

Linn Meth/Drug Community Action Plan

(1/24/06)

Purpose

As citizens who care about the quality of life for all those who reside in Linn County, we have come together to identify a set of specific goals and strategies to sharply reduce the market for, manufacture, sale, and use of methamphetamine and other illegal and harmful drugs in our county.

We view this not as a one-time plan, but as the beginning of a focused, ongoing process of combining our efforts in such a way as to make maximum impact on these serious issues facing us all.

Oversight of Plan Implementation

We envision three ongoing committees carrying out the work of this plan addressing the areas of Prevention, Intervention, and Enforcement. The work of these committees will be coordinated under the direction of an oversight committee consisting of a representative cross-section of Linn County leaders.

Plan Goals

Below are the goals that have been identified for the initial Plan. We recognize that these goals will be evaluated and modified over time as progress is made and adjustments become appropriate and necessary. A detailed description of the activities associated with each of these goals is attached.

Linn County Meth/Drug Community Action Plan Goals – Draft 1/14/06

Prevention	Treatment	Enforcement
Improve use of the media for community education	Improve timely access to all levels of treatment	Start a Linn County Juvenile Drug Court
Have an alcohol and drug specialist available to each school and to other sites that serve youth, such as the Boys and Girls Club	Assist C.H.A.N.C.E. (Community Helping Addicts Negotiate Change Effectively) in becoming operational and maintaining operating needs	Expand the existing Linn County Adult Drug Court
Create a pool of screened, trained mentors	Develop local resources for alcohol & drug-free housing	Increase community participation in solving the drug/meth problem in Linn County
Have Life Skills Training in every elementary and middle school in the county	Develop a recovery mentorship program	Develop new legislation at the next Oregon legislative session in 2007 to help solve the meth/drug problem in Linn County and Oregon
Build a strong, sustainable network of community coalitions to stop substance abuse	Increase early intervention efforts with special populations	Sustained funding for school resource officers
		Support increasing the number of juvenile probation officers

*Linn County Drug Forum Prevention Committee
Goals and Next Steps*

Goal 1: Improve use of the media for community education.

- Radio
 - o PSAs (public service announcements)
 - o Educational segments
- Newspaper
 - o News staff and community collaboration to develop a series of personalized stories on topics such as
 - What happens to a child from a meth home—follow the child through the system
 - Stories of people in recovery
 - o Educational information for youth and adults
 - o Embed facts and figures into more inviting contexts

Next steps:

1. Meet with the media (newspaper and radio).
 - a. Discuss the goals of the newspaper or radio station and how these match the goals of the Prevention Committee.
 - b. Devise a strategy for attracting reader or listener interest.
 - c. Build PSAs and/or look for successful PSAs already in use and tailor these to our community.
2. Gather material for use by the media.
 - a. List of people who are willing to tell their stories to journalists
 - b. Educational information for prevention of drug use
 - c. Statistics
 - d. Data about the economic impact of drug use on the public, employers, landlords, etc, and the cost-effectiveness of treatment
 - e. Opportunities to become involved, such as Neighborhood Watch
 - f. Community resources for prevention and treatment
3. Look into using other media outlets, such as web pages, for keeping the community informed about drug issues.

Measurable objectives:

Process measures will be developed to track use of the media for outreach.

Goal 2: Have an alcohol and drug specialist available to each school and to other sites that serve youth, such as the Boys & Girls Club.

- Support for students
- Support for youth who are not in school
- Teacher and staff training in prevention concepts and in recognizing and responding to signs of use

Next steps:

1. Meet with school personnel and staff at other sites to discuss their needs for prevention of substance abuse.
2. Identify sites that could benefit from an alcohol and drug specialist.
--Middle schools and high schools would be given priority for having an A & D specialist on site on a regular basis, with trainings and consultation for teachers and staff at other sites.
3. Find funding for A & D specialist positions.
4. Identify A & D specialists.
5. Train A & D specialists to work with schools and other sites.
6. Create a referral process that teachers and staff can use if they identify a student or family in need.
7. Hold yearly (at minimum) teacher and staff trainings.

Measurable objectives:

1. Increased number of schools and other sites with access to an alcohol and drug specialist
2. Increased number of educators and other staff who are trained in prevention concepts and in recognizing and responding to signs of alcohol and drug use

Goal 3: Create a pool of screened, trained mentors.

