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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Distribution

Methamphetamine HotLine Implemented

REDDING, April 10 -- The Shasta County Methamphetamine Task Force announces implementation of a 24-hour Meth Hotline (530-247-7444). This service is aimed primarily at family members, friends, neighbors, relatives and loved ones affected by methamphetamine users. It will provide current information about local resources and alternatives available to those harmed by meth abuse.

Methamphetamine is a highly addictive drug which causes harm not only to those who use it but to their families, friends and neighbours as well. Meth users may be violent; are often involved in crime; may be financially irresponsible and often are unable to hold a job; may ignore the needs of their children, families and loved ones; and may be indifferent to their own personal hygiene and health. They may be absent from the family due to incarceration and It may be necessary for relatives such as grandparents to step in and raise the children.

Programs to assist users with detoxification and addiction management have been widely publicized but resources available to the silent victims, the friends, families and relatives, are not so well known. Through grants from the Shasta County Anti-Tobacco Fund and Mercy Medical Center, and in collaboration with the Chemical People of Shasta County and Help, Inc., the Meth Task Force provides public access to that information by telephone 24 hours per day. Trained workers will answer general questions about methamphetamine and assist callers in selecting and contacting the resources needed to protect children, report suspected drug trafficking or labs, and obtain help in managing family matters which have been disrupted by the influence of meth. The new phone service and the Task Force's website (www.methtaskforce.org) provide the community with powerful information resources with which to counter the scourge of methamphetamine.

The Shasta County Methamphetamine Task Force is a non-profit community organization whose mission is prevention of methamphetamine use through education and public awareness. Meth is a plague which cripples our community resources, steals our tax dollars, destroys lives and families, and creates health issues for present and future generations. The HotLine phone number is: 530-247-7444.

If you use meth, you need help! If a loved one uses meth, you both need help!

SOURCE: Shasta County Methamphetamine Task Force

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WEB SITE: <http://www.methtaskforce.org>