

Running head: UNDERSTANDING CRYSTAL METHAMPHETAMINE

Understanding Crystal Methamphetamine Use: Community Impact and Interventions for  
Vulnerable Populations (Phase II)

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### Statement of Problem

In August 2004, the River Valley Methamphetamine Project (RVMP) organized as a grassroots multi-faceted community action demonstration project to respond to the methamphetamine (meth) epidemic in Arkansas' 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District which includes Pope, Johnson, and Franklin Counties. The project included over 59 organizations, schools, law enforcement, mental health, child protection, faith based groups, and others. It was action based and focused locally upon increasing awareness about methamphetamine, reducing use, manufacture, and distribution of methamphetamine, and improving treatment for meth users. Although much was accomplished and the community became positively and collaboratively engaged in the RVMP, the project lacked a social science research component that provided an adequate knowledge base about the scope and depth of meth problems in the communities and counties of the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

The purpose of this research project was/is to close the knowledge gap regarding the underlying individual and social problems which complicate the multi-faceted methamphetamine epidemic in Arkansas.

The objectives of the research project were/are: 1) To understand the scope and magnitude of public concern about meth for Pope, Johnson, and Franklin Counties in Arkansas, 2) To understand individual level reasons for meth production and use, 3) To determine the extent to which nonviolent misdemeanors and felonies are associated with meth production or use, 4) To measure the extent to which current intervention strategies result in accomplished county-level goals for reducing meth production and use, and 5) To understand and facilitate community action as a response to meth use as well as offer recommendations and alternative strategies for identification and intervention of community and individual level problems.

## Research Procedures

Phase I of this research project conducted in the Spring of 2006 resulted in survey development and distribution; data collection from Pope County residents; student research reports utilizing data from the survey; and initiation of ongoing projects such as interviewing jail inmates, interviewing treatment professionals and developing a documentary about the project.

Phase II of the research plan, which is the focus of this report, included the following components:

- **Community Survey**—Administer a survey instrument that was developed in 2006 and measure attitudes and behaviors regarding drug use in the remaining two counties (Johnson and Franklin) of the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.
- **Interview Recovering Users and Inmates at the Pope County Jail**—Get life stories of drug users and identify patterns of progression in use, as well as identify strategies that work and strategies that don't.
- **Interview Treatment Professionals**—Utilize focus groups to estimate the scope of meth use in the county seat of the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District and to identify patterns of successful treatment outcomes.
- **Build Coalitions**—Based on information from community, work with community organizations and leaders not presently involved in the *River Valley Meth Project*, as well as build ties to additional departments at Arkansas Tech University.
- **Research Project documentary**-Video document and produce footage to illustrate research process, insights from inmates, and treatment concerns from professionals.
- **Assess feasibility and collect informational materials** for development of a meth web clearinghouse.

In Phase II of this research project, the Sociology Research Methods class under the tutelage of Dr. Sean Huss arranged to conduct applied research via a community survey. The goal was to use the 2006 community survey as a teaching tool in class, with the hopes of involving students in an ongoing research initiative. The project was included as part of class requirements under the assumption that practical experience would be superior to abstract materials. Phase II began in January with the beginning of the Spring 2007 term, after confirmation of award from the ATU Professional Development Grant committee. Research Methods class teams were tasked with developing small research projects as components of the much larger research effort. Students and faculty had access to a literature review conducted by students in 2006, which served as an ongoing base for Phase II of the project. Students helped refine the survey and performed analysis in relation to their class project. The class goals were to: 1) complete the bulk of data collection during the Spring 2007 term; and 2) present preliminary findings at a research symposium in April 2007 as part of their final grade for students.

Evaluation of previous community surveys informed survey construction for this project and included:

1. Detroit Area Study, 1990: Community Issues by Paul Mohai
2. Developing a Problem-Oriented Policing Model in Ada County, ID, 1997-1998 by John Crank
3. Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods: Community Survey, 1994-1995 by Felton Earls
4. Disorder and Community Decline in Forty Neighborhoods of the United States, 1977-1983 by Wesley G. Skogan.

The survey instrument was minimally revised and contained a total of 282 questions on topics ranging from general attitudes on community issues to alienation, anomia, and perceptions of drugs and drug use. (See Appendix A)

Prior to distribution of the survey, newspapers in the targeted areas were contacted and were requested to alert county residents that surveys would be arriving in the mail within two weeks.

Two methods were used for acquiring sampling frames for each county in the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. First, local law enforcement in Pope County provided a list of all known active addresses, derived from local 911 records. A random sample of 1,000 cases was then selected from this sampling frame, which served as the basis for mailed survey administration. Of this original 1,000 approximately 100 were identified as inaccurate listings when returned by the U.S. Post Office to RVMP offices. These “bad listings” were excluded from subsequent mailings. A total of 313 completed surveys were returned in Pope County, representing 43% of our sample for the entire 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (slightly lower than representative of the population of Pope in the overall district at 57%; Pope county had a final response rate of 35%).

Second, address listings for Johnson and Franklin Counties were purchased through Survey Sampling Incorporated. Each listing included 3,000 randomly selected cases and were then reduced through a second random sample to 1,000 cases for each county, as recommended by Survey Sampling Incorporated. A total of 35 and 25 addresses were identified as inaccurate for Franklin and Johnson Counties respectively. Franklin respondents make up roughly 27% of the final data, and Johnson respondents make up roughly 29% of the sample, with the remaining percent indicating instances in which respondents removed tracking labels (their county could not be identified). The final response rates for both Franklin and Johnson Counties are roughly 25% in each instance. It is important to note that, due to time and financial limitations, only two

waves of mailings were sent to each of these counties, which would account for the lower response rates. In addition, as both counties are more rural and have lower populations, one may expect a lower response rate, as indicated in some literature on rural surveying.

Despite certain caveats, the sample for the overall district appears to be representative.

