

Implementing Effective Substance Abuse Treatment in the Criminal Justice System

A Congressional Briefing and Panel Discussion Sponsored by

The ***FRIENDS OF NIDA***

*In conjunction with
The Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus*

**Friday, March 27, 2009
Noon - 2:00 pm
(box lunches will be available)
Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2168**

The connection between drug abuse and crime is well known. Millions of adults in the United States are involved in the criminal justice system, and many offenders have drug abuse and addiction problems. Left untreated, drug-abusing offenders can relapse and return to criminal behavior, leading to re-incarceration. This further taxes an already over-burdened criminal justice system and jeopardizes public health and safety.

Research demonstrates that providing treatment to offenders decreases future drug use and criminal behavior, while also improving social functioning. Blending the functions of criminal justice supervision with drug abuse treatment and support services creates an opportunity to have an optimal impact on behavior by addressing public health concerns while maintaining public safety. By translating research results into effective community treatment interventions, we can now implement what we know can work to help offenders break the cycle of drug abuse, addiction, and recidivism.

Speakers

Nora D. Volkow, MD, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, will provide an overview of the NIDA criminal justice treatment research portfolio.

Steven Belenko, PhD, Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at Temple University, will discuss the need to expand effective substance abuse treatment for offenders, and how such an effort can yield improved public safety, public health, and economic benefits.

Linda Jalbert, a drug court graduate and legislative assistant for Senator Susan Collins, will share her journey through addiction, prison, treatment, and recovery.

Sponsoring Organizations

American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry - American College of Neuropsychopharmacology - American Psychiatric Association - American Psychological Association - American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics - American Society of Addiction Medicine - American Sociological Association - Association for Psychological Science - College on Problems of Drug Dependence - Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America - Federation of Behavioral, Psychological and Cognitive Sciences - Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research - International Nurses Society on Addictions - Join Together - Legal Action Center - National Association of Community Health Centers - National Association of Drug Court Professionals - National Center for State Courts - National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare - National Criminal Justice Association - Society for Neuroscience - Society for Prevention Research - State Associations of Addiction Services

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