- Provide consistent support for
 - o Parents (“at-risk” families)
 - o Students in school
 - o Youth who are not in school
- Establish public sites where mentors and mentees can meet
 - o Schools
 - o Churches
 - o Boys & Girls Clubs

Next steps:

1. Identify existing mentoring programs.
2. Meet with people involved in existing mentoring programs.
3. Look for ways to expand existing programs.
 - a. Help identify new strategies for recruiting mentors.
 - b. Help identify potential mentees.
 - c. Help develop new mentoring sites.
4. Hold a mentoring summit for networking and recruiting.
5. Develop a centralized screening process for potential mentors.
6. Train mentors.

Measurable objectives:

1. By mid-February, existing mentoring programs will be identified and meeting dates will be established.
2. Increased number of mentors
3. Increased number of mentees
4. Increased number of mentoring sites

Goal 4: Have Life Skills Training in every elementary and middle school in the county.

Background: Life Skills Training is a skill-building curriculum that has been shown by numerous studies to reduce substance use by youth. The curriculum covers self-image and goal setting, decision-making, communication skills, social skills, assertiveness/refusal skills, awareness of advertising techniques, and information about tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs and their effects on the body. Some Linn County schools are currently implementing Life Skills Training.

Next steps:

1. Identify which schools currently have Life Skills Training and which do not.
2. Meet with schools to discuss reasons for absence of a Life Skills program.
3. Work with schools to find ways to fit Life Skills Training into the curriculum.
4. Find and train Life Skills instructors.

Measurable objectives:

1. Increased number of schools that have Life Skills Training
2. Increased number of students who receive Life Skills Training
3. (Look for ways to track impact of the program on the community.)

Goal 5: Build a strong, sustainable network of community coalitions to stop substance abuse.

- Raise community awareness
- Optimize use of resources
 - o Improve networking
 - o Avoid duplication of efforts
 - o Map community assets
 - Create a contact list of groups working to address drug use in Linn County to facilitate communication among groups
- Source for recruiting volunteers
- Expand Positive Behavior Support (PBS) concept into the community (e.g., through youth-business partnerships)

Potential coalition partners:

- Together Groups
- School district staff
- Parent Teacher Organizations

- Youth
- Business community
- Faith community
- Civic groups
- Health care providers
- Law enforcement
- Law makers
- First responders
- Youth organizations
- Job resource centers
- Shelters
- Neighborhood Watch
 - o Support and expand these efforts
 - o Foster an image of Neighborhood Watch as a mainstream activity
 - o Change community climate/expectations

Needs for sustainability:

- Administrative support
- A convener with a talent for inspiring creative collaboration

Next Steps:

1. Use media to raise awareness and publicize ways to get involved.
2. Meet with specific groups within the community to discuss how they could participate.
3. Give all those who would like to become involved access to information about the work of local agencies and organizations as it relates to drug use.
 - Create a forum for sharing information, such as a website with links to local resources and/or a quarterly community meeting about drug issues.
4. Draft a mission statement.

Measurable objectives:

1. Increased number of communities within Linn County that have coalitions actively addressing substance abuse
2. Diverse representation of regions in the county

Linn County Drug Forum Community Action Plan
TREATMENT-INTERVENTION SUBCOMMITTEE

1. Goal: Improve timely access to all levels of treatment.

Background: Uninsured residents needing outpatient treatment on a sliding scale often have to wait 3-6 weeks for an assessment in order to start treatment, or may not meet priorities for the limited treatment openings. Waiting lists for residential treatment for the uninsured, and to a lesser degree for those with OHP, are often 3-5 months. The closest non-hospital detoxes are in Salem and Eugene, both often have a 1-3 day waiting list, and lack of transportation to detox is a frequent barrier. Although there are some treatment services available for adults and adolescents in E. Linn (through Emergence and Linn Co. A&D), and there is van transportation available throughout the county to bring adults to Linn Co. A&D groups in Albany, the lack of convenient treatment services for rural residents is a barrier to seeking treatment.

Action Plan:

Form a work group that will develop and implement strategies to improve at least one of the following over the next year:

- Timely access to treatment locally (including residential treatment and detox)
- Timely access to assessment.
- Improve transition from treatment, jail, prison.
- Improve rural treatment services.
- Local long-term inpatient treatment (including for dual diagnosis).

Expected Results:

Reduce waiting time and/or other barriers for clients to enter treatment.

2. Goal: Assist C.H.A.N.C.E. (Community Helping Addicts Negotiate Change Effectively) in becoming operational and maintaining operating needs.

