

# Methamphetamine: Impact on Children and Families

## Description, Objectives, and Outline

Title: Methamphetamine: Impact on Children and Families

### Workshop Description:

This session will provide an in depth focus of the effects of methamphetamine on the user, threat to the children of addicted parents, and danger to children living in meth labs. The importance of intervening in the lives of drug endangered children through child protective services and/or incarceration of parents will be discussed along with advice for social workers, law enforcement, and anyone else involved in the lives of drug endangered children. Recovery from meth will be discussed in detail including options that are working, hurdles, and recovery from a child's perspective.

### Objectives:

By the end of the workshop participants should gain additional knowledge of the following:

- Detailed knowledge of the short and long term use of meth, cycle of use, and why it leads to such a danger to children of addicts
- Specific danger to children living in meth labs in addition to the meth using homes
- The scope of the problem of drug endangered children and what can be done to prevent further endangerment. Examples of things that are working will be given.
- The role society, social workers, and law enforcement play in prevention and intervention
- The complexity of the recovery process and the impact it has on the children of addicts

Program length – 1.5 hours

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Outline Current as of April 20, 2010

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- 1) Overview of Methamphetamine
  - a) Definition and description
  - b) Short and Long Term Effects
- 2) Parental Meth Use – What makes meth so dangerous?
  - a) Cycle of Meth Use with Description of Stages
  - b) Parental Behaviors While on Meth
  - c) What Kids See – bizarre behavior, mood swings, violence, depression, ect.
- 3) Dangers to Children of Meth Using Parents
  - a) Unsafe Environment – weapons, access to drugs, filth, ect.
  - b) Neglect – malnourishment, lack of medical care, dirty, unsupervised
  - c) Physical Abuse
  - d) Sexual Abuse
  - e) Risk to Unborn Babies and Nursing Infants
- 4) Additional Dangers to Children Living in Meth Labs
  - a) Prevalence
  - b) Immediate Danger
  - c) Long Term Effects
- 5) Prevention and Intervention – What is being done?
  - a) Intervention is critical to save lives and break the cycle of addiction
  - b) Drug Endangered Children Protocols
  - c) Laws Being Passed
    - i) Children in meth labs
    - ii) Children of meth using parents
    - iii) Incarceration of pregnant users
    - iv) Need education and enforcement of laws
  - d) Law Enforcement – Important in Intervention
    - i) Programs that are Working Once a Parent is Incarcerated
  - e) CPS/DHS
    - i) Role the Agencies Play
    - ii) Difficulty in Intervening at times
  - f) Effect of Incarceration on Children
- 6) Recovery
  - a) Myths and Facts
  - b) Hurdles to Treatment
  - c) Stages of Recovery
  - d) Recovery from a Child's Perspective
  - e) Recovery from a Parent's Perspective
- 7) Conclusion