



Rescue. Defend. Shelter. Support.

# WISCONSIN ALLIANCE FOR DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN

## Inside this issue:

<a href="#">Who We Are, What We Do &amp; Why We Need You!</a>	1
<a href="#">Meeting Members:</a>	2
<a href="#">Your WIDEC Steering Committee</a>	
<a href="#">The 4th Annual WIDEC Conference</a>	3
<a href="#">Introducing the NADEC Resource Center</a>	4
<a href="#">Drugs in the Media</a>	5

Spring 2009

Volume 2, Issue 1

## A Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Wisconsin Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (WIDEC) Newsletter. Because our distribution list is forever growing, the first article of our letter will remain the same: Below are commonly asked questions about our program with brief answers. If you would like additional information on WIDEC, we suggest browsing our website at [www.WisconsinDEC.org](http://www.WisconsinDEC.org). If you have specific questions regarding this newsletter or would like to see an article on a particular topic, feel free to contact the editor. Thank you for taking the time to stay informed and keeping the children of Wisconsin a priority.

Sincerely,

Andrea LeStarge

WIDEC Federal Program Coordinator

To unsubscribe to this newsletter  
[click here](#)



## Points of Interest:



**Archived:**  
**Winter 2008**



**Check it out!**

**WIDEC Website:**  
**[www.WisconsinDEC.org](http://www.WisconsinDEC.org)**



**WIDEC Conference Planning is in Motion**

**[SEE PAGE 3!](#)**

## Who We Are, What We Do and Why We Need YOU!

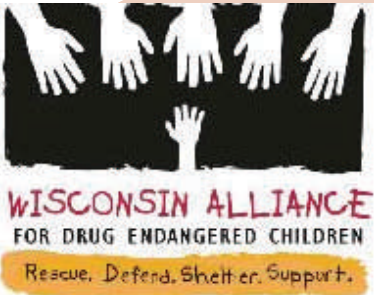
**What is a DEC Program?** A DEC Program is commonly comprised of members from law enforcement, human services, prosecutors' offices, the medical community, health department and probation/parole. Other agencies such as schools, treatment centers, non-profit groups, concerned community members and others may also be included.

**What do you do?** The focus of the DEC program is to work collectively to pull together resources, identify drug endangered children, and create a plan to better meet these children's needs and ensure their safety.

**What are Drug Endangered Environments?** Drug Endangered Environments are caused by those who use, sell and manufacture drugs. Often, children are found in these environments and are endangered because of abuse/neglect issues. WIDEC realizes that being a parent is a hard job, but being a parent on drugs is impossible.

**How can I help?** In Wisconsin, DEC programs are developed at the community/county level. Agencies dealing with DEC will decide protocol to ensure a smooth transition for the child. WIDEC is also always looking for help from community members to promote DEC programs through publicity and donations. If you are interested in starting or being a part of an existing County/Tribal DEC Program, [click here](#).

**Do you have information I can have and share with others?** WIDEC is pleased to present on DEC awareness for agencies, schools or community members. Brochures/Booklets/DVD's are available. For more information, please visit our website and click on resources: [www.WisconsinDEC.org](http://www.WisconsinDEC.org)



## Meeting Members: Your WIDEC Steering Committee

The Wisconsin Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (WIDEC) **Steering Committee** members are from various governmental agencies including, but not limited to: the U.S. Department of Justice, Wisconsin Department of Justice, Office of Justice Assistance, Department of Health and Family Services, Department of Corrections, Department of Public Instruction, and particular law enforcement offices. The committee strives to ensure a variety of representation amongst its members; it continually extends special invitations to other agencies, private sectors and/or concerned citizens to further enhance representation. Selected members from funding agencies are on the Executive Board. The WIDEC Steering Committee tries to meet every month to discuss the status of established DEC County/Tribal Programs, targeted-future County/Tribal DEC Program(s), goals, data collection, and any upcoming training/conference planning.

In an effort to **associate a face with a name**, share particular information and to build relationships, members of the WIDEC Steering Committee will be featured in this and upcoming newsletter issues. This issue's featured WIDEC Steering Committee Member is Sheriff Terry Dryden of Washburn County!



### “Commitment to Leadership is the Key for a Successful Drug Endangered Children Program”

-Sheriff Terry Dryden, Washburn County

There are probably as many definitions of “leaders” or “leadership” as letters in this article. Is there a perfect leader? I doubt it. This is not to mean we should not try to become one. English author, W. Somerset Maugham said, “There are three rules for creating good leaders, unfortunately, no one knows what they are.” Someone else said, **“Leaders are not born, they are made.”** A leader certainly can be described as a person who possesses a combination of personality and skill; one that would want others to follow in motivating individuals to act in such a way in order to achieve a common goal.

