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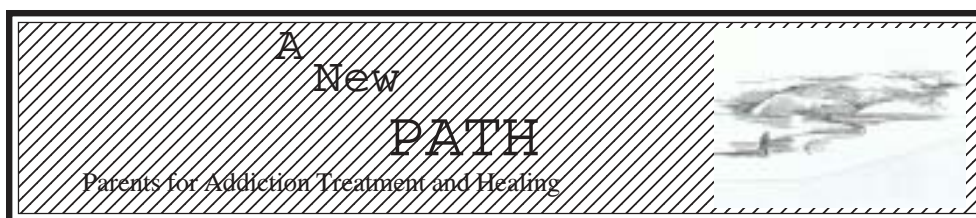
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Vol XV April 2004

**President's
Message**

by Caroline Stewart

I would like to bring your attention to a ground breaking conference that recently took place at the San Diego Hilton: Demystifying Harm Reduction: social, political and clinical implications for abstinence based treatment.

Ethan Nadelmann, Director of the Drug Policy Alliance and Patt Denning, Ph.D., a national expert on the use of harm reduction in psychotherapy, joined together in an educational program sponsored by the San Diego chapter of the National Council of Alcohol and Drug Dependence (NCADD) and Parents for Addiction Treatment and Healing (A New PATH) to discuss the cutting edge topic of "harm reduction."

What is harm reduction? Essentially, it is a clinical philosophy about drug and alcohol treatment that argues that substance abuse is a disease in no way different from other medical diseases. The "harm reductionists" believe that active symptoms are a normal part of any disease process. For the substance-abusing patient, relapse and illness are synonymous.

Nadelmann and Denning support government policies and clinical practice that challenge the idea that drug and alcohol abuse is a manifestation of character weakness. Dr. Denning goes so far as to permit patients who are "high" to attend therapy sessions believing that some intervention is preferable to no intervention at all.

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**Executive Director's
Message**

by Gretchen Burns Bergman

A New PATH is celebrating its 5th year anniversary this April! It is amazing to look back and realize all that has been accomplished over this time period and to remember all of the wonderful people who have given so generously to our cause.

A New PATH began when a small group of people got together to try to change laws and policies in regards to substance abusers. As parents of young adults who struggled with the disease of addiction, we felt that we had first-hand knowledge of both the disease and the useless and damaging effects to the individual of punitive measures and incarceration.

Because our children were no longer adolescents, we felt that people weren't interested in what we had to say. It seemed as if society had actually begun to blame us. And, yet, we were living with the consequences of the disease daily and had perspectives and insights that could be valuable in finding positive solutions.

Prevention is a popular concept, but when a person has been struggling with their addiction into adulthood, society tends to turn away in fear and disgust. There were so many misconceptions about substance abuse that we decided to reclaim our voice. We had a vision of therapeutic justice, so we began to create a PATH that would lead to saving lives, healing families and building healthier communities.

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Path Welcomes Your Involvement

In 2004 PATH will hold quarterly educational speaker meetings. Our next General meeting will be held on June 8th, 2004 at 7pm at Alvarado Parkway Institute, 7050 Parkway Drive in La Mesa (619-465-4411). We invite you to attend and to get more involved in our many projects to reduce the stigma of the disease of addiction and to increase substance abuse treatment options. For information call: 619-670-1184.

Schedule of General Meetings:

June 8, 2004
September 14, 2004
December 14, 2004

SAVE THIS DATE

A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing) and The Mental Health Association (MHA) are proud to announce the fifth annual gala event

It Takes a Community...
Saturday evening, September 18, 2004
at the Wyndham Emerald Plaza Hotel

Please be a part of our San Diego Community that makes a difference in the lives of those of us who are in need of support, guidance and treatment.

Community leaders and celebrities will be honored for their contributions toward reducing the stigma of addiction and mental illness.