Background: C.H.A.N.C.E., a new local non-profit, received a grant for \$35,000 for operating during the fiscal period of October 2005 – September 2006. C.H.A.N.C.E. is currently struggling with the planning and zoning for a

drop-in center due to the public's perception of recovery services verses addiction treatment.

Action Plan:

- Start the process for the new site plan review for the corner of 3rd and Jackson.
- Ask local supporters to write letters outlining how they believe C.H.A.N.C.E. will improve and bring value to our community for submission to the city planning office.
- Meet with the neighbors and then hold a neighborhood meeting by February 2006.
- Assist C.H.A.N.C.E. with developing planned programs and fund-raising.

Expected Results:

Use C.H.A.N.C.E.'s volunteers as resource to:

- Increase availability of assessments to access treatment.
- Increase availability of treatment for those with the inability to pay.
- Increase awareness and advocacy for recovery.
- Develop mentorship programs.
- Provide job readiness and placement assistance.
- Reintegrate addicts into their community and families.
- Increase rate of long-term recovery (5+ years).

3. Goal: Develop local resources for alcohol and drug-free housing.

Background: Many addicts starting recovery live with family or friends who are still using. Currently Albany has 3 Oxford Houses (2 for men & 1 for women & children), and Linn Co. A&D has limited funds (through the state and Community Services Consortium) for drug-free rental assistance. There is a great need for more drug-free housing affordable to addicts starting recovery.

Action Plan:

- Meet with RAP (Recovery Association Project), which has been involved in sober housing development in Portland, for assistance with local sober housing development.
- Convene work group of local drug-free housing stakeholders to develop and implement strategies to increase availability of drug-free housing.

Expected Results:

Over the next year, show one or more of the following:

- More Oxford Houses/recovery homes (especially for moms with kids).
- Sober housing development.
- More effective utilization of rental assistance funds.
- Develop supervised transitional housing for addicts coming out of prison and/or for families involved with Child Welfare.

4. Goal: Develop recovery mentorship program.

Background: Other communities have had success in providing peer recovery mentors for more at-risk groups, such as addicts coming out of prison or residential treatment, teens, and pregnant women. Although sponsors are available in 12-Step programs, there is usually a delay before addicts new to recovery locate a sponsor.

Action Plan:

Form a work group to develop resource of recovery mentors and/or coaches, and develop qualifications for mentors that match needs of population (teens, corrections clients, etc.).

Expected Results:

Mentors available for addicts entering treatment or transitioning from prison, jail, or residential treatment

5. Goal: Increase early intervention efforts with special populations.

Background: Addiction is more easily treated in its early stages, but addicts usually don't seek help until their lives have been severely damaged. Families and the community can benefit from intervening early with special populations, such as youth and pregnant women.

Action Plan:

Form a work group that will develop and implement strategies to improve at least one of the following over the next year:

- Intervention for pregnant teens who are still using.

- Training for teachers on early intervention.
- A&D counselors in schools.
- In-school options (addiction education, resources).
- Helpline.
- Expand foster care availability to allow earlier intervention with addicted parents.

Expected Results:

Increase resources available to at least one of these areas over the next year.

Linn County Meth/Drug Community Action Plan
ENFORCEMENT
Goals & Action Plan

1) Goal: Start a Linn County Juvenile Drug Court.

Background: Linn County presently doesn't have a Juvenile Drug Court. It works very much like the adult drug court, but for youth. It is expected that a pilot Juvenile Drug Court will begin February 1, 2006

Action Plan:

Spring '06 Encourage Linn County Juvenile Drug Court Steering Committee to file a grant application to the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission for grant funds from statewide grant fund for drug courts totaling \$5 million.

Expected Results:

Dec '06 New Linn County Juvenile Drug Court with:

- 1) 20 juvenile participants
- 2) Lower recidivism among participants
- 3) Increased involvement of parents dealing with addicted children

2) Goal: Expand the existing Linn County Adult Drug Court.

Background: Linn County applied for a Federal grant in 2004 to fund this court. They didn't receive the funds. The County Commissioners, the courts, Parole & Probation, the Sheriff's Office and the Health Department felt having a drug court in Linn County was so important that they created one using existing county resources. The court began in 2005 and currently has 23 people participating in the program, the maximum that can participate with current funding.

Action Plan:

Spring '06 Encourage Linn County A&D to file a grant application to the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission for grant funds from state wide grant fund for drug courts totaling \$5 million.

