



Prairie View

For Immediate Release

Prairie View, Inc. – 1901 E. First St. – Newton, KS 67114

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Prairie View to Sponsor “What’s Happening to Our Kids in Kansas?” Part IV

Newton, Kan. – In reaction to the increasing number of drug endangered youth across Kansas, Prairie View will sponsor a two day conference, “What’s Happening to Our Kids in Kansas?” Part IV, Oct. 29 and 30 in McPherson and Hutchinson, respectively. Commander Lori Moriarty (retired), executive director National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (NADEC), will be the featured speaker.

Moriarty will provide research-based medical information on the emotional and physical harm done to children from meth-addicted families, as well as solutions for involvement to help Kansas children.

Moriarty has educated national audiences about this issue on ABC News, Fox National News, MSNBC, National Public Radio, Colorado Public Radio and PBS. She has trained thousands of professionals across the nation on methamphetamine lab awareness and the drug endangered children efforts.

The conference will have three primary learning objectives:

- Raise awareness of endangered children so that professions interacting with these individuals recognize the need to facilitate multi-disciplinary, coordinated responses to better meet the needs of these children
- Describe the opportunities to identify children living in dangerous environments and encouraging early intervention to reduce physical and psychological harm
- Review multi-disciplinary response which considers the limited and unique resources within a community and how those can be applied to give harmed children better care.

The introductory speaker for the event is Senate Majority Leader Derek Schmidt. He is chairman of the Confirmation Oversight Committee and vice-chairman of the Assessment & Taxation Committee, the Judiciary Committee and the Organization, Calendar and Rules Committee. He also serves on the watchdog Legislative Post Audit Committee and the Interstate Cooperation Committee.

Schmidt will discuss issues related to current budget deficits and the long term costs and consequences to Kansas and its citizens of reduced funding for substance abuse treatment and law enforcement.

Reno County Deputy District Attorney Thomas Stanton will also be present. Stanton is a member of the Kansas Methamphetamine Advisory Council and received the Governor's Certificate of Recognition in the Fight against Illegal Drugs in Kansas in 1997 and the Outstanding Drug Endangered Children Leadership Award in 2006.

To kick off the conference, a free public educational event will be held in McPherson the evening of Oct. 29 at Countryside Covenant Church, 940 E. Northview. Registration will begin at 4:30 p.m. Continuing education certificates may be purchased for \$30.

"Drug Endangered Children: Bringing Disciplines Together" will be held at the Grand Prairie Hotel, 1400 N. Lorraine, Hutchinson, on Oct. 30. Registration for the day-long program will begin at 8 a.m. The cost to attend is \$60. Lunch may also be pre-purchased for \$10. Payment is due by Oct. 19.

Mail registration information to: Prairie View, Attn.: Cindy Wright, 2 E. Second Ave. Suite 200, Hutchinson, KS 67502-4864. Information may also be faxed to 620-662-4700, e-mailed to wrightca@pvi.org or given over the phone at 620-662-4700.

Prairie View is a faith-based, private behavioral and mental health services provider, offering a complete range of behavioral and psychiatric services for children, adolescents, adults and older adults, as well as consultation services to businesses and organizations. In addition to the main campus, including outpatient offices and a psychiatric hospital in Newton, Prairie View has outpatient locations in Hillsboro, Hutchinson, McPherson and Wichita.