sites on the subject, news releases, and articles about how meth is being combated.

National Crime Prevention Council

www.ncpc.org

202-466-6272

Cartoon strips on this site illustrate how parents can talk to their children about drugs—including sample dialogues. Articles discuss the steps necessary for communities to prevent and treat the growing problem of meth addiction, and the actions that several states are taking to combat meth. Downloadable brochures about drug use and crime-related topics are available.

National Institute on Drug Abuse

www.nida.nih.gov

301-443-1124

The general meth information on this site includes what treatments are effective for addiction, the location and extent of use, and meth-prevention material.

National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign

www.mediacampaign.org

800-666-3332

Here you'll find information on media campaigns that target substance use, and downloadable anti-drug banner, print, radio, and television ads.

Office of National Drug Control Policy

www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov

800-666-3332

This site has statistics on meth use and treatment admissions as well as information about meth's effects and a list of its street names.

Partnership for a Drug-Free America

www.drugfree.org/Portal/DrugIssue/MethResources/default.html

212-922-1560

The Meth Resources section of this site has material for teens, young adults, parents, and communities, all “packed with stories and ways to take action.”

Saskatchewan Health—Healthy People, A Healthy Province

www.health.gov.sk.ca

News releases and information on Saskatchewan's strategy for dealing with meth can be found on the site.

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

www.dea.gov/concern/amphetamines.html

202-307-1000

This site contains news releases about meth, general information about its impact on children and the environment, and statistics on lab seizures. Substance abuse agencies are listed by state, and state fact sheets provide statistics on drug problems.

FOR PARENTS/EDUCATORS/YOUTH**American Council for Drug Education**

www.acde.org

This site's fact sheet on meth gives a brief history of methamphetamines and lists the consequences of use. You'll also find a drug quiz for youth, advice for parents for discussing substance abuse with their children, a list of symptoms of drug use, and other general information about drugs.

Faces of Meth

www.facesofmeth.us/main.htm

503-988-5551

This site features pictures of people before and after meth use. You can download a free poster with these faces and .jpg or .gif files of the pictures for educational use.

Just Think Twice

www.justthinktwice.com

In the style of a teen magazine, this DEA site has a section on meth with information about its forms and street names, the consequences of use (including pictures of the damage done to people's bodies), and stories about young users.

NIDA (National Institute on Drug Abuse) for Teens

www.teens.drugabuse.gov

800-729-6686

This site discusses the effects of meth on the brain and other parts of the body, has a link to a treatment facility locator, provides a quiz on drug abuse and stories from young users, and has a glossary of drug-related terms.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and SAMHSA's National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information

www.ncadi.samhsa.gov/govpubs/PHD861

800-729-6686

A "Tips for Teens" section discusses the signs of meth use and provides information about how it affects one's body.

www.streetdrugs.org

763-473-0646

This self-titled site contains articles on meth labs and the associated cleanup costs, as well as child endangerment. Photos and videos of meth can be viewed, and brochures and posters are available for purchase.

TREATMENT/RECOVERY**Crystal Meth Anonymous**

www.crystalmeth.org

213-488-4455 (hotline)

This site lists CMA meetings across the United States. It provides information on the Twelve Steps and how to start a CMA meeting.

CrystalRecovery.com

www.crystalrecovery.com

Fast facts and photos, teen stories about meth, a question-and-answer board, and several community bulletin boards all support recovery for those with meth addiction.

Matrix Institute on Addictions

www.matrixinstitute.org

800-310-7700

This site discusses *The Matrix Model*, an evidence-based program for treating alcohol and drug addictions, and offers presentation and training dates for this program, as well as a listing of articles about it. Maps show the various Matrix Institute offices and treatment centers.

Methamphetamine Treatment Project

www.methamphetamine.org/mtcc.htm

UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs (ISAP)

310-312-0500

Matrix Institute on Addictions

800-310-7700

The site provides general information about the drug, discusses *The Matrix Model* treatment program, and offers links to news reports and a list of meth treatment centers.

LAW ENFORCEMENT**Clandestine Laboratory Investigators Association**

www.cllalabs.com

This nonprofit organization provides training, technical support, legislation assistance, and expert testimony to all law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and emergency service personnel. The site includes indicators and pictures of clandestine meth labs and links to OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) and the DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration).

Drug Court Clearinghouse

www.spa.american.edu/justice/drugcourts.php
202-885-2875

The DCC compiles and continually updates information on national drug court activity and emerging issues, and maintains an extensive reference collection of drug court materials.

