

LARAMIE COUNTY METHAMPHETAMINE STRATEGY

April 2007



... in action

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LARAMIE COUNTY METHAMPHETAMINE STRATEGY

Mission Statement

The mission of the Laramie County Methamphetamine Strategy Workgroup is to create a healthy and safe community through a coordinated effort for the prevention, treatment, and elimination of methamphetamine and other substance use.

Laramie County Methamphetamine Strategy Workgroup

Steering Committee Members



Georgia Broyles, LCSW, C-SSWS

City Councilwoman

Cheyenne Meth Initiative, Laramie County School District Number One



D. Reed Eckhardt

Editor, Wyoming Tribune-Eagle

I am the chairman of the Cheyenne Meth Initiative and I am interested in working toward solutions to the meth problem. As the editor of the newspaper, I am working to inform others and change their attitudes about this big issue.



Robert Fecht

Chief, Cheyenne Police Department

For the last four years I have worked with the Cheyenne Meth Initiative to help develop community awareness and concern about the meth problem. I am very pleased with the progress now being made.



Danny Glick

Sheriff, Laramie County Sheriff's Department

I am a 26-year veteran of law enforcement, all in Laramie County with the sheriff's department.



Jack Knudson

County Commissioner

I'm a retired electrical engineer from F.E. Warren Air Force Base and have lived in Cheyenne since 1976. I am married to my wife, Sharon, and have two children, Cynthia and Bryon.



Jeff Schulz

Captain, Cheyenne Police Department

I am responsible for the daily operations of all sworn personnel of the Cheyenne Police Department.



Jack R. Spiker

Mayor, City of Cheyenne

I was elected to the City Council in 1996. I was first elected to the mayor's office in 2000 and re-elected in 2004.

Workgroup Members



Georgia Befus

Laramie County School District #1

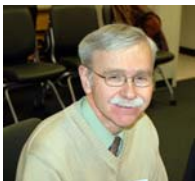
I am the health coordinator for the school district. I have worked with many groups on different health issues throughout the years.



Sarah Binkley

Wyoming Oxford Houses

Oxford Houses are self-run, self-supporting recovery homes for men and women who are committed to and responsible for their recovery. They are democratically run.



David Birney, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Peak Wellness Center

I am the executive director of Peak Wellness Center, the state-contracted mental health and substance abuse treatment provider in Laramie County.



Liberty Blain

Cheyenne Resident

I am originally from Michigan and moved to Cheyenne in 1999. I am a water specialist at the Laramie County Conservation District and I enjoy gardening and camping in my spare time.



Dr. Jason B. Brittain

Creative Ministries Church

I am the senior pastor of Creative Ministries, a local church working to keep Cheyenne a great place for people to live and raise families.



Mary Brown, LPC, CFLE

F.E. Warren AFB-Family Readiness Center

I carry this quote in my pocket: "You have powers you never dreamed of. You can do things you never thought you could do. The only limitations in what you do are the limitations in your own mind." David Kingsley



Sharon Cashman

Cheyenne Meth Initiative

I have been involved with the Cheyenne Meth Initiative for three years and I serve as the board treasurer. I am a long-time Cheyenne resident, a full-time criminal justice student, and I am married with three children.



Joseph A. Devine, D.D.S.

Dentist

I am a life-long Cheyenne resident. I am concerned about the health and welfare of my community. Methamphetamine interferes with both health and welfare.



Al Dyke, MA, CADAC

Drug Demand Reduction - F.E. Warren AFB

I am a retired Air Force member and civil servant dedicated (25+years) to promoting substance abuse prevention within the Air Force and Laramie County community and to maintain a high level of deterrence for illicit drug use through drug testing.



Paul Edner

Cheyenne Citizens on Patrol, Business Owner

I am a member of Citizens on Patrol, a group of citizens involved with patrolling local neighborhoods and supplying the police department with additional surveillance input. I am also the owner of Office Technologies, a local copier and printer retail and service center.



Connie Filipovitch-Sarmiento

Local Business Owner

Connie and her husband, Tomas, own Dirty Duds Laundromat and Linen Service. Connie was the Executive Director of United Blood Services, the local blood center, and served on the Board of Directors of the Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce and Cheyenne Rotary Club.



Mary Flanderka

Citizen



James Haller, M.D.

Medical Director, Chemical Dependency Programs

I have practiced medicine 44 years, 40 in Wyoming. For 31 years I have been actively involved professionally in the addiction field.



Ronn Jeffrey, LMFT

Youth Alternatives, Cheyenne Municipal Court Judge

I have been involved with the juvenile justice system for 35 years in a variety of capacities. I am the original director and founder of Youth Alternatives.



Robert Keney

Youth Advocate

I am a young person who has seen drug addiction first hand. I believe that my role in the community is to help people understand what drug addiction really looks like from the perspective of a young person.



Lindi Kirkbride

Executive Director, CASA of Laramie County

Our community volunteers are involved with meth-impacted babies, young children and families. It's hard for kids, but early intervention means a chance for a normal life with families who care about them. I'm proud our community is addressing meth issues for the future of our youngest and most vulnerable.



Gus T. Lopez

Director, Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department

As director, my goal is to preserve and enhance the health of the people of Laramie County and to assure conditions in which people can be healthy.



Kathryn A. McKee, R.N.

Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department

As the director of nursing, I have witnessed the effects meth has on our community. I am proud to be a part of this team that will make a positive difference in the fight against meth.



Brenden McKinney

Director, Casey Family Programs

I am the director of the Casey Family Programs. I am also a parent, a grandparent, and a foster parent.



Natalie J. Milligan, M.S., L.P.C., L.A.T.

Substance Abuse Team Leader, Peak Wellness Center

I volunteered to be on this committee so I could be part of making a difference with the meth problem in our community.