The population figures and survey sample characteristics are presented in the following table:

**Table 1--County Population Figures by Selected Characteristics.**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Franklin</b>	<b>Johnson</b>	<b>Pope</b>
<b>Total Pop</b>	<b>17,771</b>	<b>22,781</b>	<b>54,469</b>
<i>Urban</i>	2,808	5,295	22,744
<i>Rural</i>	14,693	17,486	31,725
<i>White</i>	17,091	21,344	51,055
<i>Black</i>	110	313	1,423
<i>Native American</i>	142	141	370
<i>Asian</i>	46	58	346
<i>Hawaiian</i>	10	2	14
<i>Other</i>	132	598	506
<i>Two Races</i>	240	325	755
<i>Males</i>	8,795	11,332	26,729
<i>Females</i>	8,976	11,449	27,740
<b>Households</b>	<b>7,673</b>	<b>9,926</b>	<b>22,851</b>
<i>Population In Households</i>	17,288	22,199	52,744
<i>Not In Households</i>	483	582	1,725
<i>Urban</i>	1,301	2,236	9,925
<i>Rural</i>	6,372	7,690	12,926
<i>Occupied</i>	6,882	8,738	20,701
<i>Vacant</i>	791	1,188	2,150
<b>Average Household Size</b>	<b>2.51</b>	<b>2.54</b>	<b>2.55</b>
Owner Occupied	2.53	2.55	2.62
Renter Occupied	2.43	2.52	2.37
<b>Median Age</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>36.4</b>	<b>34.8</b>
<i>Males</i>	36.1	34.9	33.5
<i>Females</i>	38.9	38	35.9

**Table 2—County Population Proportions by Selected Characteristics.**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Franklin</b>	<b>Johnson</b>	<b>Pope</b>
<b>Total Pop</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<i>Urban</i>	15.80	23.24	41.76
<i>Rural</i>	82.68	76.76	58.24
<i>White</i>	96.17	93.69	93.73
<i>Black</i>	0.62	1.37	2.61
<i>Native American</i>	0.80	0.62	0.68
<i>Asian</i>	0.26	0.25	0.64
<i>Hawaiian</i>	0.06	0.01	0.03
<i>Other</i>	0.74	2.62	0.93
<i>Two Races</i>	1.35	1.43	1.39
<i>Males</i>	49.49	49.74	49.07
<i>Females</i>	50.51	50.26	50.93
<b>Households</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<i>Population In Households</i>	97.28	97.45	96.83
<i>Not In Households</i>	2.72	2.55	3.17
<i>Urban</i>	16.96	22.53	43.43
<i>Rural</i>	83.04	77.47	56.57
<i>Occupied</i>	89.69	88.03	90.59
<i>Vacant</i>	10.31	11.97	9.41

**Table 3--Differences Between Sample and Census Proportions by County**

<b><u>Franklin</u></b>	<b><u>Census</u></b>	<b><u>Survey</u></b>	<b><u>Raw Diff</u></b>
White	96.2	94.1	-2.1
Black	0.6	0.5	-0.1
Native American	0.8	3.7	2.9
Asian	0.3	1.6	1.3
Hispanic	0.7	0.0	-0.7
<b><u>Johnson</u></b>	<b><u>Census</u></b>	<b><u>Survey</u></b>	<b><u>Raw Diff</u></b>
White	93.7	93.5	-0.2
Black	1.4	1.5	0.1
Native American	0.6	3.0	2.4
Asian	0.3	0.5	0.2
Hispanic	1.4	1.5	0.1
<b><u>Pope</u></b>	<b><u>Census</u></b>	<b><u>Survey</u></b>	<b><u>Raw Diff</u></b>
White	93.7	92.1	-1.6
Black	2.6	1.0	-1.6
Native American	0.7	4.9	4.2
Asian	0.6	0.7	0.0
Hispanic	1.4	1.3	-0.1

Although results could have been improved with more time and greater funding, these response rates are consistent with other surveys on similar topics. More importantly, surveys conducted in other parts of the state specifically on methamphetamine have met with far less success and required far more money (e.g., the Criminal Justice Institute survey of Boone County).



In addition to the survey, other methods were used to collect data and meet project goals. Focus groups were used to assess treatment provider's perception of the impact of methamphetamine use over the past five years; to evaluate local available resources; and to review systemic means of tracking meth users. A total of two focus groups were conducted with some participants overlapping into both sessions. The two sessions lasted sixty minutes each and were moderated by Co-Principal Investigator Marti Wilkerson with assistance from a research project student and a camera technician/assistant. The first focus group conducted in March 2007, included representatives from Counseling Associates, Child Development, Inc., Arkansas Tech University, 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Victim Witness Program, and the Department of Children and Family Services. The second focus group in June 2007 included representation from the Pope County Sheriff's Office, Counseling Associates, Child Development, Inc., Freedom House (residential drug treatment), Arkansas Tech University, and the Department of Community Corrections. (See Appendix B for Focus Groups Interview Summary)

Individual interviews with inmates in the Pope County Detention Facility were conducted by Co-Principal Investigators, Dr. Sean Huss and Dr. Terri Earnest. Each interview was video recorded with permission of the Pope County Sheriff and with informed consent documents signed by the inmates. A set of questions was developed to guide the interview which directed the interviewees' attention upon their use of methamphetamines, their history of drug abuse, possible factors that led up to their drug addiction, and viable methods of helping them overcome their drug addiction. (See Appendix C for documentary video)

Another significant component of the project was coalition building. Coalition building was channeled through the *River Valley Meth Project* breakfast meetings and the Research

Symposium in April (See sample agenda and news articles-Appendix D1 and D2) As a result of the ongoing community action project supported by the Arkansas Tech University research effort, the following coalition project goals were achieved. (See Appendix D)

- Hispanic version of “Signs of Meth” developed, distributed, and placed on website. (See Appendix D3)
- “Bridge the Gap” Health and Wellness festival (bi-lingual fliers) (1000 people in attendance) (See Appendix D4)
- Substance Abuse Hotline and user protocol developed. (24 hour service scheduled to be published in Fall 2007 Downey phonebook) (See Appendix D5)
- Behavioral Sciences Research Scholarship (\$3,500 sponsored by ARVAC/Freedom House in 2007/2008; administered through the Arkansas Tech University Development Office (See Appendix D6)
- Former Arkansas Drug Director farewell noted that the *River Valley Meth Project* and the ATU research project were the highlights of his tenure.
- New Arkansas Drug Director invited *River Valley Meth Project* and researchers to advise her regarding future needs.
- ARVAC Freedom House reported increased bed capacity to improve treatment.

Lastly, an extensive file consisting of journal articles was collected by a student researcher to contribute to the development of a meth clearinghouse. Materials were added to the existing website “rivervalleymethnews.com” to feature the clearinghouse concept and to offer information to the community.