Tickets: \$125 or \$1250 for Gold Table of 10
For more information please call: 619-543-0412 or 619-670-1184 or E-mail anewpath@cox.net

Resource Information:

A New PATH: 619-670-1184
AA Hotline: 619-265-8762
Alanon, Alateen: 619-296-2666
Naranon: 858-492-8720
NA Hotline: 619-584-1007
Central Public Defender: 619-338-4700
Juvenile Hall: 858-694-4500
Las Colinas Jail (women): 619-258-3176
Mental Health Assoc.: 619-543-0412
Probation: 619-515-8202
SD County Jail (men): 619-615-2808
SD Superior Court Central: 619-531-4420
SD County Alcohol & Drug Service Info. & Referral: 619-692-5727
Teen Drug Screen, Palmerado E.D., 858-694-8497

A New PATH 2003 Committees

Please help us move forward with our goals by joining one of our committees:

- ◆ Legislative & Prison Reform
- ◆ PR & Publicity
- ◆ Membership
- ◆ Education & Recovery
- ◆ Demand Treatment!
- ◆ It Takes a Community
- ◆ Fundraising

Contact the office at 619-670-1184 or email anewpath@cox.net to join a committee.

Our Board of Directors meets monthly on the second Tuesday of each month at 6pm. Please let us know if you are interested in attending or if you would like to serve as a member of the Board of Directors in the future: 619-670-1184.

Please Help Support Our Cause by
Purchasing:

PATH T-shirts \$10
Resource Guides \$10
Musical Gift to Recovery CD's \$20
PATH License Plate Holders \$5
2004 Recovery Calendars \$15
Cassette of Ethan Nadelmann speech
at February Harm Reduction Conference - \$10

through our office: 619-670-1184
or email: anewpath@cox.net.

If you would like us to mail any of these items to you, please add \$4.

A New PATH newsletter is published quarterly by the Parents for Addiction Treatment and Healing non-profit organization.

Gretchen Burns Bergman, Managing Editor
Jan Roach, Editor and Designer

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Self-Reflection Garden at Donovan State Prison - History of Project

In 2002, Gretchen Burns Bergman visited Donovan State Prison with David Beck-Brown, and spoke to the inmate participants in the Amity Program. She asked one of the men how they could recover in an environment of cement and barbed wire, violence and anger. He responded that it is difficult, and said that "if you treat people like animals, they begin to act like animals".

He mentioned they once had a garden, but it was removed when an inmate escaped a few years prior. After seeing the small, cold cells that inmates spend so much of their lives locked up in, she realized that without hope, it is almost impossible for an individual to begin the journey towards change and sobriety.

A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing) does ongoing advocacy work to expand substance abuse treatment opportunities behind bars (as well as in the community). A few years ago Donovan State Prison only had 200 slots in the Amity program for people who sought treatment for addiction. The Hope program was added, bringing 200 more slots, but the need was much greater than that. 85% of people behind bars are there for alcohol and drug-related reasons. Donovan State Prison houses approximately 4500 inmates.

The concept of the Self-Reflection Garden sprang up as a first step to expanding addiction treatment and services in prison, and to give a sense of hope and empowerment to people whose lives are being wasted behind bars. Sylvia Liwerant and Gretchen Burns Bergman met with Warden Hernandez in January 2003 and were granted permission to begin the project. Peter Jensen, Undersecretary of the Youth and Adult Correctional Agency, also gave his endorsement of the project.

Charity Does Begin At Home!

The Sharing Advantage program of Wells Fargo Home Mortgage lets supporters of A New Path realize their dream of owning a home while providing a valuable service to the community. When you purchase or refinance a home through this program, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage will make a contribution in your name to *A NEW PATH*.

Wells Fargo Home Mortgage provides the opportunity to talk with a Home Mortgage Consultant to determine financing options. Credit analysis and credit counseling are free. After the loan has closed, The Wells Fargo Housing Foundation will process a \$300 check to *A NEW PATH*. For more information on how you and A New Path can benefit from the Sharing Advantage program, call Norma Stafford, Home Mortgage Consultant, at 619-337-2900 x 56, or toll-free at 800-996-8352 X56.