Sharon Mogard

Meth Prevention Coordinator, Wyoming Department of Health, SAD



Byron Rookstool

Citizen

I am the retired chief of police for the City of Cheyenne, a former Laramie County Commissioner, and the former director of Peace Officer Standards and Training.



Lara Schiffbauer, LCSW

Cheyenne Meth Initiative, Laramie County School District #1

I am a school social worker with Laramie County School District #1.



Jimmy Valdez

City Councilman

I have been a city councilman for 8 years serving the community. I like to help with the meth issue and share information with others.



Carolyn Yeaman

Laramie & Albany County District Manager, Department of Family Services

I am chairman of the Meth Initiative's Child Endangered Committee, and I served on the meth partnership because of my commitment to Laramie County families. I want to see outcomes and know through this process that will happen. I am pleased to have been a participant in such a great experience.



Tony Young

Law Enforcement Coordinator, United States Attorney's Office

I am responsible for coordinating federal, state, local, and tribal investigations and other criminal justice resources for maximum utilization of limited resources.

Acknowledgements

The Laramie County Methamphetamine Strategy Workgroup worked together for four intensive weeks. The result is this thoughtful, comprehensive community strategy the group prepared to combat methamphetamine in our community.

We wish to thank the entire workgroup and steering committee members for generously giving their time and effort to this critical issue. They worked on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, graciously gave up their Saturday mornings, and put in extra hours completing their strategy worksheets for a month to complete this project.

We also wish to thank the guest speakers who used their own professional experiences to help develop a comprehensive picture of the methamphetamine issues facing Laramie County. These speakers include: Dr. Michael Means, director of the Cheyenne Regional Medical Center Emergency Department; Casper Chief of Police Tom Pagel; Kurt Zunker, Cheyenne Drug Court coordinator; and Dustin Von Krosigk, who gave the group tremendous insight by sharing his story. Several of our workgroup participants represent agencies that deal directly with meth users and their families. These workgroup participants also addressed the group. These include: David Birney, Ph.D., executive director, Peak Wellness Center; Danny Glick, Laramie County sheriff; Ronn Jeffery, Municipal Court judge, and director, Youth Alternatives; Tony Young, U. S. attorney; and, Carolyn Yeaman, Laramie County district manager, Department of Family Services.

We also wish to thank Carrie Anderson, Judi Gare, Marcus Neiman, Dick Perry, and Ron Williams for their input during the strategy planning process.

Many thanks are extended to the Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce, the Department of Family Services, and the Casey Family Programs for graciously donating meeting space for our group.

The meetings would not have been as productive without the superior coffee, tea, refreshments, and excellent catering from Delectable Delights.

We also extend our gratitude to Datacorp staff for their support, feedback, and superior production capabilities. The Datacorp staff included Nicoletta Lomuto, M.A., Lynn Welker, and Melissa Boucher.

P. Allison Minugh, Ph.D. served as the Datacorp project director and Susan Janke, M.S. served as the Datacorp project manager. Stephen J. Miller served as a project consultant.

Community Strategy Workgroup Sponsors

This community strategy would not have been possible without funding. The City of Cheyenne and Laramie County have displayed their level of commitment to this issue by not only funding the needs assessment study and strategy development but by participating fully in the strategy development process. The leadership displayed by the mayor, the City Council, and the County Commissioners was exemplary.

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Introduction

History of this Initiative

The Cheyenne Meth Initiative (CMI) is a grassroots, collaborative organization that formed three years ago. The organization is committed to providing education about the effects of methamphetamine use on individuals and the community, increasing awareness of the methamphetamine problem in the Cheyenne area, and creating a partnership in Cheyenne, Wyoming, to address the significant issues brought about by the use of methamphetamine.

CMI promotes public awareness through public education at health fairs and development of educational materials. For example, CMI has created and distributed methamphetamine lab awareness brochures for motel operators and property owners. They have also provided educational programming at local events, conducted community-wide trainings, and encouraged local businesses to participate in a drug-testing program sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

After working diligently for approximately 2 1/2 years, the CMI realized they needed a more comprehensive picture of the meth problem in Laramie County. In the spring of 2006, CMI began an effort to determine the impact methamphetamine has in Laramie County. In response, the City of Cheyenne, Laramie County, and the Wyoming Department of Health, Substance Abuse Division provided funding to commission a methamphetamine needs assessment for Laramie County.

This comprehensive methamphetamine assessment builds on a similar study conducted by Miller and Galloway (2005) in Casper and Natrona County. The purpose of the community methamphetamine assessment was to:

- ④ Determine the extent of the meth problem;
- ④ Determine the impact of meth on the community;
- ④ Determine the community needs to combat meth;
- ④ Identify existing community resources; and
- ④ Recommend strategies for community mobilization.

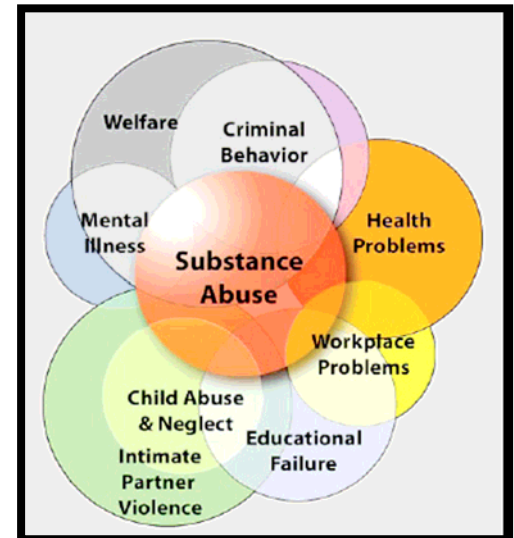
This assessment, which can be downloaded at www.mjdatacorp.com, www.cheyennemeth.org, or www.cheyennecity.org, or viewed at the Laramie County Libraries, was publicly released February 8, 2007 and provided the foundation for the Strategy Workgroup.