## Summary of Findings

Students, with faculty guidance from Dr. Sean Huss, presented preliminary findings from survey data at a research symposium held in April, 2007. Faculty researchers continue to work toward data analysis and various publications while maintaining the attention of a new Arkansas drug director.

While all survey data has not yet been analyzed, simple frequency tables illustrating assessment of how difficult it would be to get various drugs in the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District provides an interesting glimpse of respondent's assessments and perceptions. (See Appendix E) It is interesting to note that 49.8% of respondents indicated that marijuana would be "easy" to get; 37.9% of respondents indicated that meth would be easy to get; and 20.7% indicated that Ecstasy would be easy to get.

Data gathered through interviews with Pope County inmates also garnered some interesting information. One female interviewee in her mid twenties indicated that she got started on meth at fifteen when her father didn't have enough money for Christmas presents so he gave her some meth as her Christmas present. A male inmate indicated that interventions should begin at the middle school age because dealers like him knew to target that age range to build their market base.

The data collected through the focus groups with treatment personnel indicated with the exception of the local university, that agencies, organizations, and treatment professionals have been significantly impacted by the meth epidemic over the past five years. In addition, while it was reported that meth labs/production arrests had decreased, meth use continued to be problematic and strained systems and resources.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

The *River Valley Meth Project* continues to grow. Early efforts from the *Pope County Meth Demonstration Project* were instrumental in helping to put ephedrine and pseudo-ephedrine behind the counter. This effort has reduced meth lab seizures in Arkansas by 50% and reduced meth lab seizures by 79% in Pope County. However, recent reports from law enforcement indicate that meth labs may be back on the rise. (Director, 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Drug Task Force, RVMP July, 2007) It remains to be seen to what extent meth labs will subside as a law enforcement problem. The problem of meth “use” has remained a constant with the negative impact that “use” presents for individuals, families, communities, schools, law enforcement, and treatment programs. The *River Valley Meth Project* attempts to address meth “use” problems through focus upon improving treatment, child protection services, juvenile drug court programs, and supporting development of the meth and other drugs coalitions. The social research conducted through this project will provide direction for future plans that are relevant to the community and that will help law enforcement with planning. Law enforcement continues to be interested in geo mapping and has plans to share addresses with researchers in order to establish information related to drug clusters.

Ultimately the goal for the River Valley Meth Project continues to be the prevention of meth use, but a more practical approach for the project is a focus on education, community outreach, treatment efforts, and more research. During the Spring 2006 and 2007 semesters, work toward these goals has created a greater understanding of the problem in the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. The project leaders continue to work to develop stronger research efforts, stronger ties across departments at Arkansas Tech University, and stronger community efforts. The following list may be used to characterize the ongoing efforts of the project:

- Project leaders continue to seek additional funding from Federal sources
- Arkansas Drug Director, Fran Flener has promised to aid in any way she can to continue the momentum of the project.
- Analyses of community surveys are still underway.
- The survey will be streamlined and funds will be sought to conduct a state-wide survey of Arkansas residents.
- Project documentary development will continue, with an emphasis on recording additional interviews with recovering meth addicts and various officials dealing with the meth problem.
- Personal interviews with inmates, recovering addicts, and treatment professionals will continue.
- Project leaders will continue to work to develop a web-based meth information clearinghouse for various state agencies and local communities in Arkansas.

The continued success of this social research effort and community coalition project will be contingent upon additional funds and support. With additional money and support, the project will bring greater positive attention to Arkansas Tech University and highlight how a community may draw on its educational institutions for guidance in dealing with problems of this nature.

While data collection and analysis continues and the *River Valley Meth Project* seeks ways to impact meth use, purposes of this research project have been met to some extent. The knowledge gap in the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District consisting of Pope, Johnson, and Franklin counties has been narrowed. From simple frequency tables, it became clear that “drug use”; “drug dealing” and “too few good jobs” were considered to be problems by the majority of respondents. In addition, respondents indicated a willingness to spend more for “drug treatment”, “drug

prevention programs”, and “law enforcement Drug Task Forces.” This simple information is much needed by treatment providers in their ongoing search for more treatment dollars.

Researchers and the River Valley Meth Project community coalition members better understand the community concern about meth and other social problems underlying the meth epidemic. A knowledge base is developing which brings insight into personal histories and biographies/life stories about drug use, incarceration, loss of family and in some cases rehabilitation. Treatment professionals resoundingly acknowledge the profound effect of the meth epidemic upon system resources, professional skills, and lack of evidence based intervention strategies that provide results for client populations.

Using the *River Valley Meth Project* monthly meetings as a vehicle for information dissemination, the research project has helped coalition members to better understand and facilitate community action through offering recommendations and alternative strategies for identification of and intervention with community and individual level problems. From better understanding and through focusing upon building “social capital” in the rural 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, the *River Valley Meth Project* leadership and members will address the meth epidemic from a broader base which engages the community in ongoing assessment and recognition of social problems which underlie meth use. Armed with social research data, continued support and resources will be sought to address both the immediacy of and the long term consequences of the meth epidemic in Arkansas.



# **Appendix A**

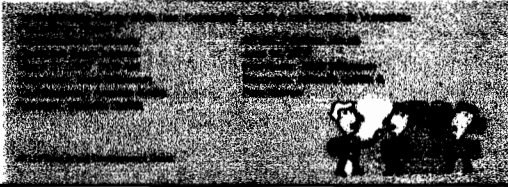
## **Sample Survey**

# **Appendix B**

## **Focus Groups Interview Summary**



# Focus Group Interview: Summary



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## Agencies Represented

- | Focus Group I                                   | Focus Group II                        |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| ▪ ATU- Counseling Center                        | ▪ ATU-Counseling Center               |
| ▪ Child Development Inc.                        | ▪ Freedom House                       |
| ▪ Counseling Associates, Inc.                   | ▪ Child Development, Inc.             |
| ▪ Division of Children and Family Services      | ▪ Counseling Associates, Inc.         |
| ▪ Prosecutor's Office- Victim's Witness Program | ▪ Sheriff's Office                    |
| ▪ Community Services Inc.                       | ▪ Department of Community Corrections |

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## Purposes

- To gather input from treatment providers about impact of meth over the past five years.
- To identify types of services provided, available resources, and potential rehabilitation outcomes for meth users.
- To review systemic means of tracking meth users in Colorado.

