

**Presentation to the Governor's Methamphetamine Task Force  
Next Steps and Recommendations for Prevention in Nevada  
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Attorney General Masto and members of the Task Force, my name is Kevin Quint. I serve as the Executive Director of Join Together Northern Nevada, a community based substance abuse prevention coalition located in Washoe County. Today, my role is "following up the rear," so to speak by providing some thoughts to you on next steps and recommendations for prevention in Nevada.

Right now, Nevada has an unprecedented opportunity through increased funding for prevention. We not only have the \$7.3 million for the biennium that was allocated in the last Legislative Session, there are new federal grants through SAPTA that are infusing dollars into our prevention system locally and statewide. In addition, the attention given to methamphetamine has actually raised our awareness about other drugs of abuse, which has greatly increased our ability in the field to attract other resources.

This scenario of increased funding presents all of us the chance to look at prevention from a global perspective, not just, "How do we fund this?" or "How do we fund that?" With that thought in mind, we (i.e. the coalitions) would like to offer you next steps and recommendations for prevention in Nevada.

- Fund prevention adequately. This recommendation includes prevention programming and coalition infrastructure. However, prevention programming and coalitions should not be funded at the expense of treatment and treatment should not be funded at the expense of prevention. The question is not whether treatment or prevention should get the money. The question is how much does prevention need and how much does treatment need to do their job properly?
- Utilize the coalitions to make prevention decisions on the local level. At this time, SAPTA has vested the coalitions with the responsibility of mobilizing their communities to make prevention funding decisions by a local decision making process based on local data. This makes for stronger local prevention.
- Continue to support the coalitions in concept. The 13 coalitions in Nevada have proven to be ready, willing, and able to mobilize their respective communities and collectively the state on important issues such as methamphetamine. That has happened because we listen to our communities, realizing that the local people are often moving on issues before anyone else at the state or national level. To give you a picture of the role of the coalitions in the prevention infrastructure, the prevention programs and associated agencies and people are the bricks and the coalitions are the mortar.
- Insure that all prevention strategies that are funded are broad based, cover multiple drugs, and are available to the community. In our business, we talk about "multiple strategies across multiple sectors." This simply means that we understand that the problem is not just about methamphetamine. For example, preventing alcohol use in pre-teens can result in preventing methamphetamine use as a teen or young adult.

- Support substance abuse training opportunities for all sectors. This includes judges, first responders, educators, law enforcement, social workers, and more. The more these groups of professionals know about substance abuse issues, the better they can do their job.
- Support prevention workforce development. Prevention workers often earn very low pay and have subpar benefits. In addition, there is no Prevention Certification in Nevada. While a mandatory certification is not part of our recommendation, we believe that Nevada should investigate the options available to develop the prevention field into an occupation worthy of recognition.
- Insure that data is available and accessible to the public. So often data is collected and not used. Barriers to releasing useful state level information and data need to be identified and eradicated. The prevention field has become a data driven enterprise. Without the information, programs and other community efforts cannot be properly targeted, utilized, or evaluated.
- Facilitate an analysis of all systems related to prevention. This recommendation has to do with evaluating what is in the community, what gaps and overlaps exist, and whether prevention efforts are data driven and, hence, strategically driven.

We thank you for listening to us throughout this whole process. We look forward to a continuing dialogue on this topic. Finally, we look forward to the future of prevention. Part of our optimism is based in the increase of funding. But ultimately, our optimism is based in the fact that policy makers, funders, community leaders, statewide leaders, and more are listening and learning about prevention. We know from various studies that prevention efforts when organized and carried out thoughtfully and carefully, are effective. So, the overarching principle I'd like to leave you with is that we take the opportunity before us to develop a thoughtful, comprehensive, and strategically executed system of prevention programming undergirded by a strong coalition infrastructure.

Thank you for your time today. I'd be happy to answer any questions.