Beginning concept drawings were done by Laurie McLaughlin for the space provided in the Hope program in Yard 3. A committee was formed that included Caroline Stewart, Sylvia Liwerant, Mary Jo Grubbs, David Beck-Brown, and Leah Fine. County Supervisor Ron Roberts gave PATH a grant for the garden and other projects aimed at reducing the stigma of addiction in order to increase access to treatment, and a "Musical Gift to Recovery" fundraiser was held. With \$14,000 of grant money and an additional \$5,000 from the fundraiser, the seed money for the project was raised. PATH established the Ron Roberts Rehabilitation Fund for continuing donations.

Landscape architect Gary Stone was contacted in mid-2003, and he agreed to donate his talent to the project. He created a design that would instill hope and inspire self-reflection. In December 2003, Sylvia Liwerant and Gretchen Burns-Bergman presented the plans and the project to the inmates who will be involved in the planning and upkeep of the garden. The response was enthusiastic and up lifting.

On January 30, 2004 inmates broke ground on Phase I of the 2-phase project (the second phase will have a labyrinth and garden patches). Completion of Phase I is scheduled for early May and completion of the project is scheduled for July 2004.

For more information: A New PATH, 619-670-1184

We wish to give special thanks to these companies and individuals who have helped to make this project possible through their generous donations:

- > Supervisor Ron Roberts
- > Laurie McLaughlin
- > Landscape Architect Gary Stone
- > Manuel Silva & Associates
- > KRC Rock
- > Dixieline Lumber
- > The staff and inmates at Donovan State Prison

Practical Recovery Services

San Diego's only
harm reduction treatment center

CA Psychology Lic. PSY 7732

www.practicalrecovery.com
858-453-4777

CALIFORNA SCREENING, BRIEF INTERVENTION, REFERRAL AND TREATMENT (CASBIRT) PROGRAM

New Initiative to Expand Screening and Brief Intervention in California

California and San Diego County are embarking on an exciting new effort to increase the availability of treatment and access to substance abuse care. As part of a 7-state effort funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), California will expand the screening, brief intervention and referral services currently offered in health care agencies in San Diego.

Services will also be implemented in three other counties in the state. In addition, the scope of services will increase to include the development and implementation of brief treatment services for nondependent users. Methods to sustain the services beyond the grant period will also be developed.

The California Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral and Treatment (CASBIRT) Program focuses on delivering clinically appropriate treatment services within medical settings. The services are delivered on a large scale and are effective in reaching the 80% of the general population that has a medical contact each year.

These services make use of an innovative peer health educator model in which specially trained paraprofessionals routinely screen and deliver substance abuse prevention information to all patients as a standard of care. This effort has dramatically increased the number of San Diego residents who routinely receive substance abuse information within the medical setting. Screening, brief intervention, referral and treatment (SBIRT) services are also effective in reducing substance use. Evidence from San Diego's program shows that more than 50% of patients reduced their drinking to a low risk level following a screening and brief intervention delivered in a community clinic.

By routinely screening for substance use disorders in a medical setting, the CASBIRT Program is able to identify nondependent users who often do not perceive themselves as having a substance use problem and are not likely to either seek treatment services or be identified by current medical practices. However, they can reduce their use by receiving brief intervention and brief treatment, thereby reducing the individual consequences and social problems and costs associated with substance use. The first step to identifying these users is to routinely screen a very large number of patients and immediately deliver clinically appropriate brief interventions and treatment during their medical visit.

In addition to identifying nondependent users who would benefit from brief intervention and brief treatment, routine screening also identifies and refers dependent users who would benefit from more intensive, specialized treatment. Each patient's medical provider is also informed of the patient's substance use so that the provider has a full picture of the patient's health behaviors when making a diagnosis and determining treatment.

For more information about CASBIRT, contact Dennis Kelso, Project Director, at Altam Associates, Inc., dkelso@altamassociates.com.

