



County of San Diego Methamphetamine Strike Force

Tipping the Scale Towards Health: Creating Effective Public Health & Public Safety Partnerships



Meeting of the Minds

November 10, 2011

Linda Bridgeman Smith, Health & Human Services Agency-Alcohol & Drug Services

Jason Druxman, Supervising Probation Officer, San Diego County Probation Department

Chris May, Sergeant, San Diego County Sheriffs Department



County of San Diego Methamphetamine Strike Force

Session Goal

How can behavioral health and public safety systems collaborate to help individuals move towards health, and away from substance abuse?

Objectives:

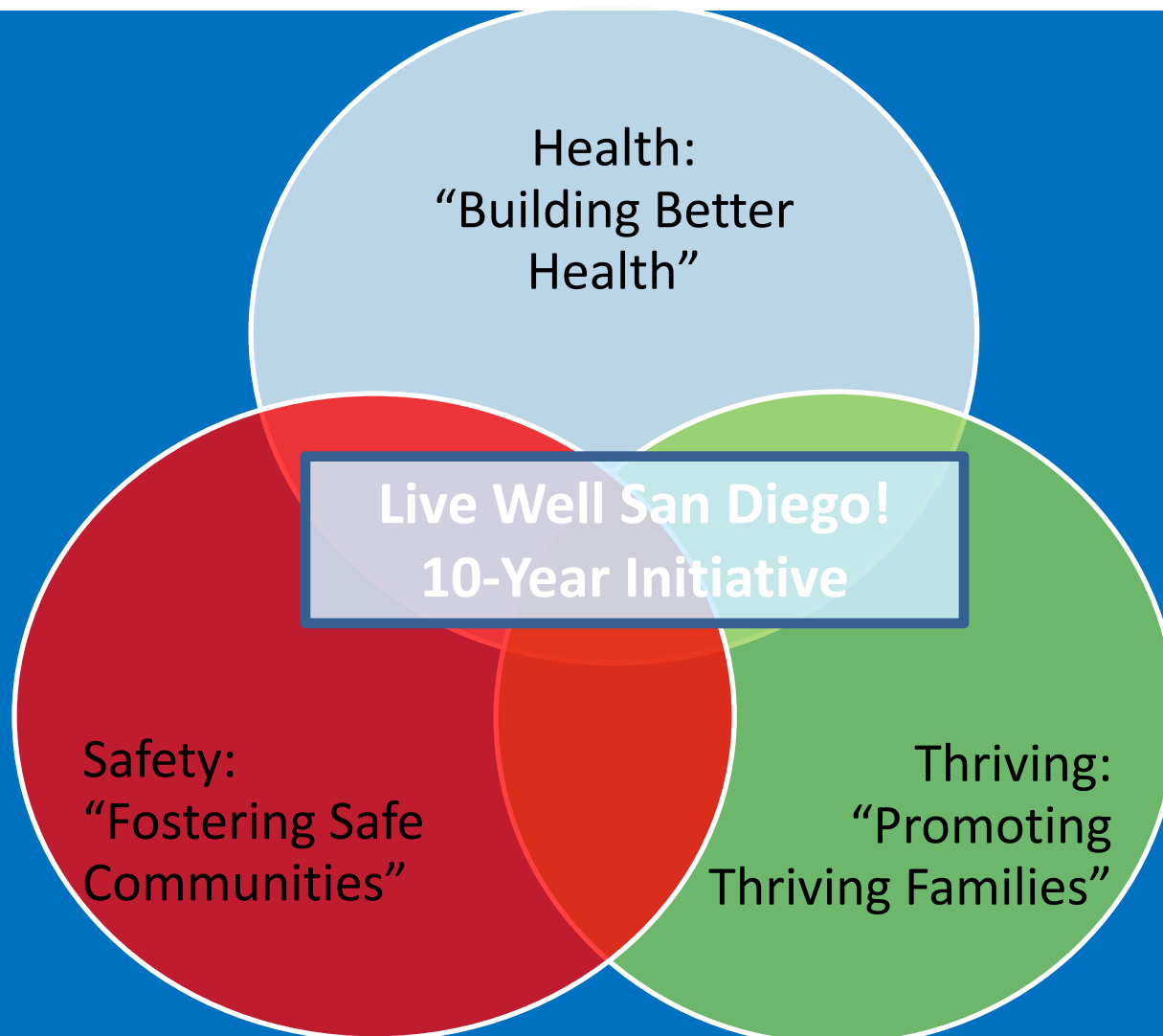
1. Learn about Tip the Scale Operations
2. Identify barriers to cross-discipline work between public health & public safety — and ways to overcome these barriers
3. Identify “Win-Win” for systems in this collaboration
4. Identify ways effective collaboration strengthen communities