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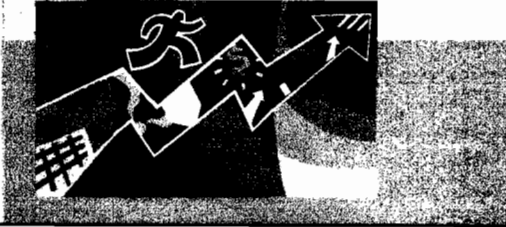
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## Impact / Trends



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## Child Protection: A Perspective

- Almost all cases have some involvement with meth.
- They are serious cases where children are taken into care.
- Cases involve poor supervision, parents going to jail, drugs in the home, and physical abuse related to meth.
- Seeing people doing \$300-\$400 worth of meth a day.
- It seems a core group of about 20 people are supplying.
- We have some clients who get school grants and loans and then drop out. They get the money back and school's not important.

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## University Counseling Center: A Perspective

- No university students seek counseling with a meth problem, but may identify meth use as a secondary issue.
- Some students report knowing others or having parents that use meth.
- Three surveys have lead ATU to the conclusion that there is not a meth problem on campus:
  - CQHC Alcohol & Drug U.S. Department of Education
  - National College Health Assessment
  - ATU Wellness Survey

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## Corrections: A Perspective

- Several clients have lost their kids to DCFS and lost everything.
- Many clients were living on the streets due to meth use.

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## Substance Abuse Treatment: A Perspective

- 10 years ago most of the clients at Freedom House were educated, middle aged, and primarily abused alcohol, opiates, and marijuana. In the past 5 years, there has been about a 40% increase in the use of meth. Due to the lack of education and job skills these new clients have led to the necessity to change the way clients are treated.
- Increase in smoking versus the powder form of meth which is supposed to be 10 times more potent and more psychologically and physically addictive.
- Some women clients dropped out of school because of pregnancy and then became involved with men who are dealing drugs, so their kids are growing up in this environment and getting their hands on the drugs themselves.
- 95% of the women we see use meth
- Even though there has been a reduction of meth labs, meth is just as prevalent because of transportation
- There are more people in jail because of the meth problem
- There is a lack of rehab services in the community the family system does not have the ability to break the meth cycle.

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## Law Enforcement: A Perspective

- Meth is a drug that kids will start with or without trying other drugs first because it is a sexual stimulant, it enables you to lose weight, and to stay awake long hours.
- 60% of overcrowding in jails is directly related to meth use.

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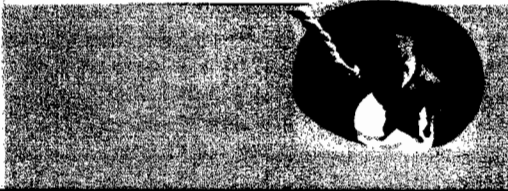
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## Resources / Treatment



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## Resources / Treatment Observations

- The best detox for meth is for users to get some sleep.
- Detox at home can be more effective if the user has a good support system/ supportive family.
- Short term lock-ups sometimes is the best treatment as far as making sure they don't get the drugs while they are in there.
- We need people who are trained in drug treatment and also we need to see new ideas for treatment instead of recycled material.
- Most of clients have been successful in an intensive treatment program ~~and where diversion is best because it takes them away from everything they do~~
- ~~There are not enough resources available in the system because it leaves the system open, which makes it difficult to do assessments for treatment.~~

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## Resources / Treatment Observations (cont.)

- Clients who go to chem free houses (4-6 months at CLEAR or Arkansas Care) seem to be getting their kids back, which clients who got to 45-day treatment are coming out, relapsing, and losing their kids all over again.
- The good thing about programs like Arkansas Care is they allow the mother and children to stay together, which doesn't disrupt the bonding system.
- Women who do not get to stay with their children often will become pregnant again to replace the child that has been taken away.
- We're only allowed to send to Freedom House (21 days) and Freedom House can't take everybody in Pope and surrounding counties.
- ~~Freedom House sends 7 counties and take only 20 beds and hasn't had an increase in Freedom House since 1997.~~
- ~~Other organizations like Community Association for treatment they are saying "I want to see you in my house."~~

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## Resources / Treatment Needs

- A problem now is that it's hard to get them into an intensive long-term treatment facility.
  - We need more treatment facilities that work on transitioning back into the community.
  - We need people who are trained in drug treatment and also we need to see new ideas for treatment instead of recycled material.
  - The bulk of the programs in this state are not funded for the length of time that we know we need in order to make sure that treatment is successful.
- We need more treatment facilities**
- Freedom House has tried to increase the outpatient treatment by using the matrix model which is great if the client has a place to live.
  - Freedom House needs funding to educate clients on living and coping skills.

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## Resources / Treatment Needs (cont.)

- Freedom House has been out of state funding for 2 months and every bed is still full.
- Law enforcement can't continue treating the way we have been.
- Someone is always coming in to the Sheriff's office saying how can you help me.
- The new State Drug Director is on board and acknowledges the need to fund treatment.
- Need to look at prevention.

Prevention is a necessary part of the treatment process. However, the current funding for prevention is only through grants which are funded by state and federal dollars on a temporary basis.

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## Resources / Treatment What Works?

- Try to introduce them to a 12 step program and refer them out.
- Try to surround them with agency personnel and outside agencies to give those without a support system some form of support system.
- The most successful programs are long term programs because they give them a chance to learn that whole new lifestyle.
- The gold standard for women in treatment is 6-9 months which has the lowest recidivism rate.

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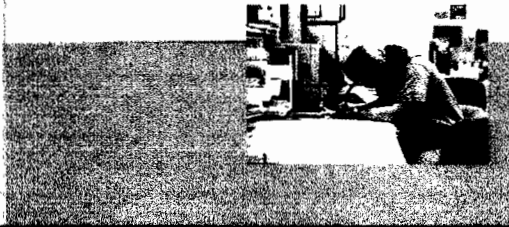
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## Tracking



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## Tracking

- The problem is that clients come in self diagnosing with things like anxiety, and bipolar and you can't really tell bipolar from meth because they look a lot alike.
- If we know they have used meth then it is easy to pull them out of the system.
- After they leave, we can't determine how successful we've been unless they come back.
- I don't know that there's a clear-cut way of tracking other than every worker going through their caseloads.
- Meth is not in the DSM, so the only way to know if they are using meth is if the program has a screening process that asks them if they are using meth and they can go back and get the responses from the screenings and get the number of meth users.