The Impact of Methamphetamine in Laramie County

Meth Is Everybody's Problem

Recent Meth-Related Statistics:

- 52% of foster care placements Jan. - Oct. 2006
- 69% of 2006 Court Appointed Special Advocate cases
- 70% of public defender cases (estimated)
- 92% increase in treatment admissions since 2002
- 73% increase in domestic violence shelter use since 2002
- 144% increase in the jail population since 2003



Meth Users Strain the System

The Cheyenne-Laramie County Methamphetamine Assessment shows that both public and private systems are severely impacted by meth use in this community.

Substance Abuse Is Costly

<i>Guest Check</i>		
Server State Budget	Table Laramie Co.	Number Guests
		6,231*
<i>Health</i>		\$3 M
<i>Adult and Juvenile Corrections</i>		\$7 M
<i>Child Welfare</i>		\$2 M
<i>Income Assistance</i>		\$2 M
<i>Education</i>		\$6 M
<i>Mental Health Treatment and Support</i>		\$.3 M
<i>Public Safety</i>		\$.5 M
<i>State Workforce</i>		\$.2 M
<i>Prevention, Treatment, and Research</i>		\$.5 M
<i>Other</i>		\$.3 M
Total		\$21.8 M

"No other single issue impacts more areas of government than alcohol and other drug problems and none is more destructive to state budgets."

Luceille Fleming, former Director, Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, *Blueprint for the States*, 2006.

Laramie County's cost to the Wyoming state budget is over \$21 million per year.

Source: *Shoveling Up: The Impact of Substance Abuse On State Budgets*. The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 2001.

*This is the number of adolescents and adults in Laramie County who need substance abuse treatment but have not received treatment.

Treatment Works And It Is A Good Investment

- Treatment reduces drug use, criminal activity, and psychiatric distress by 50% (SAMHSA, 2006).
- Every \$1 invested in substance abuse treatment saves the state budget \$7 (Ettner et al., 2006).
- Incarceration is nearly 1.8 times as expensive as residential treatment (Daley et al., 2004).

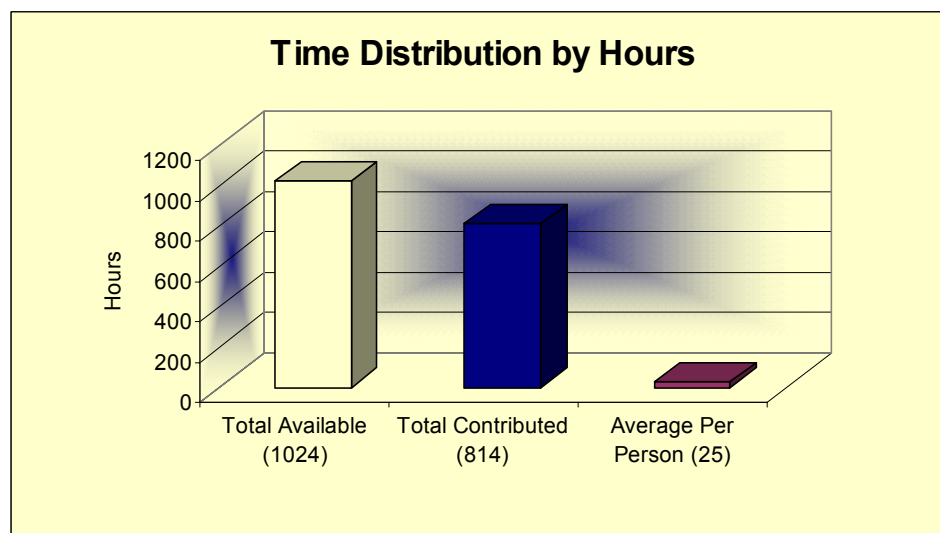
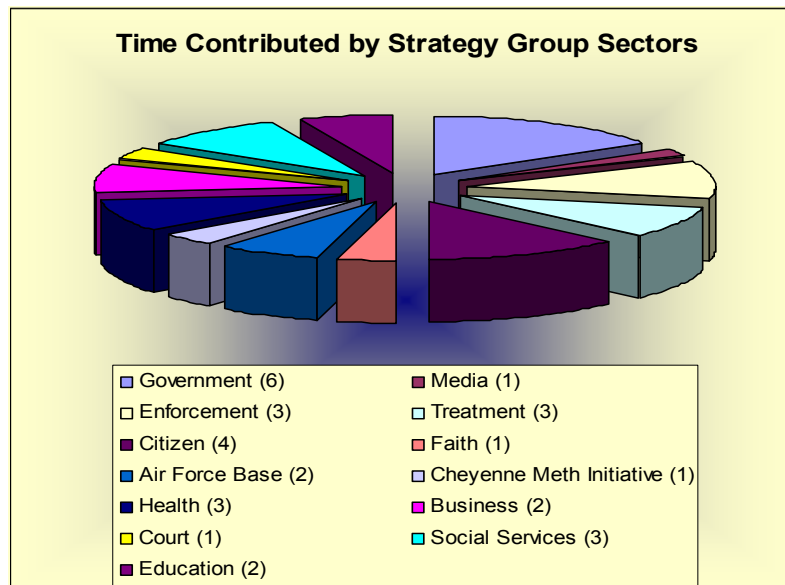
How Can We Prevent Meth Use And Reduce The Cost To Society?

