

Guymon Daily Herald

In the Dark

By JAMES PIERCE & MIRANDA GILBERT

Jan 14, 2009---Prevention is the objective. Saving our youth by educating the public on methamphetamine's harsh grip before it's too late was the idea behind Governor Henry and First Lady Kim Henry's efforts for their most recent campaign.

The title, "Crystal Darkness: Meth's Deadly Assault on Our Youth", says it all. A 28 minute program aired across the state showed young men and women in Oklahoma who were slaves to the drug, some in prison, some recovering. It also showed how meth's addiction hurts even those who don't use, be it kids with addicted parents or one mother who's son killed himself saying the fight was just too much.

It also illustrated that all socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds are vulnerable to the drug. Sheriff Rick Caddell, Chief of Police Eddie Adamson, Law Enforcement Chaplin Tim Brittain, Okla. Bureau of Narcotics Captain LaDon Johnson and the Chief of Police for Guymon Public Schools Reed Barby made up the expert panel for the open forum following the Crystal Darkness presentation at the High School.

Law Enforcement officials fielded questions from the public and media about how Meth has affected the Panhandle. Schools, churches and civic organizations all across Oklahoma tuned in for the presentation of Crystal Darkness on OETA and state news channels.

Oklahoma is one of several states to take part in the effort which began in 2007. For more information or help to get away from the drug, visit www.crystaldarkness.com.

Source: Guymon Daily Herald

KFDX News 3

Crystal Darkness: Enlightening Oklahoma

Reported by Ann Arnold

Jan 13 2008 ---Oklahoma television stations aired a 30 minute documentary about the harmful effect of crystal Meth.

Officials are hoping the film will have a positive affect on family members of addicts and the addicts themselves. The film is called Crystal Darkness, and officials hope it will shed light on the deadly consequences of Crystal Meth.

Comanche County Sheriff Kenny Stradley says, "Stand by, it's on the move."

Officials say Meth addiction is one of the biggest problems in the state of Oklahoma, and Comanche County officials say it's quickly spread through their community.

Edwina Reddick is a Call Center Coordinator at 211. She says, "This is a problem that has really plagued our community. It affects family members, it affects our children.

The goal of the movie according Stradley, "Prevention, keeping people from wanting to get on it. It's also to get help to people that are on it."

More than 300 watch parties took place across the state including this one at First Baptist Church in Lawton. More than 120 people attended this event, and the church held a panel discussion afterward.

Michelle Woodall watched the film and says, "You see so much in the news. You see so much in life of how devastating this is. I don't see how anyone can watch this, how they can see that and still choose to go down that road."

The film encouraged people to call 211 if they have a problem with Meth or know someone suffering from addiction. United Way of Lawton had 10 people standing by, including mental health experts and drug addiction specialists to help those calling in.

Reddick says, "We're just really hoping people will call in that need help and as a call center we'll point them in the right direction."

United Way officials say they are ready to help out anyone on the line.

Reddick says, "To me it's important that we do something as a community because it is a community problem."

Officials with the United Way in Lawton say if you know someone who needs help with a Meth addiction. If you need help call 211 right now. There are addiction counselors standing by to help you right now.

Source: KFDX News 3 in Wichita Falls, Texas

KOCO

'Crystal Darkness' To Re-Air On KOCO Saturday

Documentary About Perils Of Crystal Meth To Air At 11:30 A.M.

Jan 15, 2009

OKLAHOMA CITY -- An Oklahoma documentary on the perils of crystal meth will re-air on KOCO on Saturday at 11:30 a.m.

"Crystal Darkness" aired Tuesday night as part of a statewide anti-meth campaign. Organizers said the idea behind the campaign is to educate the public about the crippling effects of the drug.

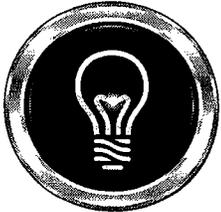
Authorities are hoping the airing of "Crystal Darkness" on Oklahoma television stations Tuesday night will reduce demand for methamphetamine. The number of meth labs in Oklahoma fell after a law regulated the sale of a key ingredient, but demand for the drug remains high.