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## Moving Forward

June 14, 2007



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## Moving Forward

- The next step will be harder, we need to get an idea that works and build on it, rather than sending money all over the state.
- The next level will cost money \$\$\$
- There is a solution to all of our problems.
- We need to work hard at the next legislative session.

▪ We need to be in a mindset that we need to work together and partner with other people around the state.

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# **Appendix C**

## **Documentary Video**

# **Appendix D**

## **Coalition Building**

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# **Appendix D1**

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## **Sample Agenda**

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**"Understanding Crystal Methamphetamine (Meth) Use:  
Community Impact and Intervention in Vulnerable Populations: Phase II"  
Research Symposium  
Wednesday, April 25, 2007, 9:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.  
Arkansas TECH University-Chambers Cafeteria East**

**Agenda**

<b>8:30-9:00</b>	<b>Registration</b>	<b>Amanda Paterak &amp; Michelle Griffith, Research Assistants, ATU</b>
<b>9:00-9:45</b>	<b>Welcome, Introductions, Program Overview</b>	<b>Marti Wilkerson, Associate Professor Rehabilitation Science, Dr. Terri Earnest, Assistant Professor Sociology; &amp; Dr. Sean Huss, Assistant Professor, Sociology, ATU</b>
<b>9:45-10:00</b>	<b>Bridging the Gap: Health &amp; Wellness Festival</b>	<b>Heather Hicks, Sociology Student Researcher, ATU</b>
<b>10:00-10:20</b>	<b>Artworks and the Meth Epidemic</b>	<b>Dr. Neal Harrington, Assistant Professor of Art, ATU</b>
<b>10:20-10:30</b>	<b>Break</b>	
<b>10:30-10:45</b>	<b>Meth Research in the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District</b>	<b>Dr. Sean Huss, ATU</b>
<b>10:45-11:30</b>	<b>Student Reports</b>	<b>Research Methods Class Sociology 3163</b>
<b>11:30-12:00</b>	<b>Documentary Film Development</b>	<b>Dr. Sean Huss, &amp; Heather Hicks</b>
	<b>Interviews with Treatment Professionals</b>	<b>Marti Wilkerson, &amp; Amanda Kraha, ATU.</b>
	<b>Interviews with Inmates</b>	<b>Dr. Terri Earnest</b>
<b>12:00-1:30</b>	<b>Lunch with River Valley Methamphetamine Project (lunch provided)</b>	
	<b>Recognition of Guests</b>	<b>Marti Wilkerson</b>
	<b>ARVAC/ ATU Foundation Announcement</b>	<b>Jayne Jones, ATU Foundation, &amp; Bob Adkison, ARVAC Inc.</b>
	<b>Update: The Demand for Meth</b>	<b>Jay Winters, Pope County Sheriff</b>
	<b>"Making a Difference"</b>	<b>Roger Hunter, Student Life Coordinator, University of Arkansas-Fayetteville</b>
<b>1:30-2:00</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	<b>Marti Wilkerson, Dr. Terri Earnest, &amp; Dr. Sean Huss, ATU</b>
<b>2:00</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>	

# **Appendix D2**

## **News Articles**

Story Date: 1/26/2006 12:07:34 PM

## ATU, project to start meth survey

By Brooke Vermillion

government@couriernews.com

Through a joint effort of the River Valley Meth Project and two Arkansas Tech University sociology classes, Pope and surrounding counties are expected to soon know more about the meth epidemic sweeping the state and the nation.

Within in next several months, the two Tech classes will be conducting research, developing surveys, collecting data and writing reports on the effects of methamphetamine in the Arkansas River Valley.

“We want to alert the community that a survey related to substance abuse in Pope County will be coming out, and we would like a response to it to better understand this problem,” said Marti Wilkerson, lead facilitator for the River Valley Meth Project (RVMP) and associate professor of Rehabilitation Science at Tech.

In the students’ second class meeting of the semester last week, Wilkerson introduced classes to what the meth project has been focusing on during the last year.

The RVMP is composed of law enforcement authorities, court personnel, child care professionals, educators, businesses and industries, etc., all of whom come in contact with drug-related issues. The goal of the project is to better understand and treat those affected by meth while also incorporating them back into society and a healthy environment.

However, Wilkerson explained a consistent problem of the Meth Project is the lack of funds to conduct research, and unfortunately, the lack of research to acquire funding.

“The weakness of our project (RVMP) is we do not have a good knowledge base (of the problem),” she said. “We’ve really been struggling with that. ... And we don’t have a clue if the work we’ve done has effected meth use in our area. ... Because of this lack of research, there are a lot of unknowns.”

Therefore, Wilkerson and two additional Tech professors worked together to come up with a way the community and two groups of sociology students could benefit from a collaborative effort that would not only give the RVMP a vast knowledge base, but would also give the students practical experience in their chosen field.

“It is extremely exciting that [the professors] are willing to give [the students] a great learning experience by becoming involved in our project and our community,” Wilkerson told the students.

Through the RVMP and the 5th Judicial District prosecuting attorney’s office, the organization then applied for a \$98,000 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant, along with other funding opportunities, to help support the research.

The research program titled "Understanding Crystal Methamphetamine Use: Community Impact and Interventions for Vulnerable Populations" is expected to yield results by June.

**Sheriff: Meth a tough drug**

After a brief introduction, Pope County Sheriff Jay Winters, who also serves an integral part of the RVMP, described to the students how different methamphetamine is from all other drugs he has dealt with in law enforcement.

"I've been in law enforcement for 40 years," Winters said. "I've dealt with everything from white lightning and stills, to the time when marijuana became really popular, to when LSD and heroin started up. ... But meth has been a real problem for law enforcement because of all the effects it has.

"There's not a week that goes by I don't have a meth user's mother, father, grandparent, brother or sister in my office in tears saying, 'Can you please help me?' And it's absolutely devastating," Winters said.

He added the drug users, their friends and family are not the only ones who suffer when it comes to meth use. He explained Arkansas spends \$10 million every year to treat drug addictions, and if the issue were solved, that money could be appropriated for another worthwhile cause.

Winters also told the students how they were getting involved in a project that he expects will gain national attention.