County of San Diego Methamphetamine Strike Force

Context

- ✓ 15 Years of Multidisciplinary Collaboration on Shared Problems
- ✓ Local, State, Federal cooperation
- ✓ Annual Report Card, Meth Hotline & Website
- ✓ Extensive News Media Coverage
- ✓ Policy Successes
- ✓ Innovation & Collaboration



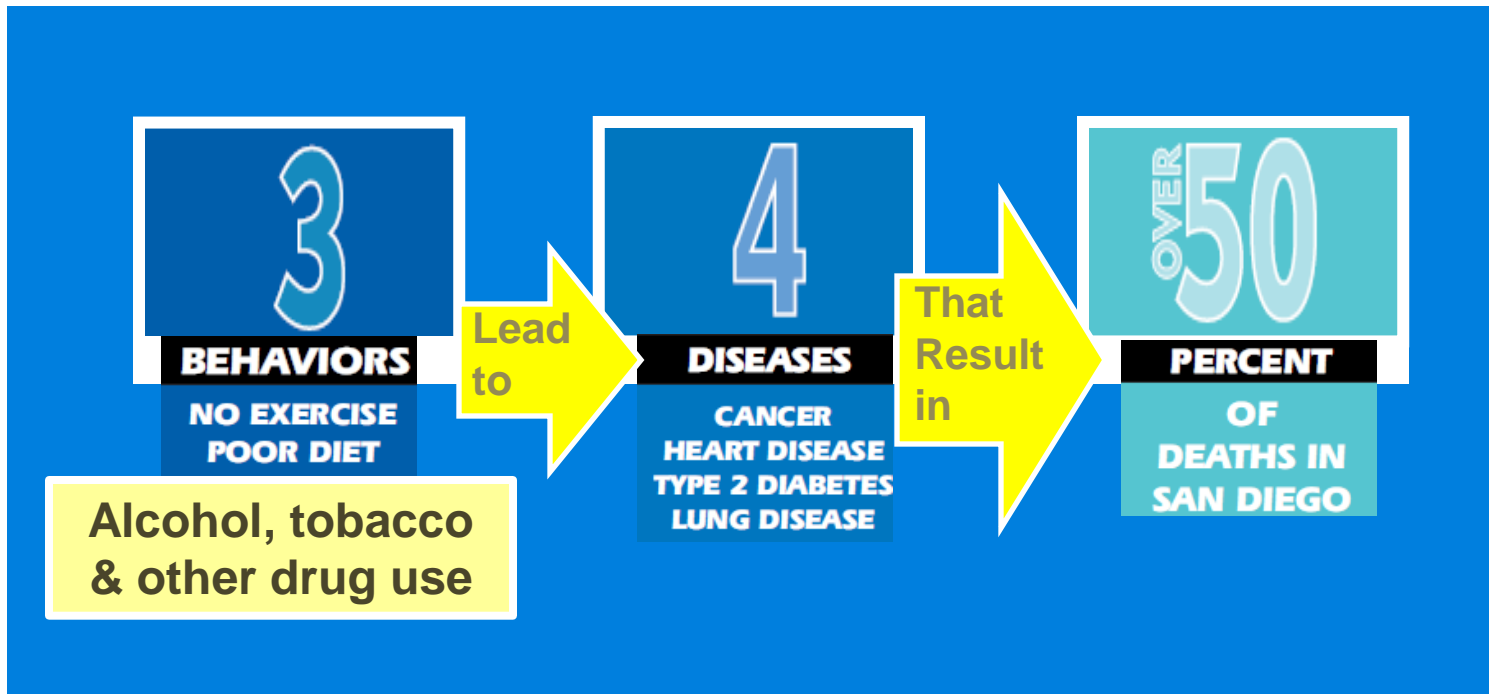
Building a Better System

Supporting Healthy Choices

Pursuing Policy Changes for a Healthy Environment

Improving the Culture from Within

BUILDING BETTER HEALTH





County of San Diego Methamphetamine Strike Force

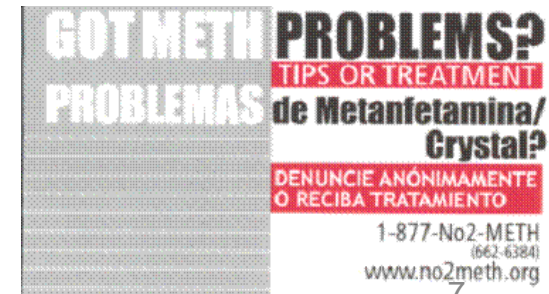
What We Are Trying to Accomplish, And, How We Do It



County of San Diego Methamphetamine Strike Force

Tip the Scale Goals

- Increase Perception of Risk/Arrest via High Visibility Enforcement and Probation/Parole Compliance
- Promote Treatment and Recovery
- Promote of the Meth Hotline





County of San Diego Methamphetamine Strike Force