- Keep mandating and funding treatment and prevention
- Intervene early, treat families, and help those who are not in the treatment system
- Change "Kids will be kids" culture to delay onset of drinking and drug use
- Community coalitions can develop strategies to successfully mobilize and address this problem

Community Response – The Community Strategy Workgroup

The Laramie County Methamphetamine Strategy Workgroup (LCMSW) was formed to create a community strategy to address the methamphetamine problem in Laramie County. Members were recruited at the Laramie County Methamphetamine Needs Assessment public presentation, through press releases and notices in the Wyoming Tribune-Eagle, the Pine Bluffs Post, the Cheyenne Herald, KFBC Radio, KGWN TV, by word of mouth, and invitation. Applications (see Appendix A) were placed in Cheyenne City Hall, Albin Town Hall, Burns Town Hall, Pine Bluffs Town Hall, the Laramie County Commissioner's Office, and the Laramie County Libraries.

The LCMSW was comprised of seven Steering Committee members, and 28 workgroup participants representing citizens at large, local government, law enforcement, education, faith-based groups, F.E. Warren AFB, local businesses, medical community, youth representatives, child advocates, treatment professionals, and the Cheyenne Meth Initiative. These volunteers spent over 800 collective hours drafting the community's response to meth.



The Issues

The Laramie County Methamphetamine Strategy Workgroup developed its mission statement in four hours using a consensus-based decision-making process. The next step in the process was to identify the methamphetamine-related issues affecting Laramie County that the group believed should be addressed in a community strategy.

Considerable time was spent defining the meth problem and how it affects this community. The workgroup concluded that methamphetamine is a serious problem because it negatively impacts the community in many ways and at considerable cost. After much discussion and combining and disentangling ideas, the workgroup generated a list of key issues.

Early in the process it became apparent that some issues did not fit neatly into one category because they were cross-cutting, affecting several sectors of the community. These issues were categorized as “umbrella issues” and included the following:

Umbrella Issues
1. Resources/Cost
2. Policy
3. Inter-agency Coordination

The Community Strategy Workgroup then prioritized issues it would address. A democratic process resulted in grouping the issues into three tiers.

Tier 1 Issues
1. Public Awareness
2. Prevention
3. Treatment
4. Enforcement
5. Family

Tier 2 Issues
1. Intervention
2. Data
3. Courts
4. Meth Accessibility
5. Workforce

Tier 3 Issues
1. Cultural Diversity
2. Culture Change
3. Environment

Having prioritized the issues, the workgroup broke into subgroups and developed strategies to address the issues. Because a total of 16 issues was identified, the group opted to focus strategy development on the umbrella issues and the first two tiers. Strategies will be developed for Tier 3 after progress has been made on the first two. Throughout the process, the entire group reconvened at regular intervals—usually the end of each meeting—and subgroups reported their progress, accepted feedback, answered questions, and discussed the topics. During the last meeting, each issue and its associated strategies was presented to the workgroup for review and comment. After the issue and strategies were presented, each member cast a vote for what they considered to be the “number one priority” strategy in each issue area. This exercise allowed us to identify the top three strategies using a group consensus method.



The remainder of this report presents the issues and strategies developed by the Laramie County Methamphetamine Strategy Workgroup.

Umbrella Strategies

Umbrella Issue #1: Resources & Cost	
Goal: Assess resources and develop funding streams to support a 5+ year strategy plan.	
URC Strategy #1: Grant writing.	Apply for grants such as SBIR-T, Weed & Seed, and SPF-SIG. Seek out additional funding opportunities from NIJ, OJJDP, CSAP, CSAT, CMHS, Faith Initiatives, and private foundations.
URC Strategy #2: Inventory all existing resources and contacts.	An inventory committee will be formed to identify already existing resources and services. It will compile the information into a resource manual. This manual will help enhance inter-agency coordination and referrals.
URC Strategy #3: Implement a self-supported treatment model.	This strategy involves gathering information about the Delancey Street Foundation, or a similar, self-supporting treatment model, determining the feasibility of implementing this program in Laramie County, and securing funding to run a pilot program.
URC Strategy #4: Hire a resource coordinator.	The resource coordinator will be responsible for maintaining the resource list, determining the gaps in services, and researching best practices for addressing these issues.
URC Strategy #5: Assemble and coordinate volunteers.	The resource coordinator can also play a key role in identifying potential sources of volunteer manpower to assist with the public awareness and prevention strategies. This also includes developing a list of local businesses, foundations, and volunteer organizations willing to assist in this strategy.
URC Strategy #6: Poll community for additional ideas to combat the meth problem.	Gathering continuing feedback from the community about ideas to combat the meth problem will ensure that the strategies are relevant, and supported.
URC Strategy #7: Identify celebrities who can help sponsor or support our efforts.	Many celebrities have homes in Wyoming. We would like to identify as many as possible and ask them to support the Laramie County Meth Initiative (i.e., Tiger Woods, Harrison Ford, Goldie Hawn, and Queen Noor).
URC Strategy #8: Create a fundraising dashboard.	A public display of fundraising efforts would help bring in much needed resources and attention to this effort.
URC Strategy #9: Publicize youth success stories.	Focusing on youth success stories and providing data to support those stories would help develop additional community support.

Umbrella Issue #2: Policy	
Goal: Develop a policy infrastructure that will help reduce the negative impacts from meth.	
UP Strategy #1: Increase the malt beverage tax to help pay for substance abuse treatment.	The strategy involves adding a “user fee” to malt beverages that would be specifically used to fund substance abuse treatment services in Laramie County and the rest of the state.
UP Strategy #2: Re-direct excise revenues from the Wyoming Liquor Commission to help fund prevention, treatment, and enforcement programs.	This strategy requires lobbying for legislation to redirect money from the Liquor Commissioners tax back to the communities to fund substance abuse prevention, treatment, and enforcement.
UP Strategy #3: Promote a consistent prevention policy across agencies, departments, and organizations.	Hiring a centralized coordinator to develop policy, work with elected officials, set up a steering committee, and conduct strategy planning around substance abuse prevention and treatment will ensure a consistent message is delivered throughout the community.
UP Strategy #4: Hire a centralized meth coordinator to	A Laramie County Meth Coordinator will be responsible for carrying out the strategies outlined in this report.

