

Dates of Activity: October through December 2008  
Seed Grant: **Methamphetamine Recovery Project**  
Grantee Organization: **Central California Social Welfare Evaluation, Research and Training Center  
California State University, Fresno Foundation**  
Contact Person: **Juanita Fiorello**  
Phone: **559.294.9772**  
Email: **jfiorello@csufresno.edu**

### **Description of Quarter's Activity/Impact on Partnership**

- Two Project Coordinators completed the final public meetings in mid-October, gathering additional community input about what works, what doesn't work, and how to improve community responses to the impact of methamphetamine and other substance abuse. More than 750 people participated in the public meetings from May through October.
- The Methamphetamine Advisory Council's quarterly meetings were held in Tulare, Sept. 12, 2008, and Turlock, Dec. 5, 2008. In September, Advisory Council members reviewed and commented on a draft of the final Methamphetamine Recovery Project (Project) report. A revised draft was posted on the Internet for further review on Nov. 17, 2008. The Advisory Council held its final meeting on Dec. 5, 2008. The meeting included two speakers and presentation of the data gathered from the public meetings; copies of the final Project were distributed. **The Project—the seed grant deliverable—clearly establishes community-selected priorities for legislators, public and private agencies, and community participants to continue to work together in collaborative venues, such as the Partnership, to affect policy and resources specifically for the eight San Joaquin Valley counties. The Project has been posted on the Partnership Web site, with the link made available to approx. 300 individuals via email; hard copies have been mailed to Advisory Council members and 11 legislators.**

### **Planned Activities for next 3-6 months**

- Although seed grant funding ended Dec. 31, 2008, SWERT will use some Work Group Consultant funding to host an Advisory Council meeting on March 20, 2009, specifically to discuss ideas and resources to sustain and carry forward the effort and energy generated during the Project's 18-month period.
- Work Group Consultant funding will support the costs for the SWERT team to present a Project summary and the final report at the Partnership Board meeting on March 13, 2009. Other efforts to sustain the project will continue at least through June 2009.

### **Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback**

- SWERT's original seed grant proposal requested \$250,000 to develop the Methamphetamine Recovery Project from information-gathering to identify community priorities through development of a concrete, detailed plan for addressing those priorities to reduce the impact of methamphetamine and other substance abuse. The decrease in approved funding to \$150,000, combined with the unexpected difficulties encountered in establishing public meetings in all eight Valley counties, resulted in completion of a more limited scope of work.
- Completion of this portion of the Methamphetamine Recovery Project must be considered as Phase 1 of a multilevel process. Public voices have identified what they perceive to be the most critical issues, and they have identified what they believe to be the most effective solutions. The next phase must be review and expansion of resources available to Valley counties for education, prevention, treatment and recovery support. Those resources should include fiscal allocations, assistance with building and maintaining collaborative networks that give Valley counties a stronger voice at state and federal levels, and support for legislative actions that address the Valley's needs.