National Association of Drug Court Professionals

www.nadcp.org
703-575-9400

This site includes research evaluations and statistics on drug court effectiveness.

National Crime Prevention Council

www.ncpc.org
202-466-6272

NCPC's mission is to enable people to create safer and more caring communities by addressing the causes of crime and violence and reducing the opportunities for crime to occur. This site includes examples of meth initiatives that are working in other communities.

National Criminal Justice Reference Service

www.ncjrs.org
800-851-3420

The NCJRS offers publications on corrections, courts, and community policing.

FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND COMMUNITY TASK FORCES**Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America**

www.cadca.org
800-54-CADCA

This site lists workshops on drug prevention, ideas for starting a community coalition where you live, and the latest news, trends, and tips to help develop and maintain successful local anti-drug coalitions.

Community Coalition Drug Prevention Campaign

www.helpyourcommunity.org
info@HelpYourCommunity.org

This site offers information on how to start an anti-drug coalition, how to apply for a drug-free communities program grant, and example radio and TV public service announcements (PSAs).

Drug Enforcement Administration

www.justthinktwice.com/costs/DrugEndangeredChildren.cfm

This site includes information on forming drug endangered children (DEC) alliances dedicated to rescuing, defending, sheltering, and supporting these children.

National Association of Counties

www.naco.org

202-393-6226

The only national organization that represents county governments in the United States, NACO acts as a liaison with other levels of government, works to improve public understanding of counties, serves as a national advocate for counties, and provides them with resources to meet the challenges they face.

Office of National Drug Control Policy

www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov

800-666-3332

This site has statistics on meth use and treatment admissions as well as information about meth's effects and a list of its street names.

Rural Assistance Center

www.raconline.org

(Search options: Methamphetamine)

800-270-1898

Here you'll find information on the effects of meth on communities and children.

**EXAMPLE COUNTY
AND STATE INITIATIVES****Lyon County (Minnesota) Sheriff's
Department**

www.lyoncountysheriff.org

(Click on "What Is Methamphetamine?")

This is a good example of a Minnesota county Web site that offers citizens information about meth ranging from its street names to guidelines for first responders to meth lab sites.

**MEADA Coalition of Wright County
(Minnesota)**

www.meada.org

Organizations in Wright County, Minnesota, banded together to create MEADA—a Methamphetamine Education and Drug Awareness coalition. The site includes sample brochures, flyers, public service announcements, and other valuable information.

MethFreeTN.org

www.methfreetn.org/meth101/meth_destroys_community.php

This Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference site includes links to news, an online form to schedule a meth-education speaker, a newsletter, an online sign-up to join Tennessee's Anti-Meth Campaign, a link where citizens can report a suspected meth lab, and two downloadable posters.

MethNet

www.ag.state.il.us/methnet/fightmeth/coalitions.html

MethNet is a growing network of individuals, agencies, and organizations committed to working together to slow the spread of meth in Illinois.

A p p e n d i x

SAMPLE METHAMPHETAMINE ORDINANCE: MORRISON COUNTY, MINNESOTA

THE COUNTY BOARD OF MORRISON COUNTY HEREBY ORDAINS:

MORRISON COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. _____

CLEANUP OF CLANDESTINE DRUG LAB SITES ORDINANCE

ARTICLE I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**SECTION 1.10 Title and Statutory Authority**

- 1.11 This ordinance shall be known and referenced as the “Cleanup of Clandestine Drug Lab Sites Ordinance.”
- 1.12 This ordinance is enacted pursuant to the powers specified in Minn. Stat. § 145A.10.

SECTION 1.20 Purpose

- 1.21 Professional reports, based on assessments, testing, and investigations, show that chemicals used in the production of illicit drugs can condense, penetrate, and contaminate land, surfaces, furnishings, and equipment in or near structures where clandestine drug labs are located.
- 1.22 These conditions present health and safety risks to occupants and visitors of such structures and land through fire, explosion, and skin and respiratory exposure to chemicals.
- 1.23 This ordinance establishes responsibilities and guidelines for involved parties to assure that:
- a. people are not unnecessarily exposed to the dangers of these contaminated structures or land; and
 - b. proper steps are taken to remove contaminants and assure appropriate tests are completed to verify that affected structures and land are sufficiently cleaned for human contact.
- 1.24 This ordinance assists and guides appropriate public authorities, property owners, and occupants to prevent injury and illness to members of the public, particularly children and pregnant women.

