

# City meeting asks strategy against meth

Research links  
drug use, child  
abuse incidents

■ By MARY SASA  
of *The Chronicle*

An independent research group, Children First for Oregon, reports the child abuse and neglect rate in Wasco County is 120 percent higher than the state average — and 73 percent of those cases involve methamphetamine drug abuse.

A community meeting this Friday in The Dalles will help people learn how they can help find solutions.

In 2004, the rate of child abuse in Wasco County was approximately 24.4 children per thousand.

The Department of Human Services reviewed the abuse cases, discovering the top five factors involved were: parents suspected of drug or alcohol abuse; parental involvement with law enforcement; single parent households; head of family unemployed; and domestic violence.

"We've got to do something about child abuse here," said Trudy Townsend, administra-

brief:

**WHAT:**

Mt. Hood Coalition Against Drug Crime presentation

**WHEN:**

Friday, April 1,  
9 to 11 a.m.

**WHERE:**

Mid-Columbia  
Medical Center's  
Medical Office Building,  
1700 E 19th Street,  
The Dalles.

tor for Wasco County Commission on Children and Families.

So, Townsend invited the Mt. Hood Anti-Drug Coalition from Clackamas County to The Dalles April 1, hoping community members will attend to learn how they can be used in keeping children safe.

The coalition was started in Clackamas County by a woman tired of a drug house across the street.

She learned to help law enforcement, gathering the correct information needed for them to bust houses and later launching a grassroots effort.

"It's the kind of coalition

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## Meth

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citizens are engaged in," Townsend said.

Mt. Hood Anti-Drug Coalition perfected ways to collaborate with local law enforcement and county, state and federal institutions to help curb the drug industry.

Townsend invites community members to attend the Mt. Hood Coalition Against Drug Crime presentation Friday, April 1 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Mid-Columbia Medical Center's medical office building, 1700 E 19th Street, The Dalles. Speakers include coalition founder Shirley Morgan and Deputy Brandon Claggett from the Clackamas County sheriff's office. Breakfast will be served.

For more information, contact Patty Latham at Wasco County Commission on Children and Families, 541-506-2670.