Expected Results:

Dec '06 Expanded Linn County Adult Drug Court with:

- 1) Increased number of participants
- 2) Lower recidivism among participants

3) Goal: Increase Community Participation in solving the drug/meth problem in Linn County.

Background: Linn County citizens are growing tired of repeat offenders committing the same property crimes over and over again. They would like to see increased consequences for repeat offenders. Businesses and residences in Linn County have had tools stolen. They have found these tools in a pawnshop. Without specific identification, they are unable to recover their stolen items. Businesses have had scrap steel and other metals stolen to learn later that this material has been sold to a metal recycling center. The Sheriff's Office now has three (3) detectives assigned to narcotics and (2) assigned to property crimes reporting to the same sergeant. These teams are coordinating their efforts with the Sweet Home, Albany, and Lebanon Police Departments. This is a loose association with no formal written agreements. This strategy replaces the failed interagency drug task force VALIANT.

Action Plan:

- Educate communities about the benefits of Neighborhood Watch
- Expand the number of Neighborhood Watch groups in Linn County
- Improve communication between the Sheriff Office, District Attorney's Office and city police departments and Neighborhood Watch groups in Linn County (feedback from law enforcement in regards to the efforts of Neighborhood Watch groups)
- Have the Sheriff's Office develop a "Most Wanted" list for Linn County and post it on a web site. This currently exists in Marion County
- Organize community drug forums
- Pressure landlords to evict tenants using, producing, selling drugs
- Support the Linn County Sheriff's Office and Linn County city police departments to work together with the District Attorney's Office and Parole & Probation to identify the highest risk offenders (frequent flyers). These are individuals that most likely will show up on the Sheriff's Office "Most Wanted List". Bring them to justice and persuade judges to sentence them to the maximum term allowed under the law so they will remain in jail for as long as legally possible, increased consequences for repeat offenders

- Endorse and encourage the Linn County Sheriff's Office to continue their coordination with Linn County city police departments in working on drug and property crimes
- Encourage the Linn County Sheriff's Office to increase monitoring pawnshops, second hand stores, and metal recycling centers

Expected Results:

More arrests in Linn County
 Decreased property crimes in Linn County
 Decreased drug traffic in Linn County
 More effective law enforcement

4) Goal: Develop new legislation for the next Oregon legislative session in 2007 to help solve the meth/drug problem in Linn County and Oregon.

Background: An example of a need for new legislation: Presently high schools can have a student arrested for Minor In Possession (MIP) if the student shows up drunk or in possession of tobacco at school. However, if a student comes to school under the influence of some type of drug, the school has no recourse except to call the student's parents and tell them to come get the student. If possession by consumption laws existed, the school would have legal recourse they could use on a student who comes to school under the influence of drugs.

Action Plan:

2006 Bring representatives from the Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office, Parole & Probation, the Linn County Juvenile Department, local city police departments, Linn County Alcohol & Drug, and educators to discuss and develop legislation in cooperation with local legislators to be acted on at the 2007 Oregon legislative session.

Expected Results:

- 2007 New criminal forfeiture laws dealing with the assets of individuals and drug dealers convicted of drug crimes
- 2007 New possession by consumption laws for all drugs including marijuana and methamphetamine, adults and minors, with enhanced penalties for possession within 1,000 ft. of a school. Make marijuana possession a crime not a violation.
- 2007 Other new laws making it easier for schools, law enforcement and other related agencies to deal with the drug/meth problem in Oregon

2007 New sentencing guidelines for adult drug crimes

This would lead to a better learning atmosphere in schools, safer high school environment (building safety), and less property crime.

5) Goal: Sustained funding for school resource officers.

Background: City schools have resource officers from city police departments. Schools outside city limits have resource officers provided by the Sheriff's office.

Action Plan:

2006 Encourage Linn County city councils and Linn County Commissioners to continue providing stable funding for school resource officers at both the city and county level.

Expected Results:

2006 Reduced juvenile crimes.

6) Goal: Support increasing the number of juvenile probation officers.

Background: High schools have a fair number of "at risk" students in their schools. Some have committed crimes. Resource officers and probation officers assist school administrators in the management of these "at risk" students. The results are safer schools and reduced criminal acts on the part of these students.

Action Plan:

2006 Encourage the Linn County Juvenile Department to find funding sources to increase the number of juvenile probation officers in Linn County.

Expected Results:

Reduced juvenile offender recidivism
Safer high school environment (building safety)
Better coordination between school resource officers and juvenile probation officers