Strategy

- Rotate Operations Throughout A Region With Multidisciplinary, Multi-jurisdiction Team
- Use Media To Magnify The Accountability Message To Probationers/Parolees:
“We Are Watching - Stay On Your Toes!”

East Region Partners

San Diego County

Sheriff's Department

Probation Department

Alcohol & Drug Services

Child Welfare / Drug Endangered Children (DEC)

Animal Control

Local Law Enforcement

El Cajon & La Mesa Police Depts.

SDSU Police Dept

Metropolitan Transit Service

CA Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Federal

U.S. Marshall Service

U.S. Postal Service

Local Community Organizations

Institute for Public Strategies

Mental Health Systems, Inc.

Freedom Ranch

McAlister Institute



South Region Partners

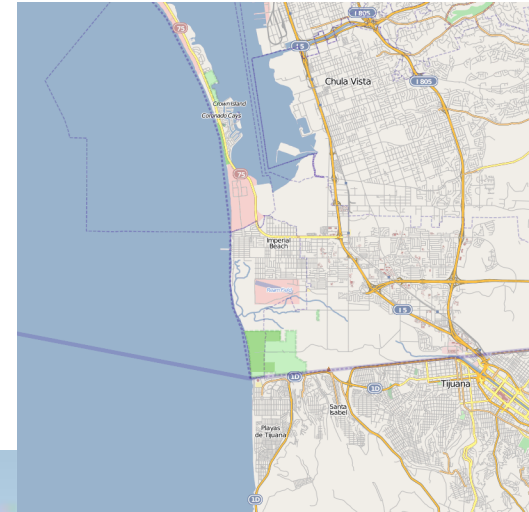
- ✓ *All previously listed County Agencies*
- ✓ *CA Dept. of Corrections & Rehabilitation*
- ✓ *SDSU Police Dept*
- ✓ *IPS & MHS Inc.*

PLUS!!