Save A Date

A New PATH is pleased to invite you to an afternoon of Classical Latin American Music for One and Two Pianos

Featuring:

Anna Louisa de Vidales and Alfonso Vidales Flores

Playing music by Mexican composers Ricardo Castro, Manual M. Ponce & Alfredo Carrasco

Jesus Ramon Araiza

Playing music by Brazilian composer Ernesto Nazareth

Monique Kunewalder and Sylvia Liwerant

Playing music by Argentinean composers Astor Piazzola & Carlos Guastavino

Sunday, May 23, 2004 at 4:00PM

Greene Music Recital Hall
7480 Miramar Road, San Diego

Concert Followed by Reception

Ticket price: \$50

The proceeds of this special music performance will help to raise funds for A New PATH, whose projects for 2004 include the completion of the Self-Reflection Garden at Donovan State Prison, production of A Parent Survival Kit, and a Book Club for Women Inmates.

For ticket information please call A New PATH at 619-670-1184. **RSVP by May 14, 2004** as space is limited.

Recovery Events 2004

May 10: Opening of Phase I of Self-Reflection garden at Donovan State Prison

May 23: Afternoon of Classical Latin Music for One and Two Pianos – PATH fundraiser

June 4: Mental Health Recognition Dinner

June 26: Prop 36 Graduation Celebration, Balboa Park

September: National Alcohol & Drug Addiction Recovery Month

Sept. 18: It Takes a Community...Gala, presented by PATH & MHA

Oct. 21: Meeting of the Minds, Town & Country Hotel

From the Inside

with David Beck-Brown

A New Path is now a member of the Sacramento-based Coalition for Effective Public Safety. The coalition is composed of several organizations such as the Little Hoover Commission, Drug Policy Alliance, Families Against Mandatory Minimums, California Attorneys for Criminal Justice, Critical Resistance, as well as unions and faith based organizations. In March, A New Path Executive Director Gretchen Burns Bergman was introduced to the coalition by Prison Reformer and A New Path Board Member David Beck-Brown.

The Prison Education Reform Act (AB 1914 Montanez) has passed the Assembly Public Safety Committee. It's next stop is Assembly Appropriations. It is time to write letters urging this committee's support as a reform that has minimal costs and maximal payoffs in public savings and public safety. Please write letters to the Chair Judy Chu and the Vice Chair Sharon Runner. Make sure you cc Assemblymember Montanez.

If you are a constituent or have some other connection to any other members of the committee write them as well. Their names can be accessed by going to the website: www.prison-ed.org by clicking on Assembly Appropriations Committee in the descriptive letter on the opening page of the website. For those who have extensive e-mail lists, please forward this message.

In support of AB 1914 which mandates educational programs for California state prisons, the Assembly Public Safety Committee presented the following Letter to the Editor submitted to the Sacramento Bee:

New prisons chief faces tough task (March 21, 2004).

What happens in our prisons affects all Californians. Prison programs affect the attitudes and behavior of inmates who parole to our streets, rejoin our communities and live as our neighbors. These programs need protecting.

I work for the California Department of Corrections as a Bridging Artist/Teacher. Prior to last November, I coordinated up to a dozen professional artists in my position as an Institution Artist Facilitator. My department provided twenty-four hours of weekly face-to-face instruction to scores of inmates. We also were involved in several facility and community projects. All my Contract Artists have since been laid off. I now go into the inmate housing units alone to deliver cell-front instruction to 54 inmates in four prison yards. I see each inmate for a half hour a week. The maximum time they can be in the program is 120 days, totaling eight hours face to face instruction. That's it.

Believe it or not, this newly implemented Bridging Program has replaced the original Arts in Correction program which was documented to reduce inmate recidivism, inmate violence and the destruction of state property. Arts in Corrections made our prisons safer places for inmates and staff alike.

The past director, Edward S. Alameida, had a background in finance. He said he cut the Arts in Corrections program because (in his mind) it had little to do with incarceration. However, Arts in Corrections was documented to be a successful behavior-modification program that paid for itself. I hope that Jeanne Woodford, the new director of the California Department of Corrections, will see the value in programs like the old Arts in Corrections program.

