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ACROSS OUR DESKS TO YOURS

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Full PSA ready to be distributed is now available through the IPRC. See our "No alcohol, no regrets!" PSA campaign at:

www.drugs.indiana.edu/hottopics/mattes/index.html

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Striving for health excellence in rural Indiana

Desiree Goetze, MPH, CPP, Jennifer Hoffman, B.S. and Nicole Smith, B.S.

The Indiana Rural Health Association (IRHA) held its *3rd Annual Public Policy Forum* on February 1st in Indianapolis. The organization which, focuses on enhancing the health and well-being of rural populations in Indiana through leadership, education, advocacy and collaboration, accomplished its mission by bringing together prevention professionals, legislators, medical personnel, and business leaders for this forum.

John Viernes, Deputy Director, Office of Addiction Treatment, Drug Prevention and Disaster Management for the Indiana Family Social Services Administration, delivered a dynamic presentation on methamphetamine use. Detective Greg Ferency and Sergeant David Phelps, Indiana State Police, further addressed the impact methamphetamine manufacturing and abuse has on Vigo County and the state correctional facilities, as well as the state judicial system. Heartfelt stories were shared regarding the devastating effects of methamphetamine abuse not only for the abuser, but those living in the individual home and the entire community. Methamphetamine labs cause both an immediate health threat and a costly long term environmental hazard requiring expert clean up and disposal.

After a brief visit by Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman, the forum spoke to the changes for Medicare and Medicaid. IRHA partnered with its parent association, the National Rural Health Association (NRHA), to present helpful information for health providers affected by the new Medicare reform actions. The new Medicare Advantage Plan rules have created much confusion among participants and providers, therefore limiting the initiatives impact. IRHA, worked to inform its membership of guiding resources available to instruct them on measures that will improve the delivery of services for rural Hoosiers. Greg Chesmore and Christine Davison from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services were there to provide information on the changes to access to care highlighting the Medicare prescription drug act and national critical access hospital programs.

The IRHA annual conference will be held in French Lick June 8 – 10. For more information visit their website at: www.ruralhealth.org.

March Events

March 10—12
Spirituality and Addiction in Terre Haute, IN. Dr. Tom Johnson will discuss the interplay between spirituality/ religiousness and prevention and treatment of substance abuse and other addictive disorders. Visit http://www.indstate.edu/psych/cshrs/.

March 21
The Breakthrough Strategies to Teach and Counsel Troubled Youth Conference, sponsored by Youth Change Workshops, will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio. For more information, go to www.youthchg.com.

March 21—24
The Weed and Seed grant workshop will be held March 21-24 in Atlanta, GA. Please visit http://www.tech-res-intl.com/ccdo/ for more information.

New PrevAlert on Inhalants!

http://www.drugs.indiana.edu/hottopics/prevalerts/pdfs/PrevAlert-Inhalant-March-2005.pdf