He explained the deputy director for the National Office of Drug Control Policy while visiting Arkansas in 2005 commended the people of the RVMP on the job they were doing, and added no other county or organization in the United States is working the way Pope County is to change drug use in the community.

In Friday's Courier: Meth Project receives funding, development updates during monthly meeting.

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Monday, September 24, 2007

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Story Date: Thursday, January 25, 2007

## **Meth group to expand**

By Brooke Chambers  
**Reporter**

During Wednesday's meeting of the River Valley Meth Group, local community leaders put their heads together to define goals for 2007 that would reduce drug abuse and its negative effects.

After more than two years of successes, leaders from local government, law enforcement, school districts, industries, and drug-treatment agencies redirected their focus toward more current issues and also to include the faith-based community.

With the decline of methamphetamine labs in recent years, law enforcement has turned its focus to drug users and suppliers, according to officials. But 5th Judicial Prosecutor David Gibbons said drug use is now manifesting itself through more and more violence, causing more significant problems in the area.

"This violence is directly related to meth use," Gibbons told the group. "We need to come up with a solution, there's no question."

Russellville Police Chief Tom McMillen said his goal was to continue educating his officers about signs of drug use, while incorporating more officers into the department. Mayor Tyrone Williamson agreed and said he would like to add school resource officers to the Russellville School District.

The two pledged to work together this year to make the idea happen.

A large portion of Wednesday's group included professionals from drug treatment and rehabilitation agencies who said they are also preparing for changes.

"Our community-based treatment center is moving to the next level," said ARVAC Executive Director Bob Adkison of Russellville's Freedom House Rehab facility, explaining several treatment beds have been added recently.

Glenda Hubbard of the 5th Judicial Drug Court said the local drug court program would receive additional funding this year that would be used for clients' drug treatment. The Freedom House would benefit from that spending, she said.

Freedom House Counselor Mike Chumley suggested the Meth Group direct its focus to alcohol and other types of illegal narcotics instead of focusing on one drug.

"This problem is not going to go away," he said. "So we have to set goals for the users and not turn our head away from the pills, IV drug use, and alcohol. Dry county or not, we have a huge alcohol problem."

Other group members wanted to turn their personal focus more toward preventing drug abuse before it starts. Carol Lee of Child Development Inc., Cheryl Scott of the Department of Children and Family Services, and Janet Cook of Community Services Inc. all said reaching children to prevent meth use topped their list for 2007.

Lee said she would continue to request grant money for school programs, Scott suggested free after-school



programs to keep children off the streets in the afternoons, and Cook challenged school employees to educate children more about the effects of drugs.

Dover Superintendent Dan Lovelady, the only district superintendent present Wednesday, said in 2007 he would like Dover's teachers to become more aware of signs of meth use in children's homes, while also encouraging them to come forward with the information without the fear of retribution.

Adkison and Scott also encouraged group members to invite faith-based community leaders to future meetings to make them aware of the local drug problem.

"If you look in the newspaper, we have 204 churches in this area," Adkison said. "If they all tithed 10 percent, they would have enough left to help us fund all of these programs. We need church involvement because this is society's problem. ... It's good to go to the churches, but we really need to bring the churches here — where the people are. We're all a part of this community."

One faith-based representative was present Wednesday, Pastor Stan McDougal of First Christian Church of Russellville, who said he would be willing to get involved.

Gary McElligot of Code, Camey & Associates directed Wednesday's meeting, saying although many project goals had been accomplished, much still had to be done.

# Meth: A difference in 'private troubles, public issues'

By Brooke Chambers  
education@couriernews.com

During the past two years, professors at Arkansas Tech University – through the River Valley Meth Project – have secured funding to conduct research on the effects of methamphetamine use in a community. Although gaining the funding was cause for celebration among project supporters, one professor reminded the group, "Research is not the goal, it's the tool."

Sean Huss, Ph.D, assistant professor of sociology, has involved his research methods students in dissecting data returned from a mail-out survey, "Understanding Crystal Methamphetamine

(Meth) Use: Community Impact and Intervention in Vulnerable Populations." The survey, sent to a random sample of residents in the 5th Judicial District (Pope, Johnson and Franklin counties), asked questions aimed at understanding the effects of meth on people and communities.

Huss, who often refers to meth as a cancer, said a common misconception seen in responses was the difference in "private troubles and public issues," the title of a presentation Huss gave Wednesday morning during a project meeting.

"A lot of times, we close our minds to these types of problems because we think it's someone's personal problem," Huss said. "But the reality is, meth affects all of us – not just the guy who's tweaking in his bathroom."

In explaining his comments, Huss said meth use and production are more likely symptoms of problems instead of the problem itself.

"High degrees of alienation and low efficacy in individuals increases the likelihood of using drugs," he said, noting communities with residents who have low social capital and high alienation are more susceptible to additional problems, which in turn leads to lower support for program spending and a weakened community.

Social capital, he said, is the goal all communities need to strive for. He defined the term as having job networks, an exchange of ideas, mutual aid and bonding, cre-

ating opportunities for community action or social movements and a shared sense of belonging. Actions like neighborhood watches, community projects, visiting the sick and friendship networks, he said, are ways to create social capital.

Voluntarism in the community, Huss said, is one of the few ways to reduce the demand for illegal drugs. Although laws and law enforcement help, the community should not rely on the law as a solution.

"When individuals think of crime in a community, they tend to think the problem is being dealt with by the experts," Huss said. "But think about it. The more we expect out of law enforcement, the more manpower they're going to need. And where does law enforcement get their money? They get it from us! And essentially, we're paying them to clean up the mess, and the problem's still there. ... I don't know about you, but I'd rather spend my money on cool stuff."

Huss encouraged discussion of the meth problem among community members, and said those who want to ignore the problem or keep it a secret "undermine the very thing they want to achieve."

He said community meetings, open discussion, a clear message, and small actions would lead to a big change.

