



A New PATH

Parents for Addiction Treatment and Healing

Media Advisory

PRESS RELEASE

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A New PATH & NCADD-SD are Raising Awareness about the Devastation of The War on Drugs. They Invite People to Take an Open Look at the Topic of Harm Reduction.

San Diego, California: In an effort to reduce the stigma of substance abuse and encourage conversation on the benefits of Harm Reduction and how it can be used effectively to save lives and heal communities, A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing) and NCADD-SD (National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence) are co-sponsoring a conference for health care professionals, community leaders, health advocates, parents, concerned citizens, and individuals in recovery.

What: Conference - **“Demystifying Harm Reduction: Social, Political & Clinical Implications for Abstinence Based Treatment”**

When: Friday, February 6, 2004 – 8am – 2:30pm

Where: San Diego Hilton Hotel, Mission Valley
901 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego, CA 92108

Why: **23 million Americans suffer from substance abuse addiction.**

- Untreated addiction costs America \$400 billion per year.
- Approximately one in four deaths each year is attributable to substance abuse.
- 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.

Who: Presenter: Ethan Nadelmann, Executive Director of the Drug Policy Alliance and Author
Presenter: Dr. Patt Denning, Director of Harm Reduction Psychotherapy Center and Author
Caroline Stewart, President of the Board of A New PATH
Ted Judson, President of the Board of NCADD-SD
Sylvia Liwerant (PATH) and Annette Smith (NCADD), Event Co-Chairs

“In keeping with this theme, there is a stigma in our own ranks very often regarding the topic of this years conference. Hopefully the fantastic speakers we have lined up will bring us much to talk about and help us 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.”

Ted Judson, President of the Board of NCADD-SD

“Substance abuse is our number one public health problem. For too long 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.”

Gretchen Burns Bergman, Executive Director & Co-Founder of A New PATH