1.25 This ordinance is intended to reduce exposure to chemicals used at clandestine drug lab operations in structures including dwellings, buildings, motor vehicles, trailers, appliances, or the land where such chemicals are located.

1.26 This ordinance is intended to minimize the cost to Morrison County for cleanup of clandestine drug lab sites.

SECTION 1.30 Jurisdiction

1.31 This ordinance shall apply to all incorporated and unincorporated municipalities (city or township) within the boundaries of Morrison County.

1.32 Where a municipality has lawfully passed an ordinance to regulate and enforce the cleanup of clandestine drug labs that is more restrictive, the County shall coordinate regulation and enforcement with that municipality.

SECTION 1.40 Interpretation and Application

1.41 The provisions of this ordinance shall be interpreted and applied as the minimum requirements necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

1.42 Where the conditions imposed by any provision of this ordinance are either more restrictive or less restrictive than comparable provisions imposed by any other law, ordinance, statute, resolution, or regulation of any kind, the regulations which are more restrictive or which impose higher standards or requirements shall apply.

SECTION 1.50 Disclaimer of Liability

Liability on the part of, or a cause of action against, Morrison County, or any employee or agent thereof for any damages that may result from reliance on this ordinance shall be eliminated or limited as provided by Minn. Stat. § 466.

SECTION 1.60 Fees

Fees for the administration of this ordinance may be established and amended periodically by resolution of the County Board of Commissioners.

SECTION 1.70 Definitions, Rules, and Word Usage

For the purpose of this ordinance, the following terms or words shall be interpreted as follows:

- 1.71 Child means any person less than 18 years of age.
- 1.72 Chemical public health nuisance means a clandestine drug lab site that is under notice and order for cleanup and/or remediation as a public health nuisance, as authorized by Minnesota Statute Chapter 145A, and this ordinance.
- 1.73 Clandestine drug lab operation means the unlawful manufacture or attempt to manufacture a controlled substance within any structure or area or part thereof.
- 1.74 Clandestine drug lab site means any parts of a structure or area or part thereof affected by conditions and/or chemicals typically associated with a clandestine drug lab operation.
- 1.75 Cleanup means proper removal and/or containment of substances hazardous to humans and/or the environment at a chemical investigation site. Cleanup is a part of remediation.
- 1.76 Controlled substance means a drug, substance, or immediate precursor of a substance listed in Schedules I through V of Minnesota Statute § 152.02, or as amended in the future. The term shall not include distilled spirits, wine, malt beverages, intoxicating liquors, or tobacco.
- 1.77 Owner means any person, firm, or corporation who owns, in whole or in part, the land and/or structures or areas or parts thereof at a clandestine drug lab site.
- 1.78 Public health nuisance shall have the meaning attributed to it in Minnesota Statutes § 145A.02, Subd. 17.
- 1.79 Public Health Department means Morrison County Public Health Department acting as an agent of the Morrison County Board of Commissioners, in its role as part of a Community Health Board, pursuant to the Local Public Health Act, Minnesota Statute § 145A.
- 1.80 Remediation means methods such as assessment, evaluation, testing, venting, detergent scrubbing, enclosure, encapsulation, demolition, and/or removal of contaminated materials from a chemical investigation site.
- 1.81 Law enforcement means any licensed peace officer.
- 1.82 Structure means a dwelling, building, motor vehicle, trailer, boat, ice fishing house, appliance, or any other area or location, either fixed or temporary.

1.83 Chemical dumpsite means any structure or area or part thereof where any precursor or waste chemicals, chemical containers, or equipment associated with the illegal manufacture of drugs are illegally disposed.

ARTICLE II. ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 2.00 Declaration of Site as a Chemical Public Health Nuisance

Clandestine drug lab sites are declared to be chemical public health nuisances when a representative of the Public Health Department, after consultation with law enforcement officers who have observed the site, determines that contamination at the site may adversely affect public health.

SECTION 2.10 Medical Guidelines for Assessing Health Status of Exposed Persons

Medical guidelines for assessing the health status and determining medical care needs of persons—particularly children—who are found or known to be occupants or frequent visitors at a clandestine drug lab site, shall be established and updated as necessary by the “Medical Consultant” who provides consultation services under contract to the Morrison County Public Health Department.

SECTION 2.20 Law Enforcement Notice to Affected Public, Public Health, and Child Protection Authorities

2.21 Upon identification of the clandestine drug lab site or operation, law enforcement agencies shall treat, store, transport, or dispose of all hazardous waste found at the site in a manner consistent with rules and regulations adopted by the Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Morrison County.