Umbrella Issue #2: Policy

Goal: Develop a policy infrastructure that will help reduce the negative impacts from meth.

implement the meth strategy.

UP Strategy #5:

Increase state and local government funding and support for combating substance abuse problems.

Local communities do not have all the resources necessary to combat the meth problem on their own. State and local government and local foundations need to play a major role in combating substance abuse by providing funding and support.

Umbrella Issue #3: Inter-Agency Coordination

Goal: Improve service coordination among all agencies that serve individuals and families impacted by methamphetamine

UIAC Strategy #1:

Identify a single state agency to coordinate adolescent and adult substance abuse treatment and prevention services.

Service coordination, resource allocation, and family-based treatment could be enhanced by having one state agency coordinate all adolescent and adult substance abuse services.

UIAC Strategy #2:

Develop a one-stop treatment center serving Laramie County.

A facility large enough to house the full continuum of care would provide a “no wrong door” solution to treatment in Laramie County, and would greatly enhance treatment retention when changing between levels of care.

UIAC Strategy #3:

Identify a model or promising practice for interagency coordination that will work in Laramie County.

Appoint a committee to research other communities that have implemented a countywide resource coordination program and recommend a model that will work for Laramie County.

UIAC Strategy #4:

Identify an objective group to disperse funding to agencies involved in addressing the meth problem.

Objective fund gathering and disbursement will help reduce agency competition, which can be a barrier to inter-agency coordination. This model will also help gain sustained support from the county, city, and the business community.

UIAC Strategy #5:

Appoint a Laramie County coordinator to operate a one-stop resource center.

The coordinator will oversee the use of resources in the county and will make sure a case manager is assigned to each individual and family to ensure they have access to all applicable resources.

Tier 1 Strategies

Issue #1: Public Awareness

Goal: Increase community awareness about the “truths of meth”

PA Strategy #1:

Using age-appropriate information, provide group talks to schools, civic groups, and meetings of community leaders and policy makers.

Developing a pool of speakers qualified to speak about meth-related issues would greatly improve our ability to educate the community on an ongoing basis.

PA Strategy #2:

Utilize billboards to educate the community about meth.

Billboards are seen by a significant portion of the community and can be used to educate about meth.

PA Strategy #3:

Develop a multi-media strategy, including PowerPoint presentations, websites, TV commercials, radio announcements, and printed materials to educate the community about meth.

A multi-method, multi-media approach should be used to provide community education about meth-related issues including the dangers and costs associated with its use.

PA Strategy #4:

Develop a “new homeowner” information packet detailing community resources.

This essential information packet would provide the new homeowner with vital information about where to access resources in Laramie County.

PA Strategy #5:

Create a meth education insert for utility bills.

All households use public utilities, so a small meth education insert in the monthly bill would provide an excellent opportunity for increasing public awareness.

Issue #2: Prevention

Goal: Expand the concept of “prevention” in Laramie County.

P Strategy #1: Apply for Weed & Seed funding.	The process for applying for Weed & Seed funding is lengthy, but this strategy is a first step in meeting the funding requirements. Weed and Seed, a community-based strategy sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), is an innovative, comprehensive multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and community revitalization.
P Strategy #2: Implement a youth mentoring program.	Youth who have positive role models have an increased chance for success, and this can be accomplished by implementing and expanding existing programs and securing funding for future programs.
P Strategy #3: Sponsor drug-free community events.	This strategy calls for making all city- and county-sponsored events alcohol- and drug-free, thereby sending a message that families can have fun without alcohol and drugs.
P Strategy #4: Coordinate with other groups addressing substance abuse issues.	Coordination can occur within the county as multiple groups are addressing many issues related to substance abuse. In addition, coordination can occur at the regional level with other counties, and our bordering states.
P Strategy #5: Expand Head Start programs throughout the county.	Expanding Head Start programs throughout the county will ensure there are no waiting lists, and it will provide a much needed vehicle for providing prevention services at an earlier age.
P Strategy #6: Develop a Laramie County Youth Leadership Council.	The Youth Leadership Council will be used to help identify what activities and services youth want from our community. The group can also help coordinate activities on a regular basis.
P Strategy #7: Offer community-wide youth and family activities.	Increasing the number of family and youth activities offered in the county will provide a vehicle for positive family interactions.
P Strategy #8: Implement a comprehensive, K-12 drug education program.	A formalized substance abuse education program should be adopted for all grades, K-12. Some mandatory programs are already in place, but it is not comprehensive.
P Strategy #9: Develop a recovery coalition through Oxford Houses or similar agencies.	Development of a local recovery coalition through a program like Oxford Houses can be used to help suggest actions the community can take to make our county a better place to live.
P Strategy #10: Engage faith-based organizations in substance abuse prevention activities.	There are many faith-based organizations in Laramie County that can be used to assist with community education, prevention, and intervention with substance abuse problems.
P Strategy #11: Minimize open campus atmosphere at the high schools.	This strategy calls for meetings with Laramie County School District #1 and #2 to discuss options for minimizing the open campus atmospheres at the high schools. Providing closer student supervision would minimize access to drugs during school.
P Strategy #12: Hire additional resource officers for schools in LCSD#1 and LCSD#2.	Hiring additional resource officers for the schools and parking lots would assist in closer campus supervision and would reduce drug accessibility.
P Strategy #13: Develop an Alcohol Abuse Prevention Task Force.	This task force would be responsible for looking at policy, legislation, practices, and programs that address alcohol-related issues.
P Strategy #14: Develop a plan for coordinating regional meth initiatives.	Regional planning can help foster an atmosphere of cooperation, and can increase the likelihood of success for many meth-related initiatives, particularly interdiction.