I am convinced there are three **individuals who must take on the leadership role** in order to develop and sustain a DEC Program: The Sheriff/Chief of Police, the Director of Health and Family Services/ Human Services and the District Attorney. All other disciplines, if lead properly, will follow by example and strive to achieve the common goal: keeping children safe and free from dangerous drug environ-

I was in the U.S Army, so I tend to take their view on leadership and how best to get the job done. They call this, “Warrior Ethos.” The four principle concepts behind this warrior culture can be put into practice and used by leaders who wish to develop, sustain and therefore have an effective DEC Team. Keep in mind the words in italics is the Army’s four principles of the Warriors Ethos’s from the “Soldiers Creed.” Following each principle is my interpretation when applied to a DEC program:

- *I will always place the mission first.* “I will place the child first.” Put aside egos; **concentrate on the child** in need. Cooperate or you will fail. Move continually to your goal, saving children.
- *I will never accept defeat.* Be prepared to act responsibly due to your belief that **children are worth saving.**
- *I will never quit.* Hold yourself accountable when mistakes happen and move on. Lead or get out of the way.
- *I will never leave a fallen comrade behind.* “I will never leave a child in need behind”

Drug Endangered Children in your jurisdiction are waiting for leaders to commit, fight, never give up, and never accept defeat. Most important, we should **strive never to leave an endangered child behind.**

\*The members of the WIDEC Steering Committee are always looking for feedback and are here to answer questions— [contact us](#) anytime!



## The Fourth Annual Statewide DEC Conference

We value your opinion! A special thanks to those of you who completed our WIDEC Conference Planning Survey. Our intent was to determine **what subject matter is of interest** to our conference participants. We received answers from 35 communities (counties and tribes) throughout the state. Based on your answers, three specific areas stood out from the rest:

Endangerment Issues Regarding the Child (60.6%), Latest Drug Trends (60.4%) and Disclosure Laws (54.8%). As a result of your responses, the Conference Planning Committee has decided to incorporate these topics into the agenda!

The Fourth Annual Statewide Drug Endangered Children Conference will be held at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. We will begin our conference in the morning of **Wednesday, September 16** and conclude in the afternoon of **Thursday, September 17, 2009**. For those leaders of established county or tribal DEC programs, the WIDEC Steering Committee would like to invite you to a pre-conference session in the afternoon on **Tuesday, September 15, 2009**. This will be a great time for all to exchange leadership successes and challenges.

As part of the **multidisciplinary approach**, we always encourage various professionals to attend:

- Law Enforcement
- Judges
- Educators
- Victim / Witness Service Providers
- Corrections / Probation & Parole
- Human Services
- Prosecutors
- Mental Health / Treatment Providers
- Medical Professionals
- Community / Tribal Leaders
- Community Members

Complete Conference Brochure (with stated agenda) and Registration (including lodging scholarship) Forms will be mailed out in the upcoming months. In addition, information regarding the local leaders meeting will be sent separately to those individuals; Until then, save the date!

Scholarships  
Available!

2009 WIDEC Conference

Save the Date!

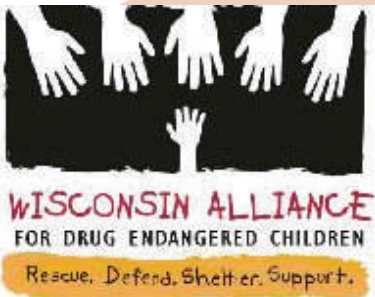
Registration  
Mailed in July!

*“Enhancing Efforts”*

*September 16–17, 2009*

(With a special “Local DEC Leaders Meeting” in the afternoon on 9/15!)

Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI



## Replenish Your Resources: Introducing the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children Resource Center

As individuals dedicated to efforts pertaining to help rescue, defend, shelter and support children identified as drug endangered, we realize how important it is to **be connected to resources** that aid in our endeavors. Featured in this WIDEC Newsletter edition is the National

Alliance for Drug Endangered Children's (NADEC) Resource Center.



This electronic “tool box” is equipped with invaluable information! Simply go to **NADEC’s homepage**: located at [www.NationalDEC.org](http://www.NationalDEC.org)

You can access the **Resource Center** by either clicking on the link located on the top toolbar or on the right-hand sidebar (see snap-shot to the left of this text for detail).

Inside the NADEC Resource Center, one will find numerous items:

- **Have a question?**

The "Ask an Expert" link allows viewers to type a question into a text box. You can select which individual you want to hear back from like a person from NADEC or an expert in a particular field/discipline. Don't know who to contact? No problem! You can choose "I'm not sure" and NADEC will find the right person to answer your question.

Also, be sure to check out the “FAQ” link as this section has answers to the most commonly asked questions.

- **Need funding?**

If you are interested in possible funding opportunities for DEC efforts, this is the spot for you!