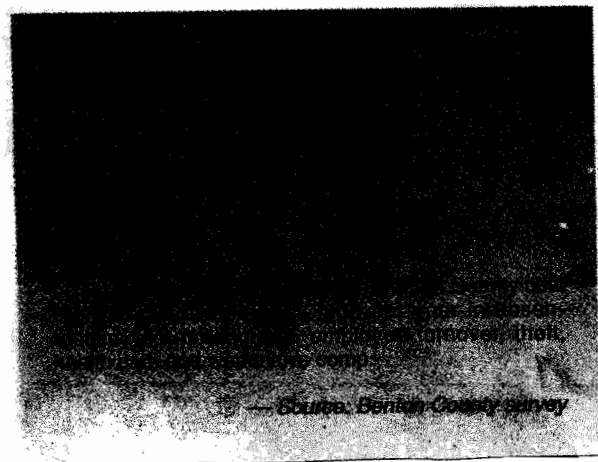
For more information or to get involved, e-mail Huss at [shuss@atu.edu](mailto:shuss@atu.edu).

## public issues'

**"A lot of times, we close our minds to these types of problems because we think it's someone's personal problem. But the reality is, meth affects all of us."**

— Sean Huss, Ph.D., assistant professor of sociology at Arkansas Tech University

Sunday, Sept. 30, 2007



# **Appendix D3**

## **Signs of Meth- Hispanic Version**

- Actividades aumentadas
- Largos periodos sin dormir (24-120 horas)
- Largos periodos de sueño (24-48 horas)
- Pérdida de peso
- Picazón
- Pérdida del apetito
- Baja capacidad de atención
- Irritabilidad
- Agresividad
- Paranoia
- Falta de respiración
- Sudoración anormal
- Mala dentadura
- Problemas nasales
- Heridas que no se curan
- Enrollar billetes como popotes o popotes cortos
- Posesión de piezas de vidrio o espejos y navajas de afeitar
- Posesión de cucharas para quemar
- Jeringas
- Cambio de amigos
- Sacudimientos

### Señales del Distribución de Meth

- Riqueza repentina o sin explicación
- Balanzas
- Visitas frecuentes
- Reuniones bien temprano en la mañana o tarde en la noche
- Pedir dinero prestado por cortos periodos de tiempo (24-72 horas)
- Habitaciones o partes de habitaciones inaccesibles
- Paquetes por el corre con regularidad

- Cantidades excesivas de medicina conteniendo Ephedrine o fardos para ampollas vacías
- Depósitos de propano o freon con corrosión azul en las medidas
- Latas de fluido para encender fuego abiertas por el fondo
- Fuentes de calor como las hornillas de la cocina
- Excesiva cantidad de filtros de café
- Excesiva cantidad de bolsitas
- Excesiva cantidad de cerillas
- Vajilla con residuo blanco
- Ventanas selladas con madera o papel de aluminio
- Mangueras hacia fuera para ventilación
- Objetos como el limpiador para el sumidero, ácido y adelgazador de pintura en el área de cocina
- Excesiva cantidad de baterías de lithium

Para más información acerca de metanfetamina o sospecha de su uso, producción, o que su distribución es un problema en su barrio, escuela, o negocio póngase en contacto con la oficina del 5to distrito judicial para la prevención de narcóticos en:

**479.968.6258**

**1.800.231.DRUG (3784)**

Tr. L. Thurman

Para tener la información de tratamiento de drogas llama: **479-968-7086 (24 Horas)**

- Increased Activity
- Long Periods of Sleeplessness (24-120 hrs)
- Long Periods of Sleep (24-48 hrs)
- Weight Loss
- Itching
- Decreased Appetite
- Erratic Attention Span
- Irritability
- Aggression
- Paranoia
- Shortness of Breath
- Abnormal Sweating
- Rotting Teeth
- Nasal Problems
- Sores that Do Not Heal
- Rolled Up Money or Short Straws
- Pieces of Glass or Mirrors and Razor Blades
- Burned Spoons
- Needles
- Change in Friends
- Twitching or Shaking

### Signs of Meth Distribution

- Frequent Visitors
- Scales
- Excess Baggies
- Unexplained Wealth
- Late Night or Early Morning Meetings
- Borrowing Money for Short Periods of Time (24-72 hours)
- Rooms or Parts of Rooms Off Limits
- Packages in the Mail on a Routine Basis

- Excess Amounts of Medicine Containing Ephedrine or Empty Blister Packs
- Propane Tanks or Freon Tanks with Blue Corrosion on Fittings
- Starting Fluid Cans Opened from the Bottom
- Heating Sources Such as Hot Plates
- Excess Coffee Filters
- Excess Baggies
- Excess Matches
- Cookware, Corning Type, with White Residue
- Windows Blocked Out with Wood or Aluminum Foil
- Hoses Leading Outside for Ventilation
- Items such as Drain Cleaner, Acid, and Paint Thinner in Cooking Area
- Soft Drink Bottles with Hoses Running from Them
- Excess Lithium Batteries

For more information on methamphetamine or if you suspect that methamphetamine use, production or distribution is a problem in your neighborhood, school or business, contact the 5th Judicial District Drug Task Force Office at:

**479.968.6258**

**1.800.231.DRUG (3784)**

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# **Appendix D4**

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## **Bridge the Gap**

River Valley  
**Health:Wellness**

**BRIDGING THE GAP**

**2007**

*Heather Davis '07*

**Festival de la Salud y Bienestar – Construyendo un Puente  
Unir las comunidades**

**Free      Gratis**  
**Live Entertainment**  
**Entretenimiento en Vivo**

**Food                  Comida**  
**Games                Juegos**  
**Booths                Cabinas**

No alcoholic beverages/no bebidas alcohólicas  
Parking donations accepted/ aceptamos  
donaciones para estacionarse

Music  
REDX\*EVENHEROS BLEED\*OME  
CRUXX\*STELLA\*AFFECTUS  
PICTURES OF ECHOS\*WISHTRIBE  
DARK FROM DAY ONE  
SOME GUY NAMED ROB  
THE BREAKTHROUGH

A project of/Un proyecto de  
The River Valley Prevention Coalition

Sponsored by/ Hospiciado por  
\*15<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Drug Coalition  
\*Express Personnel Services  
\*Simmons Bank

# **Appendix D6**

## **Behavioral Sciences Research Scholarship**

# **Scholarship Available Juniors and Seniors Behavioral Science Research Scholarship 2007-08 Academic Year**

## **Scholarship Criteria**

- Full-time student (12 hours or more)
- Major in Psychology, Sociology, or Rehabilitation Sciences
- Junior or Senior level student with 75 semester credit hours successfully completed
- Cumulative grade point average of 3.25 or higher
- Demonstrated financial need
- Submission of a letter of application that expresses need for the scholarship and career goals
- Successful completion of Psy/Soc 2053

The recipient will be assigned to the Behavioral Sciences Department 5 to 7 hours each week doing community outreach, coalition building, and research specific to substance abuse and the River Valley Meth Project.