Issue #3: Treatment

Goal: To ensure that adequate substance abuse treatment options exist to meet the needs of Laramie County residents.

Tx Strategy #1: Develop a one-stop treatment center that would provide a full continuum of substance abuse treatment services.	Creating a single substance abuse treatment facility that can meet the needs of anyone seeking help is a high priority in Laramie County. It is a long-term strategy that could possibly be funded from an alcohol beverage "user fee".
Tx Strategy #2: Develop an adolescent residential substance abuse treatment center for Laramie County.	Laramie County does not currently have an adolescent residential substance abuse treatment facility, making this strategy a high priority.
Tx Strategy #3: Increase the number of beds for an adult residential treatment center.	More adult residential treatment beds are needed in Laramie County. Possibilities for expanding this level of care include working with the Salvation Army, and considering self-supporting treatment options like the Delancey Street Foundation.
Tx Strategy #4: Develop a treatment resource guide.	The resource guide would list all treatment providers in Laramie County and would help improve access to services. Wide circulation and publicity would result in increased calls for service.
Tx Strategy #5: Operate a 24-hour help line for community members seeking help with substance abuse issues.	A hotline would be a valuable community resource for those who are seeking help with a substance-related problem, especially when problems occur after normal business hours.
Tx Strategy #6: Conduct a substance abuse treatment system gap analysis.	Needs for treatment services fluctuate over time, and a substance abuse treatment system gap analysis would help provide future direction for where the system needs changes.
Tx Strategy #7: Develop a centralized assessment center.	Centralizing the assessment process in Laramie County would provide a one-stop location for accessing the treatment system, would provide enhanced coordination for all referrals, and would ensure services are provided quickly.
Tx Strategy #8: Encourage Cheyenne Regional Medical Center to expand its detoxification unit and provide inpatient substance abuse treatment.	Laramie County currently has no inpatient medical treatment capacity for clients who need this level of care. Cheyenne Regional Medical Center could meet this need by expanding their detoxification unit to provide inpatient care.
Tx Strategy #9: Develop programs to engage people in treatment immediately when they ask for help.	Additional treatment capacity and pre-treatment programs are needed so individuals who need help can begin receiving services promptly.
Tx Strategy #10: Develop a family-based intensive outpatient treatment program.	Most individuals who are having problems with substance abuse are part of a family that has also been impacted. A family-based IOP program would help meet the needs of the entire family.
Tx Strategy #11: Develop a standardized American Society for Addiction Medicine patient placement form for all providers.	Each treatment provider in Laramie County uses its own individual forms to determine patient placement which can lead to inconsistencies. We are advocating that this decision-making system be standardized.

Issue #4: Enforcement

Goal: Use enforcement strategies to positively impact the drug and methamphetamine issues in Laramie County.

E Strategy #1: Increase drug enforcement officers by 100%.	Increasing drug enforcement officer capacity by 100% would increase drug-related arrests, increase drug seizures, and result in a long-term decrease in drug-related cases.
E Strategy #2: Increase targeting of known drug offenders.	By improving data collection, assessing neighborhood crime patterns, implementing an Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring program, and utilizing Ion machine

Issue #4: Enforcement

Goal: Use enforcement strategies to positively impact the drug and methamphetamine issues in Laramie County.

	technology, we can enhance our ability to target known offenders.
E Strategy #3: Secure funding to provide narcotics training.	Improving officers' training in recognition of drug-related crimes would result in improved data collection, and early recognition of drug issues.
E Strategy #4: Increase number of detection-trained canines.	Increasing the number of detection-trained canines would greatly enhance enforcement of drug related crimes.
E Strategy #5: Increase community involvement through Neighborhood Watch, COP, Crime Stoppers, Silent Witness, and Weed & Seed programs.	Increasing community participation through programs like Neighborhood Watch and others would help improve the quality and safety of our neighborhoods.

Issue #5: Youth & Family

Goal: Improve the health of families and youth in Laramie County.

YF Strategy #1: Create a community resource center.	The community resource center would be designed to distribute information, perform brief screening, facilitate referrals, and provide case management services to ensure individuals and family members do not get lost in the system.
YF Strategy #2: Make property drug testing kits available for potential homebuyers, renters, and hotel/motel guests.	Increasing the availability of home drug-testing kits would provide everyone with an ability to test a home, apartment, or hotel/motel room before moving in. This would result in improved health for everyone.
YF Strategy #3: Develop a parent empowerment training program.	Increasing the availability of parent empowerment trainings would provide a valuable resource for parents who may need additional support.
YF Strategy #4: Implement Neighborhood Watch programs.	Neighborhood Watch programs help foster a sense of community responsibility, and improve the safety of our community.
YF Strategy #5: Develop a wraparound service fund to cover ancillary service costs for families who have members in treatment.	This family fund would help meet the ancillary service needs of families and individuals who are in treatment. The fund might be funded through grants, charitable donations, etc.

Tier 2 Strategies

Issue #6: Intervention

Goal: The goal of intervention is to disrupt the normal progression of an addictive process in any person or social group and divert that process to a curative process.

