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**For Immediate Release**

**June 1, 2009**

## **DROP THE DRUGS CAMPAIGN**

BUTTE COUNTY, Calif. — Join us for a county-wide campaign to encourage Butte County residents to clean out their medicine cabinets and to drop off their prescription drugs to prevent their children and/or grandchildren from having access to these drugs.

“We are learning that teens view abusing prescription and over the counter cough and cold remedies as safer than using street drugs,” said Phyllis Murdock Director of Butte County Public Health Department.

There has been an increase in poisoning and deaths associated with abuse of prescription drugs. Many teens believe these drugs are a safe way to get high and not as risky as street drugs. The teens are abusing prescription drugs because they are widely available, free and inexpensive, usually obtaining the drugs from friends and relatives without their knowledge.

The community is invited to collect, bring and dump your unused drugs to three hospital locations. Everyone is welcome. The drop point will also accept any illegal drugs in the drop bucket with no questions asked. (No needles accepted at drop-off sites.) Drop-off locations and dates are as follows:

- Oroville Hospital’s Walk-in Clinic (Comp Care), 900 Oro Dam Boulevard, Oroville: Friday June 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Enloe Medical Center, 560 Cohasset Road, Chico: Monday, June 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Feather River Family Health Center, 5125 Skyway, Paradise: Monday, June 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## DROP THE DRUGS— 2

Pain relievers which are powerful narcotics prescribed to treat pain, and antidepressants such as sleeping pills, anti-anxiety drugs and stimulants for treating attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, are most commonly abused. Vicodin and Oxycontin are among those highest on the abuse list.

National studies indicate that the abuse of prescription and over the counter drugs to get high is a growing concern among teens. In the U.S., more young people age 12-17 abuse prescription drugs than any illicit drug except marijuana. More than cocaine, heroin or methamphetamine combined

The Gridley Guardians led by Clarissa Pfister and the Biggs-Gridley Hospital conducted a drive thru “Drop The Drugs” campaign on May 20<sup>th</sup> and challenged the rest of the county to take their effort county-wide.

This county-wide “Drop the Drugs” campaign is being led by the Butte County Methamphetamine Strike Force and the Butte County Public Health Department. Thanks to all of the hospitals in Butte County, including Enloe Medical Center, Feather River Hospital, and Oroville Hospital who have agreed to participate in the “Drop The Drugs” campaign.

### **END OF MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **A SPECIAL INVITATION TO MEDIA ONLY:**

*A Press conference will be held at the Butte County Public Health Department Administration Building, 202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville in the Tahoe Conference Room on June 2, 11:00 am - 12:00. Phyllis Murdock, Director of Butte County Public Health Department and Sheriff Perry Reniff will represent the project.*

For questions regarding the project please call Alice Kienzle, Deputy Director of Nursing, phone: (530) 538-7831, email: [akienzle@buttecounty.net](mailto:akienzle@buttecounty.net) OR Butte County Sheriff's Crime Prevention Coordinator Paula Felipe at (530) 538-7822 or email: [pfelipe@buttecounty.net](mailto:pfelipe@buttecounty.net)

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#### **Butte County Public Health Department**

Our Mission: To protect the public through promoting individual, community and environmental health.