Demystifying Harm Reduction: Social, Political & Clinical Implications for Abstinence Based Treatment

By Gretchen Burns Bergman

A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing) & NCADD-SD (National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of San Diego) collaborate to raise awareness concerning the devastation of The War on Drugs. On February 6, 2004 they presented a conference entitled "Demystifying Harm Reduction" in an effort to reduce the stigma of substance abuse and encourage open conversation on how harm reduction strategies can be used effectively to save lives and heal communities. The conference was presented to health care professionals, community leaders, health advocates, parents, concerned citizens, and individuals in recovery at the San Diego Hilton Hotel.

The high cost of the drug addiction and the misguided war on drugs is staggering. Twenty three million Americans suffer from substance abuse addiction. Untreated addiction costs America \$400 billion per year (Brandeis University Schneider Institute for Health Policy). Sharing of syringes is linked to 19% of all AIDS cases in California and 60% of all new cases of Hepatitis C.

Harm reduction is a public health philosophy that seeks to lessen the dangers that drug abuse and our drug policies have on society. As substance abuse continues to constitute our number one public health problem, it is essential that we examine a variety of options to address this problem.

Ethan Nadelmann, Executive Director of the Drug Policy Alliance, was the luncheon speaker. He gave a dynamic talk on the political and social considerations of harm reduction. Dr. Patt Denning, the Director of the Harm Reduction Psychotherapy Center, gave a workshop on the harm reduction approach to clinical practice, with the goal of helping clinicians understand and be able to implement harm reduction techniques as another tool in treating the chemically dependent person. Among the exhibitors were the Betty Ford Center, Scripps McDonald Center, UCSD Addiction Training Center, Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital, and the California Association of Drug and Alcohol Addiction Counselors.

Approximately 80 people who represented a variety of interests and backgrounds attended the conference. A New PATH and NCADD-SD had hoped that the topic would draw more people who would then continue the conversation, and they were optimistic that it would draw attention from the press. However, attendance was less than expected and the press stayed away. As Caroline Stewart, President of the Board of Directors of A New PATH stated, "Sadly, traditional drug and alcohol treatment has never drifted far from a moral order in which abstinence is the Holy Grail."

Ted Judson, President of the Board of NCADD-SD said, "There is a stigma in our own ranks very often regarding the topic of the conference." He feels that the information helps people to take "a hard and open, honest look at Harm Reduction and how it can be effectively used in conjunction with abstinence based treatment modalities."

The conference definitely stimulated debate and strong feelings. Most of the responses were highly favorable, however there were a few attendees who responded negatively and one individual even took the position that "drug abusers should be locked up". For too long substance abuse has been handled primarily as a criminal justice problem. With one in four deaths each year attributed to substance abuse, we can't afford not to look into harm reduction techniques and the possibility of new, positive solutions. One clinician stated that it had never occurred to him to treat someone who was still using. This was a new concept to him.

The major lesson learned is the need to continue to bring up the topic and motivate conversation in order to engage all of the major stakeholders in the quest for positive therapeutic answers. The results of the conference further emphasized the need to continue to educate the public as to the true nature of the disease of addiction and how much society is affected by it. Another issue demonstrated was the need to continue to approach the press for their partnership and collaboration in bringing this difficult topic into public focus.

Student Drug Testing

Though a long list of programs were cut from the federal budget this year, the Bush Administration has proposed expanding federal monies for school drug-testing programs more than tenfold, to \$23 million.

According to Newsweek Online, "This supposed suspicion-free drug testing- screening kids for drugs when they've done nothing to indicate they have a drug problem—remains highly controversial." According to Ethan Nadelmann, Executive Director of the Drug Policy Alliance, "What it does do is stigmatize innocent children, subjects them to acute embarrassment, and teaches them to distrust authority."

Despite overwhelming scientific evidence against student drug testing, the federal government has launched a series of summits, using our taxpayer dollars, to sell the idea of testing every schoolchild for drugs. A New PATH believes that drug testing all of our school children is bad policy. It does nothing to solve the growing problem of teen drug use and it promotes a dangerous philosophy of "guilty until proven innocent".

