

SANTA CRUZ NEIGHBORS TOWNHALL MEETING
JANUARY 16, 2007
METH EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

MEETING HOSTED BY: ROTARY CLUB AND SGT. BETHKE, S.C. POLICE DEPARTMENT

PANEL: Bill Manov, Director, County Alcohol and Drug Treatment; Jan Tia; Bill Azua, Police Dept. – Narcotics; Roxanne McDonald, YES Program, Santa Cruz High; and Jessica Rondou, Instructor for YES Program (recovery)

At 7:05 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Deborah Elston of SC Neighbors. Dave Robles of the Rotary Club was introduced and Mr. Robles explained that he has personally been touched by the Meth problem in that his own teenage daughter has battled with addiction. Mr. Jim Wiesenstein of the Santa Cruz Rotary was also introduced and it was noted that Dale Skillicorn of the Watsonville City Council was also present.

Rotary Club Service Project Overview: The purpose is to present the community with an awareness and prevention program concerning the Meth problem in our community. Educational websites are provided as well as materials and contacts for the use of the community. They have joined forces with the United Way of Santa Cruz County and with the SCC Drug and Alcohol programs and other local programs (such as JANUS).

Among the topics covered were:

METH MYTHS (i.e. an easy way to lose weight; the user is the only one hurt, etc)
STREET NAMES (i.e. crank, speed, Tina, ice, crystal, chalk)
METHODS OF USE (i.e. smoked, snorted, injected, inhaled, etc)
SIGNS OF USE (i.e. euphoria, paranoia, constant scratching, mood swings, sleeplessness, rage, etc)

VARIOUS FACTS ABOUT METH: 1) Takes 24 months of abstinence for the brain to register some recovery. 2) The brain will become “burned out” and learning becomes very difficult. 3) Meth causes the release of dopamine (pleasure hormone) and users are addicted to this feeling that they can do everything quite well and never tire. 4) Meth is at least four times stronger than “coke” and the high lasts much longer. 5) Meth users will find their body depleted of nutrients and most will suffer damage to their dental health, etc. 6) One pound of Meth will yield five pounds of toxic waste disposed of in our environment and is so toxic persons within range have to be decontaminated. 7) Drug endangered children are often found neglected, abused, and exposed to toxic chemicals. 8) At least \$1,500 in your tax money goes to Meth-related costs. 9) In Santa Cruz County, 352 of 1,085 (33%) of the Sheriff’s Office arrests involve Meth. Sixty percent are drug and alcohol related. At least 35% of the petitions to remove children from the home of the parent(s) involved Meth. This increased from 234 in 2000-2001 (9.7%) to 629 (21.5%) in 2004-2005.

Meeting was then opened for an hour of questions and answers.

NOTE: A Copy of this Meeting can be obtained through Community Television as it was all taped and running on Channel 25 for a period of time.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND WEBSITES: 831-454-4050 (treatment)

www.santacruzhealth.org

www.santacruzMeth.org