I Strategy #1: Train individuals how to be interveners.	We can work with volunteers, health care providers, public health nurses, and others on how to recognize substance abuse related problems, and how to conduct a brief intervention.
I Strategy #2: Raise the bottom on how far people with addiction problems need to sink before they get help.	Increasing the use of intervention techniques by more people might serve to help people get into treatment more quickly, or reduce harmful behaviors earlier.
I Strategy #3: Identify high-risk users.	High-risk users such as pregnant women, jail inmates, families involved with child and adult protection, and

Issue #6: Intervention

Goal: The goal of intervention is to disrupt the normal progression of an addictive process in any person or social group and divert that process to a curative process.

	others could be targeted with specific interventions to help alter their current behavioral course.
I Strategy #4: Increase information, communication, and addiction resource materials among physicians, therapists, courts, businesses, and pharmacists.	Educating everyone who comes into contact with substance abusers so they can successfully intervene may change the course of how addiction progresses in Laramie County.

Issue #7: Data

Goal: Create a data surveillance network that allows for efficient assessment, tracking, and evaluation of data in a timely matter.

D Strategy #1: Develop a Data Oversight Committee.	Creating a data oversight committee with representatives from multiple service entities would help improve the overall data infrastructure in Laramie County.
D Strategy #2: Create a community data dashboard.	A community data dashboard would provide easy access to important indicators for the entire community and would provide a yardstick for measuring the success of our initiatives.
D Strategy #3: Create basic data reporting templates.	Implementing the use of basic data templates would greatly enhance our ability to collect objective data when trying to determine our needs.
D Strategy #4: Compile benchmark data for baseline statistics.	Benchmark data provides the starting point, and allows us to measure whether our strategies are having the desired effect.
D Strategy #5: Develop a linked service tracking system.	A linked service tracking system would help smooth out data sharing pathways, and would help us more easily monitor changes in the system.
D Strategy #6: Continued data collection and long-term monitoring.	Long-term monitoring will provide a mechanisms for recognizing success, and being aware of changing patterns of issues in our community.

Issue #8: Courts

Goal: There is a need for judicial policy, programs, and practices, which allow and promote early methamphetamine and substance abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment at all court levels. Specifically, the lower courts lack authority and access to resources to provide the earliest family-centered prevention and intervention.

C Strategy #1: Increase service accessibility and resources for lower courts.	The primary focus would be to identify an appropriate program model, and implement an early intervention pilot program. An outcome evaluation would determine whether the program is successful in disrupting the course of delinquent behavior.
C Strategy #2: Expand the Laramie County Drug Court program.	The current drug court program in Laramie County is showing promising results but does not have the capacity to meet the needs of the county.
C Strategy #3: Increase support for the family court program.	The family court concept is being received with enthusiasm. This strategy would call for monitoring and evaluating the court interventions, surveying families

Issue #8: Courts

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	who are involved with the program, and determining overall effectiveness.
C Strategy #4: Develop a Judicial Coordinating Committee.	Formation of a judicial coordinating committee would help ensure courts at all levels develop a coordinated approach to substance abuse issues within the court system.

Issue #9: Methamphetamine Accessibility

Goal: Reduce methamphetamine accessibility in Laramie County.

MA Strategy #1: Increase drug interdiction.	By increasing the number of highway patrol officers and the number of sheriff's officers we can reduce the amount of methamphetamine coming into the community from outside sources.
MA Strategy #2: Train WYDOT maintenance crews on what to look for and safety issues.	Training WYDOT maintenance crews, especially those working on I-25 and Highway 85, would provide additional eyes and increase meth-related awareness.
MA Strategy #3: Monitor over-the-counter purchases of component meth ingredients.	Although the number of home-based labs has been decreasing, they are still present. Carefully monitoring over-the-counter purchases of meth ingredients can help reduce this number further.
MA Strategy #4: Conduct regular neighborhood cleanups.	Increasing the opportunities for neighborhood clean-ups would encourage people to be aware of what is on their property, and increase neighborhood pride.
MA Strategy #5: Utilize narcotics dogs at Wyoming ports of entry.	Increasing use of narcotics dogs at all ports of entry would greatly reduce the amount of meth entering Wyoming in commercial vehicles.
MA Strategy #6: Train utility meter readers on what to look for and personal safety issues.	Much like WYDOT workers, training utility meter readers about meth awareness would provide additional eyes and result in safer communities.

Issue #10: Workforce

Goal: Create a 100% drug-free workplace in Laramie County.

W Strategy #1: Create a drug-testing marketing initiative to businesses.	The initiative would include approaching businesses and providing speakers and testimonials about the benefits of creating a drug-free work environment. We would also provide information about how to develop policies when an employee needs treatment.
W Strategy #2: Develop a job training/mentoring program for people in recovery seeking to re-enter the workforce.	Creating a drug-free workforce needs to include a second chance for those who are in recovery. Job training and job mentoring programs could help increase the numbers of eligible employees and provide a much-needed opportunity.
W Strategy #3: Develop a drug-testing incentive program.	Rewarding positive behavior produces better results than punishing negative behavior, so we are recommending a reward program be established for

Issue #10: Workforce

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	those who comply with drug-testing and pass.
W Strategy #4: Develop a workforce training program for businesses on addressing drug use in the workplace.	Providing training and policies for addressing substance abuse in the workplace could strengthen our employers and communicate to employees that drug use is not okay, but treatment is available if needed.
W Strategy #5: Make drug-testing kits available on a sliding-fee scale.	Drug testing can be cost-prohibitive, so making tests available on a sliding-fee scale may increase the number of businesses able to implement a testing program.
W Strategy #6: Develop a continuous recognition program for businesses supporting the drug-testing initiative.	Positively recognizing businesses who are participating in workplace drug testing may encourage other businesses to follow suit.
W Strategy #7: Recruit businesses to become members in the Meth Initiative.	Businesses are an integral part of the community and their interests need to be represented on the Meth Initiative.
W Strategy #8: Develop a model workplace drug policy that businesses can easily implement.	Developing standardized workplace policies may make it easier for businesses to adopt them, and implement testing programs that meet their needs.
W Strategy #9: Increase the business community's role in substance abuse prevention and community mobilization.	Local businesses can play a significant and vital role in substance abuse prevention activities and communicate their desire for a drug-free workplace.

