



*Land of Natural
Wealth and Beauty*

News Release

For Immediate Release

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METH STRIKE FORCE COMMENCES RED RIBBON WEEK WITH LAST TOWN HALL MEETING

BUTTE COUNTY, California – The last in a series of four meetings hosted by the Butte County Meth Strike Force will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Paradise High School cafeteria at 5911 Maxwell Drive, exactly one week prior to national Red Ribbon Week.

Like the Red Ribbon Campaign, the Town Hall meeting series allows those impacted by drugs in the community to mobilize, bring awareness to the issue and offer solutions to the problems.

The entire Paradise and Magalia community is invited to join the tremendous response of fellow community members who have shared stories about how methamphetamine has impacted their lives. Many local schools, churches, students and staff, as well as retired citizens have pledged their support to stop the meth epidemic.

Because meth is highly addictive it is the fastest-growing recreational drug on the street. Its addiction and use are often connected with other crimes such as burglary, robbery, forgery, elder abuse and theft, including credit card and identity theft.

Tuesday's meeting will be an opportunity for more community members to speak out and offer important information to the Strike Force, therefore allowing them to understand how meth use and its impact are specifically affecting the local area. It will also allow those who are unaware of the impact to see how meth does indeed affect them as a citizen of this community.

"Meth has been a scourge in Butte County for over 25 years. It's killed our young and broken the hearts of parents and grandparents, we need the communities' help to end this terrible

menace,” said Sheriff Perry Reniff, who founded the Strike Force in 2004.

The program will open with an eight minute video created by Lynne Bussey Public Relations. The video depicts the tragic consequences of the meth problem nationwide. A presentation will follow outlining local crime statistics, law enforcement issues and ways the community can help. There will be an open listening opportunity between members of the public and concerned public officials including the Director of Public Health, Phyllis Murdock, the Director of Behavioral Health, Dr. Brad Luz, District Attorney Mike Ramsey and a representative from both the Butte County Office of Education and Sheriff’s Department. Each community member wishing to speak will have three minutes to share their stories, concerns or suggested solutions. There will also be a survey available as an option for those who wish to express concerns or information without publicly speaking.

Additionally, the new community response vehicle used by the Drug Endangered Children program will be available for tour from 6:30 to 7 p.m. outside the cafeteria.

The Town Hall Meeting series is made possible by the *Communities Mobilizing Against Methamphetamine Addiction Grant*, given to the Public Health Department from The California Endowment. The Town Hall Meetings are the first activities being undertaken. Over the next several months data will be collected and an unbiased evaluation of existing policies, service delivery and linkage of services will be studied.

Refreshments will be provided at the town hall meeting.

For more information contact Alice Kienzle at 538-7831.

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Butte County Public Health Department

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