2.22 Law enforcement authorities who identify a clandestine drug lab site or clandestine drug lab operation in Morrison County shall provide the following information to the Public Health Department to assist the Department in determining the need to declare the site a chemical public health nuisance:

- a. property or structure location by street address and other identifiable location;
- b. property or structure owner’s and occupant’s identities;

- c. chemicals found and indications of chemical residues;
- d. equipment in a dwelling or structure that is typically associated with the manufacture of a controlled substance; and
- e. presumed duration of the lab.

The obligation to promptly notify may be delayed to accomplish appropriate law enforcement objectives, but only to the extent that public health is not unnecessarily compromised.

2.23 When a site has been determined by the Public Health Department to be a chemical public health nuisance, law enforcement authorities shall, within one working day, notify the Morrison County Child Protection Agency of the declaration. The notice shall include the same information listed in section 2.22 above and shall also include the following information:

- a. the identities of any children and women of childbearing age found or known to be associated with the site;
- b. conditions typically associated with a clandestine drug lab site or operation including weapons, illicit drugs, filth, fire, or electrical shock and other harmful conditions as determined by Minnesota law.

The obligation to promptly notify may be delayed to accomplish appropriate law enforcement objectives, but only to the extent that child protection and safety is not unnecessarily compromised.

2.24 When a law enforcement agency completes its work at a site determined to be a chemical public health nuisance and is prepared to leave such site, the agency shall affix a warning sign to the entrance of the affected part of the structure. The warning sign shall be those that have been prepared in advance for such situations through the collaboration of County Law Enforcement, Public Health, and city officials if applicable. The warning sign shall be of a size and contain information sufficient to alert visitors or returning occupants that the site is a chemical public health nuisance, may be dangerous to enter, and must not be entered except by authorization of the Public Health Department and/or law enforcement agency identified on the sign.

It is a violation of this ordinance for any person to enter the structure or any part thereof without the express written permission of the Public Health Department or a law enforcement agent.

SECTION 2.30 Notice of Chemical Public Health Nuisance to Owner and Occupant

2.31 After the Public Health Department declares a chemical public health nuisance and receives notice from a law enforcement agency that the agency has posted the appropriate Chemical Public Health Nuisance warning sign, the Public Health Department shall serve the known lawful occupants and owners of the site pursuant to Minnesota Statute § 145A.04, Subd. 8(b) with notice of their responsibilities relative to the chemical public health nuisance.

2.32 The Public Health Department shall notify and order the property owner of record to have the public health nuisance removed or abated within 10 days as provided in Minnesota Statute § 145A.04 and this ordinance. The Public Health Department notice and order shall include the following:

- a. A replica of the Chemical Public Health Nuisance declaration that is posted at the site's entrance(s).
- b. Information about the potentially hazardous condition of the chemical investigation site.
- c. A summary of the property owner's and occupant's responsibilities under this ordinance.
- d. Information on locating professional services necessary to remove and abate the chemical public health nuisance status as provided in this ordinance and Minnesota Statute § 145A.04.

2.33 The Public Health Department shall endeavor to provide information in writing about the Chemical Public Health Nuisance declaration and potential hazard(s) to the following additional concerned parties:

- a. Neighbors within close proximity that can be reasonably expected to be affected by the conditions found;
- b. The local municipal clerk;
- c. Local law enforcement;
- d. Other state and local authorities, such as the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Minnesota Department of Health, that may have public and environmental protection responsibilities at the site;
- e. County Administrator

SECTION 2.40 Notice Filed with Property Record and/or Motor Vehicle Record

2.41 Morrison County Public Health shall provide a copy of the Chemical Public Health Nuisance Declaration to the County Recorder and to the recorded lien, mortgage, and contract holders of the affected structure and/or properties. The County Recorder shall file the Declaration with the property record, to notify other persons with interest in the property about the property's chemical public health nuisance status.

2.42 When the affected property is a motor vehicle, boat, or trailer, the Public Health Department shall notify the appropriate state and local agencies that maintain motor vehicle, boat, or trailer records, and the holders of liens or security interests of record against the vehicle, boat, or trailer.

SECTION 2.50 Property Owner's and Occupant's Responsibility to Act

2.51 Property owner(s) and occupant(s) provided with a notice, which also includes the posted warning sign informing them about the chemical public health nuisance, shall promptly act to vacate occupants from those parts of a structure that are a chemical public health nuisance. This includes dwellings, buildings, motor vehicles, trailers, boats, appliances, or any other affected area or location.

