



Department of Health
Agency of Human Services



White House Drug Policy Deputy Director to Attend Vermont Addiction Studies Conference

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BURLINGTON - One of the nation's leading advisors on drug control issues, A. Thomas McLellan, Ph.D, will visit Vermont and tour two community prevention and recovery centers here on Wednesday, June 16.

McLellan is deputy director of the **White House Office of National Drug Control Policy**, and a featured speaker at the **41st annual New England School of Addiction Studies** hosted by Vermont this year. He will speak at Saint Michael's College in Colchester (8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.) and will tour the Turning Point Club recovery center and Spectrum Youth and Family Services in Burlington (1 p.m. to 3 p.m.).

McLellan will discuss highlights of the National Drug Control Strategy, released by President Barack Obama on May 11, 2010, which establishes five-year goals for reducing drug use and its consequences through prevention, treatment, enforcement, and international partnerships to reduce the global drug trade.

The National Drug Control Strategy calls for integration of primary health care in managing substance use disorders, and focuses on family-based treatment programs that promote family stability and help disrupt the cycle of intergenerational substance abuse.

"Vermont is uniquely positioned to leverage the new drug control strategy because we've had an evidence-based, community prevention and treatment strategy in place since 2003 with the creation of the DETER (Drug Education, Treatment, Enforcement and Recovery) initiative," said Barbara Cimaglio, deputy commissioner for the Vermont Department of Health. "DETER set in place a compassionate program of treatment and rehabilitation that has increased resources to educate children about the dangers of drugs, funded expanded treatment options and recovery centers throughout the state, and enhanced penalties for drug traffickers and dealers."

As part of the Vermont Blueprint for Health, DETER supports the linkage of behavioral health specialists to primary care providers to comprehensively approach chronic health conditions.

McLellan has more than 35 years of addiction treatment research experience. He is a professor of psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and founder and director of the Treatment Research Institute in Philadelphia. McLellan was named to his current post with the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy in 2009.

For more information on the conference, please visit healthvermont.gov. For requests to interview Dr. McLellan, please contact ONDCP Public Affairs at 202-395-6618.

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