Source: KOCO in Oklahoma City

Prevention Power

NAIC Prevention Services

Crystal Darkness Watch Party



On Tuesday, January 13, Noble parents, teachers, community members and leaders filled the cafeteria of the Curtis Inge Middle School to lead the fight against methamphetamine usage in the Noble Community. The event that brought all of these groups together was the states Crystal Darkness campaign. Crystal Darkness was the name given to the event that began in Nevada in January of 2007. The documentary aired as a road-block, a term given to a program that airs simultaneously on all

of the local television stations. On January 13, 2009, Oklahoma became the 12th state (including areas of Mexico) to broadcast this awareness documentary on its local television stations. Watch parties occurred in communities across Oklahoma sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

Those who gathered at the Noble watch party were provided with refreshments and fun incentives including stress reliever brains and light bulbs to encourage smart thinking within the community as well as life. After the viewing of the documentary at 6:30 pm, a panel formed consisting of two members of the Noble Police Department, the Middle School Principle, and representatives from Norman Addiction Information and Counseling, Office of Juvenile Affairs, Parents Helping Parents, and Crossroads Youth and Family Services. The panel took questions from concerned parents and other community members including questions on how to tell and what to do if a neighbor is involved in methamphetamines and how to deal with youth that might be involved with the drug. The panel was very informative and brought about several different perspectives from the community.

"The involvement of the community in this event shows that Noble citizens are concerned for their community and would like to see more action being taken to obtain to best environment possible for the growing community," expresses NAIC Prevention Specialist Julie Carroll, "I am very excited to see this amount of involvement from this community".

For more information about the Crystal Darkness Campaign, visit www.crystaldarknessoklahoma.org

Community Service Opportunity for Local Youth

Norman Addiction Information & Counseling (NAIC), a United Way Agency, is hosting tobacco compliance check training, along with reward/reminder visits on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 from 4:00pm - 6:30pm. Food and drinks will be provided.

This is a great opportunity for students to receive community service hours, volunteer work, or to just lend a hand in their community. Each volunteer will receive a certificate that documents volunteer hours.

Compliance checks are to remind store clerks not to sell tobacco products to people under the legal age limit of 18. A minor will go into the store with an adult close by. The student will then try to purchase a tobacco product. If the store clerk does not sell to the minor, they are given a reward card. If the store clerk tries to sell the tobacco product to the minor, a reminder card is issued. An actual sales transaction never takes place. Compliance checks in conjunction with comprehensive community efforts can dramatically reduce illegal sales to minors.

Participants need to be in 9th-12th grades and must have a signed consent form. Adults who would like to help transport students to and from retail stores are also needed.

For more information, contact Sara Raney at NAIC, 321-0022 or sraney@naichelp.org

Winter
2009

Visit us at our web
site:
www.naichelp.org

Email us at:
prevention@naichelp.org

The Daily Oklahoman

Calls pour in from Oklahoma drug documentary

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Published: January 15, 2009

Tuesday's showing of the documentary "Crystal Darkness" brought in about 750 calls to Oklahoma hot lines, state 2-1-1 Director Lori Linstead said.

How does that compare to other states during similar campaigns?

"Oklahoma was right there with the national average, which is phenomenal," she said Wednesday. "We're still tracking our data and will track for another seven days. We feel there were so many people at watch parties last night, that we will get calls in the days to come as people have time to think about it and then reach out for the services in their community."

The documentary is the first phase of the Crystal Darkness Oklahoma campaign, sponsored by a statewide coalition of government agencies, citizens and volunteers working to eradicate methamphetamine in Oklahoma.