2.52 Within ten business days of receiving the public health notice and order to clean up the chemical public health nuisance, the property owner(s) shall take the following actions:

- a. Notify the Public Health Department that the affected parts of the dwellings, buildings, and/or motor vehicles have been and will remain vacated and secured until the Public Health Department provides notice that the public health nuisance no longer exists.
- b. Contract with one or more acceptable environmental hazard testing and cleaning firms (acceptable firms are those that have provided assurance of appropriate equipment, procedures, and personnel, as determined by the Minnesota Department of Health and/or Morrison County Public Health) to accomplish the following and ensure they are completed:
 1. A detailed on-site assessment of the extent of contamination at the site and the contamination of the personal property therein;
 2. Soil testing of the site and testing of all property and soil in proximity to the site that the environmental hazard testing and cleaning firm determines may have been affected by the conditions found at the site;

3. A complete cleanup of the site (including but not limited to the cleanup or removal of contaminated plumbing, ventilation systems, fixtures, and contaminated soil) or a demolition of the site and a complete cleanup of the demolished site;
 4. A complete cleanup, or disposal at an approved dumpsite, of all personal property at the site;
 5. A complete cleanup of all property and soil in proximity to the site that is found to have been affected by the conditions found at the site; and
 6. Remediation testing and follow-up testing to determine that all health risks are sufficiently reduced, according to Minnesota Department of Health guidelines, to allow safe human occupancy and use of the site and use of the personal property therein.
- c. Provide the Public Health Department with the identity of the testing and cleaning firm the owner has contracted with for remediation of the structure(s) as described above.
 - d. Provide the Public Health Department with the contractor's plan and schedule for remediation that will abate the chemical public health nuisance declaration.
 - e. The property owner may request an extension of time to consider options for arranging cleanup or removal of the affected parts of the structure. The owner must show good cause for any such extension. Any such extension shall be dependent on the owner's assurance that the affected parts of the structure will not be occupied pending appropriate cleanup or demolition.

SECTION 2.60 Property Owner's Responsibility for Costs and Opportunity for Recovery

- 2.61 Consistent with Minnesota Statute Chapter 145A, the property owner shall be responsible for (a) private contractor's fees, cleanup, remediation, and testing of chemical public health nuisance conditions; and (b) Morrison County fees and costs of administering notices and enforcing, vacating, cleanup, remediation, and testing of affected parts of the property.
- 2.62 Nothing in this ordinance is intended to limit the property owners, agents, occupants, or the County's right to recover costs or damages from persons contributing to the public health nuisance, such as the operators of the clandestine drug lab and/or other lawful sources.

- 2.63 The County's administrative and enforcement services, referenced in subsection 2.61, include, but are not limited to, the following:
- a. Posting warning notices or signs at the site;
 - b. Notification of affected parties;
 - c. Securing the site, providing limited access to the site, and prosecution of unauthorized persons found at the site;
 - d. Expenses related to the recovery of costs, including the assessment process;
 - e. Laboratory fees;
 - f. Cleanup services;
 - g. Administrative fees; and
 - h. Other associated costs.

SECTION 2.70 Special Assessment to Recover Public Costs

- 2.71 The County is authorized under Minnesota Statute § 145A.04, Subd. 8(d) to proceed within ten business days of service of a notice for abatement or removal of the public health nuisance to initiate the assessment and cleanup when (a) the property owner is not located, or (b) the Public Health Department determines that the owner refuses to or cannot pay the costs, or arrange timely assessment and cleanup that is acceptable to the Public Health Department.
- 2.72 The County Administrator (or the Administrator's formally identified designee) shall be fully authorized to act, consistent with Minnesota law, on behalf of the County to direct funds to assure prompt remediation of chemical investigation sites.
- 2.73 When the estimated cost of testing, cleanup, and remediation exceeds 75 percent of the County Assessor's market value of the structure and land, or motor vehicle registrar market value of a vehicle, the County Administrator (or the Administrator's formally identified designee) is authorized to notify the property owner of the County's intent to remove and dispose of the affected property instead of proceeding with cleaning and remediation.
- 2.74 The property owner shall be responsible for all costs, including those of the County, incurred to abate the public health nuisance, including contractor's fees and public costs for services that were performed in association with a

clandestine drug lab site or chemical dumpsite cleanup. The County's costs may also include, but shall not be limited to, those set forth in Section 2.63. Fees and costs specified above that are not paid for in any other way may be collected through a special assessment on the property as allowed by Minnesota Statute § 145A.08, or by any other applicable federal, state, and county laws, ordinances, and/or applicable county board resolution.

