



PRESS RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:
Stephen K. Talpins
(305) 610-3585

media@alcoholandcrime.org
www.alcoholandcrime.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Federal Agencies, Corporations, Nonprofits in D.C. to Tackle Link Between Alcohol Misuse and Crime

*New National Partnership to Help Courts
Better Manage Alcohol Offenders, Improve Public Safety*

January 23, 2009, Washington, D.C. – More than 40 influential organizations will meet in Washington, D.C. next Tuesday to tackle what they say is the most pervasive problem crippling local governments and corrections agencies nationwide: the epidemic rate of crime related to alcohol “misuse” in the U.S.

The meeting is being held by the newly-formed National Partnership on Alcohol Misuse and Crime (NPAMC), a public-private partnership that, according to founder and former MADD Policy Director Stephen Talpins, represents the first time that the issue’s stakeholders have all come together under the umbrella of a single organization in order to address the problem. “Nine years ago the U.S. surpassed the \$100 million-dollar-a-day mark in spending to incarcerate individuals with serious addiction problems,” says Talpins, a former DWI prosecutor for the Miami-Dade County State Attorney’s Office. [The U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics](#) reports that more than 36 percent of the 5.3 million convicted adult offenders under the jurisdiction of probation authorities, jails, prisons or parole agencies had been drinking at the time of their conviction offense. “Those of us who work in it have wasted far too much time disagreeing instead of developing real solutions. The end result is overcrowded jails and prisons and high recidivism rates.”

NPAMC defines “alcohol misuse” as any type of alcohol use that results in harmful consequences, and specifically criminal behavior, regardless of whether the alcohol use meets the diagnostic

MORE

criteria for alcohol abuse or dependence. “NPAMC is uniquely positioned to bring the entire body of knowledge and experience together in order to drive systemic change,” adds Talpins.

NPAMC is comprised of and funded by its [Participating Organizations](#), a notable list of federal agencies, nonprofits, research groups and think tanks. Private industry is also represented, including the insurance and liquor industries, as well as pharmaceuticals and companies that manufacture high-tech monitoring solutions for the criminal justice community. “Private industry is an essential element for the success of this group,” says Talpins. “They have both access to resources and the flexibility to identify and develop evidence-based solutions in a way that government entities often can’t.” Distiller Beam Global and Alcohol Monitoring Systems, a manufacturer of a high-tech, continuous alcohol monitoring ankle bracelet, are both founding sponsors of NPAMC.

The partnership was established in 2008 specifically to bring the resources of all its participating groups together under one umbrella, providing an open forum for debate and a platform to build consensus among the stakeholders. “What the system needs, and what NPAMC is working hard to provide, are creative and powerful solutions, based on research and real-world models, that will effectively tackle a major contributing cause of criminal behavior, alcohol misuse,” says West Huddleston, a founding board member of NPAMC and chief executive officer of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP).

Next Tuesday’s meeting, which will be held at the Hilton Washington Embassy Row, includes guest speaker Dr. Doug Marlowe, chief of science, law and policy at NADCP, as well as Robyn Robertson, CEO of the Traffic Injury Research Foundation.

About NPAMC

The [National Partnership on Alcohol Misuse and Crime](#) is a public-private partnership established to bring together stakeholders in the issue of alcohol misuse and crime in order to effectively change the way the U.S. justice system manages and rehabilitates alcohol-involved offenders. Established in 2008, NPAMC is comprised of 40 Participating Organizations and their representatives, including scientists and researchers, justice professionals, victims groups, treatment professionals, the corrections industry, pharmaceutical and technology companies, policy experts, distilleries and policy experts. Based in Washington, D.C., NPAMC operates with two voluntary staff members and is funded by both private donations and sponsorships from its Participating Organizations.