Drug recovery and prevention experts, law enforcement officers and volunteers staffed phone lines, along with 2-1-1 referral specialists. One call made to the 2-1-1 phone line can put a caller in touch with any local community service needed — whether public or private. The free call ensures a caller can reach a specialist for a referral 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Gov. Brad Henry speaks Tuesday during a watch party for "Crystal Darkness." Photo By John Clanton, The Oklahoman

TAHLEQUAH DAILY PRESS

'Crystal Darkness'

By Josh Newton

A documentary about Oklahoma's meth problem has the community talking about the drug and how to combat it.

Jan 14, 2008 -- As methamphetamine threatens to tear apart more and more families, Oklahomans are banding together to stop what some consider America's biggest social problem.

Local TV stations presented a 30-minute documentary Tuesday night titled "Crystal Darkness: Meth's Deadly Assault on our Youth." Childhelp Crystal Darkness Co-chairs Wes Lane and Oklahoma First Lady Kim Henry say Oklahomans have never before been as mobilized to fight a single issue.

Henry called meth "a drug like no other drug we've seen." Others involved in the fight against meth – including former addicts, family members of addicts, law enforcement officials and rehabilitation officials – repeatedly affirmed there is no "one time" for meth use: It's a very addictive drug.

"One of the things about methamphetamine I've seen is that it rips the soul out of a person," said Jim Schmit, program director for Clay Crossing, which provides treatment for drug and alcohol addicts. "When you look in their eyes, it's not there." An undercover agent with the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics told viewers how dangerous the meth world is.

"I consider it to be like the dark side," he said.

Cherokee County residents visited a number of local watch parties Tuesday night for the documentary showing, including three locations at NSU; one at Kid Connections Inc.; and one at Hope House of Cherokee County. Cherokee Nation also sponsored watch parties within its 14-county jurisdiction.

"We felt that because the age population we see is often affected by meth – families, or personally – this would be a great community event," said Libby Rogers, nurse practitioner at NSU.

As with other watch parties around the state, the floor was opened for questions and conversation about meth following the documentary. Rogers led one discussion, while a student who had a personal experience with meth led another, and a representative of the OBN led the third.

"We want to stress the ability [of students] to protect themselves, prevent and report meth addiction," said Rogers. "We want to raise awareness."

Hope House Director Laura Garner invited Cherokee County sheriff's investigator Becky Thompson to lead the watch party for the agency's former clients.

"This issue can also lead to homelessness," said Garner. "We want to bring out the local aspect of meth, like what to look for. Hopefully, if we save just one, this would all be worth it. We can lead them to the water and hope they soak it in."

At Kid Connections, Lana McClain, of Cherokee Nation Indian Child Welfare service, talked with those in attendance.

"The forms of meth are always changing," she said.

She talked about paranoia – one of the effects of meth – and how many users, prior to the documentary, had been worried the 2-1-1 phone number offered as an assistance line was really a "trap" to help catch meth users and send them to jail.

"Victoria," a former meth user, talked on the documentary about trying meth for the first time at age 12. "I had to fight to survive, and I thought the only way to survive was to get high," she said.

She said that in the world of meth and drugs, "you really have no friends." She explained she had been raped by a man she thought she could trust, whom she had once looked up to.

One man talked about a mom who was so high on meth, she fell asleep on a couch and never heard her baby's scream after its walker had become trapped on a floor furnace. The baby burned to death, and the mother never awoke.

The drug was described in many terms, like "evil" or the "greatest hometown terrorist." Officials talked of how meth has become "an American Indian problem."

One man related how he thought, while on meth, that he was living, but "I was actually dying."

Meth initially brings on an intense rush, a "high" that can last many hours, keeping users awake for days at a time. Dopamine creates an intense pleasure, but also destroys the brain's pleasure receptors. As they shut down, users become addicted, thinking more meth will help bring back that pleasure, but it ultimately leads to depression and despair, among a host of deadly health problems.

Meth is an addictive central nervous system stimulant that can take the form of crystals or powder in white, yellow brown or pink hues. Short-term effects include high agitation and violence, wakefulness and insomnia, decreased appetite, irritability, anxiety, nervousness and convulsions. Long-term effects may be increased tolerance, hallucinations, delusions of parasites or insects crawling under the skin, stroke or heart attack.