President's Message

Continued from page 1

This renegade clinical view is based on the premise that there is something redeemable in every human being and that the goal of ethical and humane treatment must always be to "stay alive for the cure." The bottom line of the harm reductionist adherents is that abstinence is always the ideal goal of treatment, but to deny patients treatment because they are not yet fully abstinent is to risk losing that individual, possibly forever.

Sadly, traditional drug and alcohol treatment has never drifted far from a moral order in which abstinence is the Holy Grail. For many of us who are parents of young adults struggling with the disease of addiction, our children are caught up in a system of all or nothing thinking in which treatment is denied or worse yet, incarceration is mandated because of failure of abstinence.

To borrow from Dr. Denning's presentation: would a psychiatrist treating a patient with schizophrenia ask that patient to leave treatment because he or she is still hearing voices? Would a physician discharge a diabetic client from treatment because the client's blood sugar levels were too high?

Unfortunately, patients in a majority of drug and alcohol treatment programs are often asked to leave when they are active in their addiction. Narrow views about abstinence find these treatment "rejects" back out on the street where they are warmly welcomed back into the open arms of their abusing comrades. Many of these individuals wind up in prison and jail for minor drug-related offences.

How many of our substance-abusing children, spouses and family members have been turned away from treatment because they continue to struggle with their symptoms? How many of our loved ones have rejected treatment because it resonates with shame, punishment and anticipated failure?

There are approximately 500,000 people currently incarcerated in American prisons because of non-violent drug offenses. Many of these offenders have been readmitted to jail for dirty drug screens involving no other criminal activity. A majority of these inmates receive no formal in-house treatment while incarcerated. Either we believe that drug and alcohol addiction is a disease or we believe it is the product of moral failure. We cannot have it both ways.

Harm reduction addiction specialists like Ethan Nadelmann and Dr. Patt Denning are on the right path. It is time to put drug and alcohol patients in the medical offices where they belong away from the streets and the prison yards.

**Alternative
News
Sources**

www.anewpath.cc
www.jointogether.org
www.narconews.com
www.drcnet.org
www.reconsider.org
www.drugpolicy.org
www.sdchip.org

Executive Director's Message

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Our primary goals have remained the same: Mandated community-based treatment instead of incarceration for non-violent drug offenders; rehabilitation and recovery programs within the prison system; and transitional programs to prepare recovering individuals to re-enter society. However, the variety of projects geared towards accomplishing our goals has multiplied along with our membership and outreach. Our ongoing plan is to create a stronger collective voice of people who will drive up the demand for substance abuse treatment opportunities and services, through education, advocacy, and collaboration with all of the major stakeholders.

Considering that addiction is the number one public health problem this means that everyone is a stakeholder, including the recovery community, families, criminal justice, community leaders, healthcare professionals, and decision makers. Reducing the stigma of substance abuse, increasing access to services, expanding addiction treatment opportunities are what we *strive* for. Ending discrimination against people who suffer from the disease and who seek and deserve treatment, sobriety and recovery is what we will never stop *fighting* for.

Please enjoy the information in this newsletter. It will give you a glimpse into PATH's current activities, battles and successes. To our members, Board of Directors, Co-Founders, Advisors, and partnering organizations, take pride in what you have already given to make the world a better place. But the road to meaningful change is long, and there is still ignorance and discrimination to overcome, so I urge you all to join us in continuing to take action against unjust drug policies.

A New PATH is a new member of the Coalition for Effective Public Safety: Creating Safer Communities and Reducing Prison Spending

As members and supporters of The Coalition for Effective Public Safety, we are united behind the following principles to make our communities safer and lower prison spending:

1. Reducing the number of people in prison
2. Reducing recidivism through effective prison educational and vocational programming
3. Eliminating barriers to re-entry for those coming home from prison.
4. Enacting a Moratorium on New Prison Construction in California

Californians Pay Billions to Lock Up Nonviolent "Three-Strikes" Offenders for Decades

Law-and-order Republican Gov. Pete Wilson signed California's "Three-Strikes and You're Out" law ten years ago this week, and in the years since, this groundbreaking act of draconian sentencing has spread like a malignant virus to 25 states and the federal system. Under California's three-strikes law, anyone with a serious or violent felony must serve double the sentence for any second felony. Anyone with two prior serious or violent felonies must serve 25 years to life in prison for any new felony.