- **Looking for literature?**

Whether creating a presentation or distributing information to other colleagues, it is important to have appropriate material to really “hit home” the DEC message. Numerous

published articles on cases, statistics, research, etc... are found within the NADEC Resource Center. If interested in a specific discipline, select the most appropriate link based on profession; Otherwise, browse an alphabetical listing of topics to find what you are looking for.

- **Still Curious?**

For additional information regarding DEC, click on the “Other Useful Links” category where you will be directed to a list of websites pertaining to various agencies and organizations to further replenish your resources.

If interested in past or upcoming NADEC conferences, newsletters, webinars or to see what other state DEC alliances are doing, simply go back to the NADEC homepage and browse these areas!

As always, check out the [WIDEC Resources](#) page on the web for more suggestions!



**Reporting:**

**\*If you suspect a child is in immediate danger, call 9-1-1!**

**Anonymous hotlines available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!**

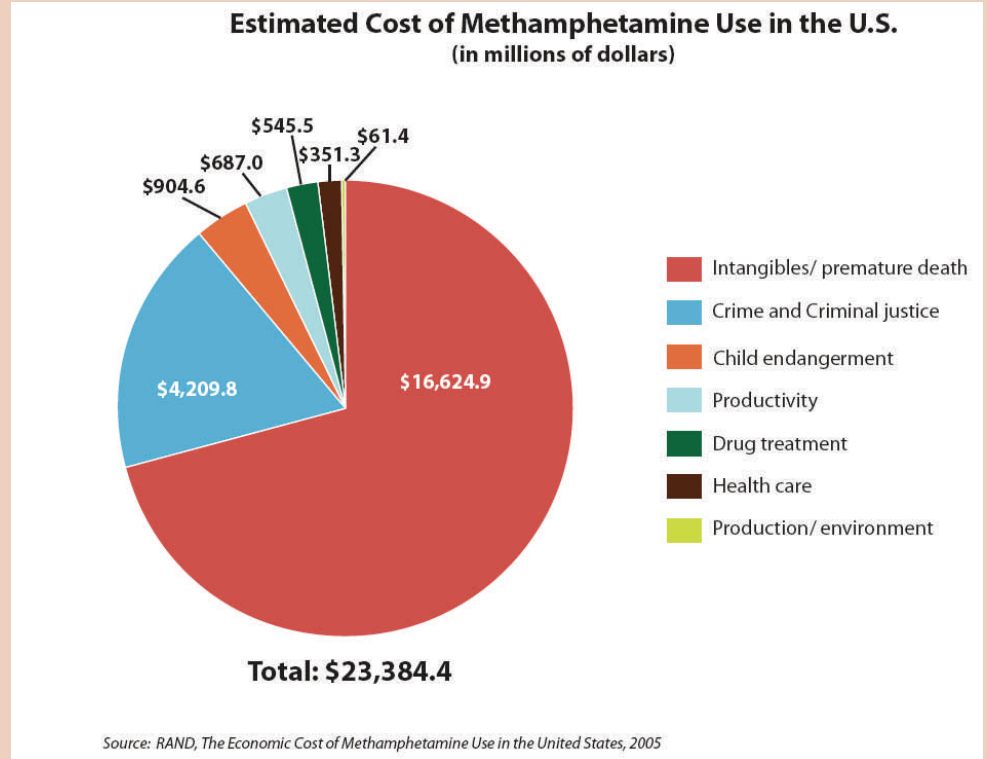
**Wisconsin Drug Tip Line:  
1-800-NAB-DRUG  
([drugtipline@doj.state.wi.us](mailto:drugtipline@doj.state.wi.us))**

**Child Abuse & Neglect:  
1-414-220-SAFE**

**Poison Control Hotline:  
1-800-222-1222**

**Drugs in the Media**

On February 4, 2009, findings within "The Meth Project," a study conducted by the RAND Corporation, were released. Findings suggest that methamphetamine use in 2005, cost the United States an estimated \$23.4 billion. Specifically, child endangerment issues related to the Nation's meth use cost approximately \$904.6 million in 2005. Perhaps future research will be able to estimate additional costs that other controlled substances impose on our country. Below is a breakdown of other key factors, according to this report:



We are always willing to pass on information regarding Drug Endangered Children. If you have a DEC news story in your community, please share it with us— Drug Endangered Children often live in shadows, but we can bring to light their situations and be their voice.



*The Philosophy of Charles Schulz, creator of the 'Peanuts' Comic Strip*

Try to answer the following questions:

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world
2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America pageant
4. Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize
5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress
6. Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners

How did you do? Not too bad? Not well at all?

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school
2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile
4. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special
5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with

Easier?

The lesson:

The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials...the most money...or the most awards. They are simply the ones who care the most.

To unsubscribe to this newsletter [click here](#)