Addicts have often cut themselves, believing they had bugs or insects beneath their skin. One man talked of being 50 years old, but having the body of an 80-year-old. Others talked of how the meth world was connected to forms of prostitution, and how far addicts will go, and what things they will do, for their next hit.

A mom talked about her son's last words to her: "I can't go on. I love you." He then used a phone cord to hang himself before anyone could get to him.

Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmondson encouraged parents to take initiatives in fighting meth and keeping it away from children. He said parents should be able to spot indications of meth use and know how to intervene.

Others urged parents not to be afraid to look in their children's' rooms or cars, and to pay attention when he or she is hiding text messages, having hygiene issues, dropping weight or losing appetites.

There was also a push for more churches and organizations to take a place in the war and promise to fight it all the way. "It can be done," Henry said.

And viewers also learned how, if they are addicted to meth, they can seek help via the service known as 2-1-1.

"Meth is absolutely treatable," one person said before urging people to make the effort and seek help. "There's no such thing as just one time."

Learn more

If you need assistance in breaking a meth addiction, call Oklahoma's 2-1-1 service, or call the Meth Hotline at 888-METH-AID. To learn more about the Crystal Darkness program, log on to **www.crystaldarknessoklahoma.org**.

Source: Tahlequah Daily Press

The Tulsa World

Event shows meth's link to crime, ruined lives

by: MATT BARNARD World Staff Writer

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

A statewide anti-drug effort reached its peak Tuesday evening when television stations across Oklahoma simultaneously aired a documentary on one of the region's most-used illegal substances.

The 30-minute special was part of a greater effort to fight meth abuse and featured interviews with former drug users, addiction specialists and law enforcement officials.

During the 6:30 p.m. screening of "Crystal Darkness," images of corroded teeth, gaunt faces and open sores known as "crank craters" towered above an audience of about 100 at Tulsa Youth Services, 311 S. Madison Ave., where a watch party preceded a panel discussion about meth and its effects.

"It's very wrapped up in some of the crime problems we have," said Wendy Thomas, who promoted the event. "We have the opportunity to stop (people) from going to this drug, which completely changes the brain and body chemistry."

The special included tear-jerking accounts of meth abuse from social workers and paramedics who have treated addicts.

Russell Davis, who lives near Kellyville, told the Tulsa World in an interview Monday that he has been clean for almost a decade after years of off-and-on meth use.

The former medical equipment salesman started using "speed" after taking prescription stimulants to lose weight, he said. The habit eventually cost him his job and his home in Tulsa and led to a bitter divorce and run-ins with the law.

Daily injections consumed the now 51-year-old's life and fueled weeklong binges spent like a videotape played in fast-forward, Davis said.

"You get such an adrenaline rush that you have to start counting backwards to catch your breath," Davis said. "You can hear your neighbors cooking breakfast. Everything is so magnified and intense."

Speed was cheap and easy to find since it could be produced almost anywhere in clandestine labs, he said.

"On every back street, there was somebody cooking meth somewhere," Davis said.

He broke the drug's grip only after his new wife threatened to leave him, he said.

Oklahoma's meth production has plummeted since 2004, when lawmakers tightened sales of a key ingredient in its creation. But abuse of the drug remains high as out-of-state suppliers funnel the substance into Oklahoma to meet demand, authorities say.

"To say that the meth problem is an epidemic is a dramatic understatement," Gov. Brad Henry said on the television special.

The prevention program was spearheaded by first lady Kim Henry and former Oklahoma County District Attorney Wes Lane. The video was based on a wider, nationwide anti-meth campaign but was tailored for an Oklahoma audience, Thomas said.

Organizers hope the film will reach young people before they experiment with the drug, Thomas said, adding that Oklahomans are almost 40 percent more likely to try meth than people living in other states.

Number of meth labs investigated annually by Tulsa police

2008.....	42
2007	15
2006.....	56
2005.....	51
2004.....	131
2003.....	214
2002.....	178
2001.....	122