Other Issues

Throughout the strategy development process, numerous issues were identified and considered, but were not included in the final strategy due to time constraints. This was the case with the Tier 3 issues: cultural diversity, culture change, and environment. There were also many other issues and strategies that came up during discussion that are certainly worth future consideration. These issues and ideas include:

- ⌚ Increasing the county's role in financing substance abuse treatment;
- ⌚ Placing mandatory "holds" on individuals who are under the influence;
- ⌚ Addressing people with meth-related medical problems who don't want treatment;
- ⌚ Increasing the hospital's role in addressing the substance abuse problems in the county;
- ⌚ Enhanced coordination between the emergency department and social service agencies;
- ⌚ Addressing laws favorable to alcohol and drug use;
- ⌚ Highlighting treatment successes;
- ⌚ Identifying ways to motivate active meth users to stop using;
- ⌚ Increasing Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous presence in the community;
- ⌚ Placing substance abuse treatment issues on the ballot;
- ⌚ Changing cultural view of addiction as a moral failing;
- ⌚ Creating a "ground swell" of community support;
- ⌚ Parent training – what do you do when your child's friend is using;
- ⌚ Creating a culture where asking for help is viewed positively;
- ⌚ Increasing our use of services offered in the faith-based community;
- ⌚ Identifying ways to help families increase their support networks;
- ⌚ Offering family-based treatment as standard operating procedure;
- ⌚ Formalizing substance abuse treatment in the jails;
- ⌚ Missed economic opportunities from not addressing the meth problem.

Next Steps

The Laramie County Methamphetamine Strategy is a starting point for addressing substance abuse problems in our county. The strategy will be given to the Cheyenne Meth Initiative (CMI) so it can begin working on the various strategies. The City of Cheyenne and Laramie County are considering jointly funding the salary for a full-time Laramie County meth coordinator to help formalize the strategy implementation process. In addition, the City is providing office space to house both the coordinator and the CMI. The building is the former Fire Station and Girl Scout building located at 1900 E. 18th Street. The building is approximately 7,150 square feet and is zoned MR1 for medium density residential.



The purpose of this strategy is to focus and refine our thoughts, and to provide a sense of purpose in combating methamphetamine use in Laramie County. The strategies contained within this report will provide the community with a means to use resources wisely with measurable impacts.

Citizen's Invitation Letter and Application

January 17, 2007

Dear Citizen,

We are forming a workgroup in our county to address the methamphetamine problem. For the last six months a local consulting company, Datacorp, has been conducting a county-wide assessment of the methamphetamine problem in Cheyenne and throughout Laramie County. The assessment is complete, and we are about to enter the second phase, which is to develop a comprehensive community strategy to address this menacing problem. And we need your help.

It is crucial for our community strategy to have input from our citizens if our strategy is going to work. We want our strategy to be designed specifically for our community, so we are inviting you to be part of the Community Strategy Workgroup. This workgroup will consist of citizens like yourselves and other community residents whose professions are greatly impacted by the consequences of methamphetamine.

There are only two requirements for you to participate. First, you must apply using the application form **on the back of this letter**. Second, you must be able to **fully commit** a substantial amount of your time over the three-week period when the workgroup will be meeting to formulate our community strategy. The time commitment involves three Saturday mornings beginning February 10th and ending February 24th. Saturday meetings will run from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. There also will be three weeks of evening meetings on Tuesday's and Thursday's when we will meet from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. beginning Tuesday February 13th and ending Thursday March 1st. The exact meeting schedule is on the application form on the back of this letter.

Application forms should be mailed to Datacorp at 200 West 17th Street, Suite 115, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001 by January 26, 2007. Five community members will be selected and will be notified by January 31st.

We received substantial community support while working on the assessment phase of this important project and ask for your continued support in the planning phase.

We thank you and look forward to receiving your application to be a part of our Community Strategy Workgroup.

Sincerely,

The Cheyenne-Laramie County Methamphetamine Strategy Steering Committee

Please complete the following application form if you are interested in participating on the Community Strategy Workgroup. We value and want your input!

In order to participate, you must live in Laramie County and you must be available for all of the meetings listed on the calendar. All of the workgroup meetings will take place at the Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce Meeting Room in the Depot building downtown.

February 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 6:30-7:30 pm Press Conf. 7:30-8:30 pm Public Pres	9	10 8:00-12:00 Workgroup Kick-Off Mtg
11	12	13 6:30-8:30 pm Workgroup Strategy Mtg.	14	15 6:30-8:30 pm Workgroup Strategy Mtg.	16	17 8:00-12:00 Workgroup Strategy Mtg.
18	19	20 6:30-8:30 pm Workgroup Strategy Mtg.	21	22 6:30-8:30 pm Workgroup Strategy Mtg.	23	24 8:00-12:00 Workgroup Strategy Mtg
25	26	27 6:30-8:30 pm Workgroup Strategy Mtg.	28	March 1 6:30-8:30 pm Workgroup Strategy Mtg.		

Please return the bottom portion of this form by January 26th to:

Datacorp
200 West 17th Street, Suite 115
Cheyenne, WY 82001

I am available for all meetings: ☐ yes ☐ no

Name _____

Gender ☐ Male ☐ Female

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

How old are you? ☐ 12-17 ☐ 18-25 ☐ 26-35 ☐ 36-45 ☐ 46-55 ☐ 56+

Please explain why would you like to be a member of the Community Strategy Workgroup?

Please visit our Website to download a copy of this form at www.mjdatacorp.com
If you have any questions, call Datacorp at 634-1808. Thank you!