- 2.75 The cost of testing, cleanup, and remediation shall be certified by the Director of Morrison County Public Health, or its designee. Notice of cost, and demand for payment, shall be forwarded to the property owner by certified mail at the property owner's last known address as shown on property tax records. If payment in full is not made within 30 days of mailing of notice, Morrison County Public Health may request that all costs be assessed against the property.
- 2.76 Payment on the special assessment shall be at the annual rate of at least \$1,000 or more as needed to assure full payment to the County within 10 years. The amount due, interest rate, and/or payment rate may be adjusted by action of the County Board of Commissioners.
- 2.77 The County may also seek recovery of costs through other methods allowed by federal or state law.

SECTION 2.80 Authority to Modify or Remove Declaration of Chemical Public Health Nuisance

- 2.81 The Public Health Department may modify conditions of the order issued to the property owner by the Public Health Department.
- 2.82 Such modification shall occur only after the Public Health Department has determined that levels of contamination are sufficiently reduced through alternative remediation to warrant modification of the order. The Public Health Department may rely on information from competent sources, including those supplied by the property owner and/or others such as state and local health, safety, law enforcement, and pollution control authorities to reach such decisions.
- 2.83 When the declaration is removed because cleanup and remediation is completed, the Public Health Department shall forward that information to the County Recorder for recording if the declaration was previously recorded as described in section 2.41. Similarly, notice shall be provided to the motor vehicle or other license records agencies and lien holders if a declaration had previously been provided to them.

SECTION 2.90 Waste Generated from Cleaning Up a Clandestine Drug Lab

Waste generated from chemical public health nuisances shall be treated, stored, transported, and disposed in accordance with applicable rules and regulations adopted by the Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Morrison County.

ARTICLE III. EXCEPTIONS, VIOLATIONS, AND SEVERABILITY

SECTION 3.00 Road Right-of-Way Exception

When a chemical dumpsite is found on a public road right-of-way within Morrison County, the County will be responsible for removal of hazardous dumpsite materials.

SECTION 3.10 Violations

Administration of this ordinance shall conform to Minnesota Statute Chapter 145A unless alternatives are specifically identified in the ordinance. Any person who violates this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to the penalties identified in Minnesota Statute Chapter 609. Each day of violation constitutes a separate offense.

SECTION 3.20 Severability and Savings Clause

If any section or portion of this ordinance shall be found unconstitutional or otherwise invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, that finding shall not serve as an invalidation of, or affect the validity or enforceability of, any other section or provision of this ordinance.

ARTICLE IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon adoption pursuant to Minnesota law.

Dated this _____ day of February, 2004.

Board Chairperson _____

ATTEST:

County Administrator _____

Notes

1. National Association of Counties, “The Meth Epidemic in America,” survey report available at www.naco.org. The surveys were conducted by Research, Inc., of Washington, D.C. “The Criminal Effect of Meth on Communities” survey included results from 500 counties in 45 states, and “The Impact of Meth on Children” was based on results from 303 counties in all 13 states where child welfare activities are performed at the county level.

2. Terry Sluss, “Counties Are Fighting Meth Wars,” *Minnesota Counties*, Feb. 2005, p. 9, available at www.mncounties.org/Hot%20Topics%20&%20Resources/Meth_Info/MnCountiesFEB05.pdf.

3. Mark Woodward, “New Law Helps Curb Meth Labs,” available at Association of Oklahoma Narcotics Enforcers Web site, www.okienarc.org.

4. Paul Levy, “Less Meth in Minnesota,” [Minneapolis] *Star Tribune*, Nov. 8, 2005.

5. Ibid.

6. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration “National Survey on Drug Use and Health,” available at www.drugabusestatistics.samhsa.gov/nhsda/2k3nsduh/2k3Results.htm#highlights.

7. Carol L. Falkowski, “Focus on Meth Labs Alone Won’t Solve the Problems,” Feb. 20, 2005, op-ed column now available at http://realcostofprisons.org/blog/archives/2005/02/focus_on_meth_1.html.

8. Carol L. Falkowski, “Meth Abuse: How It Compares with Other Drugs,” *The Voice*, Summer 2005.

9. C. West Huddleston III, “Drug Courts: An Effective Strategy for Communities Facing Methamphetamine,” *Bureau of Justice Assistance Bulletin*, May 2005, available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/pdf/MethDrugCourts.pdf.