San Diego, Chula Vista, National City, & Coronado Police Depts

Federal

U.S. Border Patrol
Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



North Region Partners

- *All previously listed County Agencies*
- *CA Dept. of Corrections & Rehabilitation*
- *SDSU Police Dept*
- *IPS & MHS Inc*

PLUS!!

San Diego, Carlsbad, Escondido & Oceanside Police Depts
Occupational Health Services DUI Program





County of San Diego Methamphetamine Strike Force

Tip the Scale Components

- **Directed Patrol -**
Vehicles/Bicycles/Trolley
- **Parole/Probation Compliance Checks**
- **Warrant Sweeps**
- **Treatment Engagement**
- **Distribution of Informational Pamphlets**
- **Media Advocacy**



County of San Diego Methamphetamine Strike Force

Treatment Conversations

- **NOT** Treatment or Assessment
- Engagement with Local Resources
- Reinforcement & Teachable Moment



County of San Diego Methamphetamine Strike Force

Drug Endangered Children

- **Intervene** with parents where substances are in home for the safety of the child
- Child Protective Services on site during operations
- Every Tip the Scale has **resulted in at least one DEC case**



County of San Diego Methamphetamine Strike Force

Media is Prevention & Deterrent

- ❖ Media Component In Every Op
- ❖ Ride-along's Include TV & Print Coverage
- ❖ Tight Talking Points & Messaging
- ❖ Op-eds As Addendum

For me, it's good because I know you're going to come at any time," she said to officers. "If you guys let me alone entirely and just let me out of jail and said, 'That's it' I'd be...I'd make bad decisions."

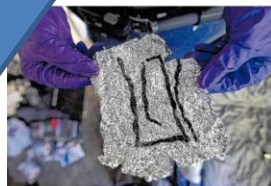


Sheriff's deputies Steve Cerda, left, and Dennis Carvalho, change out handcuffs on a woman, who is a parolee, as she is transferred onto a bus at the Escondido Police Station during operation "Tip the Scale," a multi-agency sweep of parolees to get drug users off the streets in Escondido on Thursday. The woman, who was found in possession of drug pipes, was arrested for violating her probation.

Photos by HAYNE PALMOUR IV | hpalmour@nctimes.com

'TIP THE SCALE'

Operation aimed at getting offenders off the streets, into sobriety



A police officer holds aluminum foil used for smoking Oxycontin pills in the apartment of a parolee during the sweep. The black lines are from the pill rolling as it is being burned and inhaled.

By MORGAN COOK
mcook@nctimes.com

Officers with the county's multi-agency Methamphetamine Strike Force visited the homes of 80 known drug users in the Escondido area Thursday during a sweep aimed at getting offenders off the streets and back on the path to sobriety, authorities said.

The law enforcement operation, dubbed Tip the Scale, includes a chance for drug users to sit down with treatment professionals before they're jailed for the night, police said.

The idea is to reduce property crimes — an estimated 1 in 4 of which are committed by drug users — by jailing drug offenders in the short term and guiding them to the help they need to make long-term changes, officials said.

"You put the right people in jail, you put them back on track, you get results," San Diego County Assistant Sheriff Ed Prendergast said during a briefing before the operation. "We know it works, we know it's effective, so that's why we're here today!"

See **Scale, A4**



County of San Diego Methamphetamine Strike Force

Results



County of San Diego Methamphetamine Strike Force

East Region

Round 1: March -
October 2009

METHAMPHETAMINE / CRYSTAL?

