

**MEMORANDUM**  
OFFICE OF THE  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Thomas Miller, County Executive Officer

DATE: April 18, 2006

SUBJECT: Informational Presentation: Methamphetamine and the Effect on County Services and the Community

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Following introductory remarks by Supervisors Kranz and Holmes, receive additional information regarding the use/abuse of methamphetamine (meth) in Placer County through presentations by Sheriff Edward Bonner, Health and Human Services Director and Public Health Officer, Dr. Richard Burton and by the viewing of "The Montana Meth Project" a public service video, provided by the Thomas & Stacey Siebel Foundation.

**BACKGROUND**

Under the leadership of Supervisors Jim Holmes and Bruce Kranz, they have brought this issue forward and recognized that meth is a growing trend in the nation and also an issue in Placer County.

Methamphetamine is a highly psychologically addictive drug affecting the central nervous system. What started as a fad among West Coast motorcycle gangs in the 1970's has spread across the United States and is more potent and more destructive than at any time in past decades. It is known on the street as "crank, speed, ice, or crystal meth", among many others. The U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales recently stated "in terms of damage to children and to our society, meth is now the most dangerous drug in America – a problem that has surpassed marijuana.

The impact of methamphetamine abuse is not limited to the user. It affects county government in terms of impacts on our environment from toxic meth labs, incarcerating and adjudicating meth users, meth related crimes, mental and dental health, child welfare, public defender, probation, and sheriff, not to mention the affect on the family unit.

Placer County is not immune to the influence of meth, but through community outreach and education, our citizens can become more aware of the issue, what to do and where to go for information and help.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact from this presentation. However, as the team presenting to you today reports back to the Board of Supervisors, there may be some impact in the future for community outreach.