According to a new study released to mark the anniversary, Californians aren't getting their money's worth. The study, released by the Justice Police Institute (JPI) on March 5, found that while taxpayers spent or will spend more than \$8 billion to pay for extra prison time for the more than 42,000 second- or third-strikers now sitting in the state's gulag, the harsh sentencing measure has had little impact on reducing crime. The study compared crime rates in the state's 12 largest counties and found that counties that used three-strikes laws less frequently actually had a 22% greater decrease in violent crime than those that used three-strikes law often. The study also compared California to states without three-strikes laws, and found that the non-three-strikes states had a violent crime rate 29% lower than California's, despite eight years of harsh sentencing there.

"Whether you compare California counties, or California to other states, the crime data tells us that you do not need a Three Strikes law to make communities safer," said report coauthor Scott Ehlers. "If Californians are not getting the crime declines they should expect, should they be paying the price tag that comes with three-strikes?"

Where three-strikes has had an impact, the study found, is growth of the prison population, the increased imprisonment of nonviolent offenders, and the increased imprisonment of minority offenders. In ten years, the number of people doing enhanced sentences under the law increased nearly ten-fold, from 4,408 in 1994 to 42,445 last September, increasing from 3.5% to 27.2% of the state's prison population. Some 7,234 people are serving third-strike 25-to-life sentences compared to 254 ten years ago.

Of those doing enhanced sentences, nearly two-thirds were serving the time for nonviolent offenses, the study found. Among them were 672 people doing 25-to-life for drug possession and another 354 staring at decades behind bars for petty theft. In fact, there were more people doing three-strike time for drug possession for second-degree murder (62), assault with a deadly weapon (379), and rape (119) combined.

Enhanced three-strikes sentences have a disproportionate impact on blacks and latinos, the study found. Blacks were imprisoned for third-strikes at a rate 12 times higher than whites, while Latinos were imprisoned at a rate 45% higher than whites for theft under the Three-Strikes law. Visit <http://www.justicepolicy.org/article.php?list=type&type=76> to read "Still Striking Out: 10 Years of California's Three Strikes".

Buprenorphine (Suboxone) Successful in Treating Heroin Addiction

By Amanda Newman

At last month's meeting of "San Diego Physicians for Recovery", Dr. Susan Weinstock said, "So many patients say Suboxone is a miracle!" Dr. Robert MacFarlane agreed, saying, "One patient said it should be called 'Miraculon'!"

Why are these patients talking about Suboxone (the new medication to treat opioid dependence) this way? Patients can't believe how easy and comfortable it is to detox with Suboxone. Equally surprising to physicians, they can't believe how Suboxone takes away craving for their illicit drug, whether it be heroin or pain pills.

Suboxone allows patients to be detoxed and treated on an outpatient basis, saving the cost and inconvenience of an inpatient stay. There are now 20 physicians in San Diego County listed on the government's website as qualified treatment providers of Suboxone. You can find them by going to: www.buprenorphine.samhsa.gov and clicking on "Physician Locator".

Weekly support groups are now forming in Dr. Robert MacFarlane's office. Call Lauren McLemore at (619)886-6721 or Jessica Miranti (858)232-3652 for assessment. Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital is forming an outpatient dual diagnosis program. API Hospital, Sharp Mesa Vista, Sharp Vista Pacifica and Scripps McDonald Center offer inpatient detox.

PATH would like to thank:

- ⇒ **The California Endowment**
- ⇒ **The Fund for Drug Policy Reform of the Tides Foundation**
- ⇒ **Las Patronas**
- ⇒ **Join Together/Demand Treatment**
- ⇒ **San Diego County, Supervisor Ron Roberts**

For their generous support!