CALL / LLAME the Meth Hotline

1-877-No 2-METH
(877-662-6384)

- Santee/Lakeside /
Unincorporated El Cajon
- City of EL Cajon
- City of La Mesa
- City of Lemon
Grove/Spring Valley
- Alpine (2010)



County of San Diego Methamphetamine Strike Force

East County Results

March – April
2010

4 Ops

5 Communities

- Arrests: 238
- Drug Related Warrant Arrests: 99
- Trolley Contacts: 16,828
- Trolley Citations: 366
- Treatment Conversation: 83 (1 admit)
- Informational Pamphlets: 357
- Rural Marijuana Seizure 14.7 lbs
- Meth Hotline Calls: 83 (50% from East County)
- TV Coverage at each op with 2-4 stations
- Summary News Event with 5 TV stations



County of San Diego Methamphetamine Strike Force

East Outcomes: A Real Difference

- ❖ Violent Crime Down 4.1 % in East County
 - (Up 1% County wide during first six months of 2009)

- ❖ Property Crime Down 24.5% in East County
 - (Down 17% County wide during first six months of 2009)

- ❖ 1,474 Fewer Victims in East County during Op Period



County of San Diego Methamphetamine Strike Force

Imperial Beach Results: August 2010

- Arrests: 40 (19 Felony)
- Field Interviews: 45
- Treatment Conversations: 34
- Informational pamphlets: 51
- Warrants Arrests: 12
- TV Coverage from 5 local stations





County of San Diego Methamphetamine Strike Force

North County



❖ October 2010 Vista

❖ Calendar 2011

- **March** in Poway
- **July** in San Marcos
- **October** in Escondido
- **Coast** before end of year



County of San Diego Methamphetamine Strike Force

North County Results:

NORTH COUNTY TIMES

October 29, 2010

Page A-1

VISTA | METH STRIKE FORCE SWEEP NETS 14 ARRESTS



Sheriff's Deputy Mark Cahill, left, and county Probation Officer Jason Druxman adjust the handcuffs on two women after they were arrested on suspicion of being under the influence of meth during an operation in Vista on Thursday morning.

BY APPEALING TO THE PUBLIC GOOD

Cumulative

- Arrests: 111
- Treatment Conversation: 83
- Informational pamphlets: 161
- Media Coverage: 25
- DEC : 7 call outs, 5 children in protective custody



County of San Diego Methamphetamine Strike Force

So What's the Long Term Benefits of Collaboration Across Public Health and Safety?

Reductions in Crime, AND...



County of San Diego Methamphetamine Strike Force

- **Real Working Relationships at the Local Level**
- **Stronger Collaboration on other Projects**
- **Opportunities for Leadership & Staff Growth**
- **Win-Win: Less Recidivism, More Recovery, Healthier Families & Communities**
- **Public Support**



County of San Diego Methamphetamine Strike Force

LETTERS: NCT, Nov. 8, 2011

Tip the Scale operation makes community safe

I read with great interest the North County Times story about the Tip the Scale operation that was carried out Oct. 20 ("[Meth sweep fights crime, offers counseling," Oct. 22](#)). I am thrilled that our law enforcement officers and treatment professionals are partnering to provide options for drug addicts, rather than just simply throwing them in jail.

The operation made clear the difference that a few people can make in a short amount of time. It's partnerships like Tip the Scale that have the power to make meaningful environmental changes to North County communities.

I would like to congratulate all the law enforcement officers, the treatment professionals and the Meth Strike Force for such a wonderful operation.

Adriana Andres
Escondido

Read more: http://www.nctimes.com/news/opinion/letters/letters-nct-nov/article_4336d904-3591-5344-95ab-3fc3b89c69e9.html#ixzz1d9EPuD7x



County of San Diego Methamphetamine Strike Force

Next Steps

Public Safety and
Public Health are
Good Partners



- **Maintain and Expand Operations**
- **Coordinate with Other Kinds of Sweeps**
- **Continue to Document and Measure Success**



County of San Diego Methamphetamine Strike Force

Thank You~

Linda Bridgeman Smith, Manager

Health & Human Services Agency-Alcohol/Drug Services

Linda.Bridgeman@sdcounty.ca.gov

Jason Druxman, Supervising Probation Officer

San Diego County Probation Department

Jason.Druxman@sdcounty.ca.gov

Chris May, Sergeant

San Diego County Sheriffs Department

Christopher.May@sdsheriff.org