



P.O. Box 776, Packwood, WA 98361
www.eastlewiscountychamber.com

EAST COUNTY METH WORKING GROUP

A collaborative effort to proactively address East County's meth problem and develop and implement solutions

Did you know?

... According to a recent report "Violence and Rural Teens: Teen Violence, Drug Use, and School-Based Prevention Services in Rural America," the proportion of rural teens who reported ever using crystal meth (15.5%) was almost double the proportion of urban (8.8%) and suburban teens (9.5%).

... In 2004, Lewis County ranked 10th in the state for the number of meth incidents reported per capita to the Department of Ecology.

... Meth-using parents have helped drive a 62% increase in the foster care population over the past decade. In Washington, fewer than 30% of meth-addicted parents regain custody of their children.

The East Lewis County Chamber is addressing the meth problem proactively through collaboration and education, with the intention to develop and implement solutions.

Phase I : Community Forum: Education/Solutions

Attendees will hear from a cross-section of professionals who intend to increase awareness and education on this issue, discuss what is already being done to solve the meth problem, and what more can be done to "Get the METH Out of East Lewis County."

-- Sept 15, 2005

Phase II : Form Working Group -- a cross section of professionals from law enforcement, social services, health care, business, education, legislative, and others concerned with this issue and committed to developing solutions with and for the community.

--kick-off meeting January 19, 2006, featuring guest speaker Lewis County Senior Dep. Prosecuting Attorney L. Michael Golden and Susan York, founder of Lead On America

Phase III: Working Group Strategic Planning Conferences

Develop community-wide solutions including education, outreach, publicity, law enforcement enhancements, etc. Research funding sources and partnership needs for implementation.

-- Monthly February-March

Phase IV: Plan Implementation

Begin to implement plans identified in Phase III and assess results on an ongoing basis.

--target April 2006

Phase V: Community Forum: Reporting Results of Working Group's Efforts

-- September 2006

If you are interested in being a part of the Chamber's Meth Working Group, please contact Paul Stewart, Executive Director, ELCCC, at 360-751-0369 or e-mail director@eastlewiscountychamber.com

For more information, see www.eastlewiscountychamber.com