## **Application Requirements**

- Complete and return Arkansas Tech University Foundation Scholarship Application
- Attach letter of application

Send to:

Arkansas Tech University  
Development Office  
Administration Building 209  
1509 N Boulder Avenue  
Russellville, AR 72801-2222

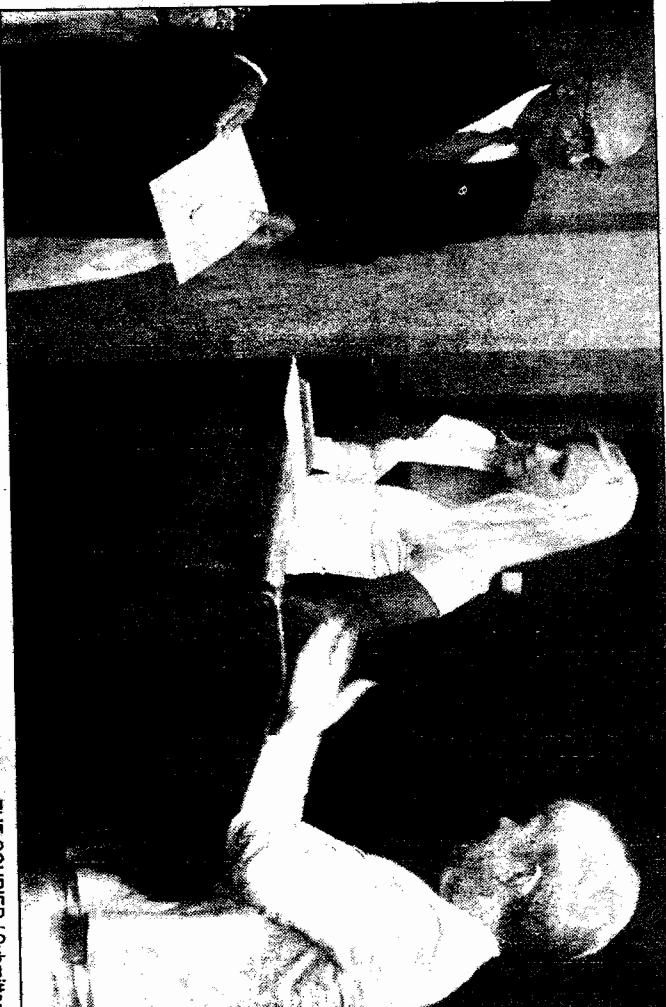
**Application Deadline: April 26, 2007**

If you have questions, please contact Donna Pratt in the Development Office at (479) 968-0400.



Tuesday, July 31, 2007

## Thurmann receives scholarship



THE COURIER / Submitted

Marti Wilkerson (right), associate professor of rehabilitation science at Arkansas Tech University, introduces Lou Vitale, programs coordinator of ARVAC Inc./Freedom House, and Lindsey Thurmann, a senior at Tech majoring in sociology. Thurmann was the recipient of a \$3,500 Behavioral Science Research Scholarship, which was made available to students majoring in psychology, sociology or rehabilitation science. The presentation was made at the River Valley Methamphetamine Project General Breakfast Meeting held June 27.

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Sunday, July 15, 2007

## Scholarship recipient



THE COURIER / Submitted

Lou Vitale, Programs Coordinator of ARVAC Inc./Freedom House, presents Lindsey Thurmann, a senior sociology major at Arkansas Tech University, with a \$3,500 Behavioral Science Research Scholarship, at the River Valley Methamphetamine Project general breakfast meeting June 27. The scholarship is for students majoring in psychology, sociology or rehabilitation science.

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# **Appendix D5**

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## **Substance Abuse Hotline Protocol**



## **PROTOCOL SUBSTANCE ABUSE HOTLINE**

- **When a person calls Freedom House in need of help, the first thing they are asked is where they are from. We then assess what they have been using, how much and how often. Once it is determined that they are in need of help, we will bring them in for observational detoxification if a bed is available. If a bed is not available in our observational detoxification, then the following steps are taken.**
  - 1. They may be instructed to contact their personal physician or instructed to go to their local emergency room for medical detoxification.**
  - 2. If it is determined that they do not need medical detoxification or observational detoxification, they are then given a list of AA/NA meetings that are in their area.**
  - 3. They are then informed of the programs that are offered at Freedom House; Residential Treatment is a 45-Day Program, and Outpatient Treatment is 16 weeks.**
  - 4. If the individual does not live in our six (6) county catchment area, (Johnson, Pope, Yell, Conway, Faulkner, Perry) they will be given the numbers of Treatment Facilities that are located in the area in which they live.**

# **Appendix E**

## **Frequency Tables**

## Frequency Table

### How difficult or easy would it be to get Marijuana

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	I wouldn't know how to get this	294	40.4	42.5	42.5
	Very Difficult	12	1.7	1.7	44.2
	Somewhat Difficult	41	5.6	5.9	50.1
	Somewhat Easy	142	19.5	20.5	70.7
	Very Easy	203	27.9	29.3	100.0
	Total	692	95.2	100.0	
Missing	9.00	1	.1		
	System	34	4.7		
	Total	35	4.8		
Total		727	100.0		

### How difficult or easy would it be to get Methamphetamine

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	I wouldn't know how to get this	363	49.9	52.6	52.6
	Very Difficult	12	1.7	1.7	54.3
	Somewhat Difficult	54	7.4	7.8	62.2
	Somewhat Easy	115	15.8	16.7	78.8
	Very Easy	146	20.1	21.2	100.0
	Total	690	94.9	100.0	
Missing	9.00	1	.1		
	System	36	5.0		
	Total	37	5.1		
Total		727	100.0		

### How difficult or easy would it be to get Ecstasy

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	I wouldn't know how to get this	424	58.3	61.7	61.7
	Very Difficult	37	5.1	5.4	67.1
	Somewhat Difficult	84	11.6	12.2	79.3
	Somewhat Easy	83	11.4	12.1	91.4
	Very Easy	59	8.1	8.6	100.0
	Total	687	94.5	100.0	
Missing	9.00	1	.1		
	System	39	5.4		
	Total	40	5.5		
Total		727	100.0		