

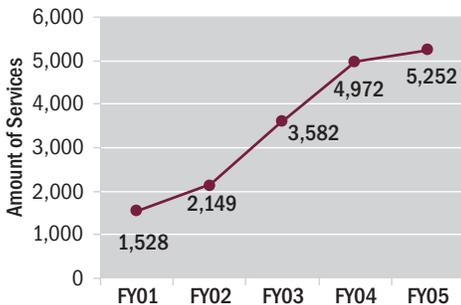
## White House Commends Illinois Meth Initiative

In recognition of National Meth Awareness Day on November 30, 2006, federal, state, and community officials, including representatives from TASC, gathered to launch the new meth initiative at the Southwestern Illinois Correctional Center (SWICC). The day's events began with a press conference featuring White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Deputy Director Dr. Bertha Madras, Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) Director Roger Walker Jr., Illinois Department of Human Services Secretary Dr. Carol Adams,



Dr. Bertha Madras of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) commends the innovative meth initiative.

### State Meth Treatment Services Increase



Source: IL Dept. of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse. (2006). Fiscal Year 2005 Data Book. Retrieved June 21, 2006, from [http://www.dhs.state.il.us/oasa/DATABOOK\\_FY05FW.pdf](http://www.dhs.state.il.us/oasa/DATABOOK_FY05FW.pdf).

TASC Director of External Training Randall Webber, and other partners in the new Illinois Meth Prison and Reentry Program initiative. Planning and strategy sessions took place throughout the remainder of the day.

During the press conference, Dr. Madras commended Governor Blagojevich, IDOC, and community partners for creating an innovative program that “has tremendous potential not only in healing meth users but also in providing a beacon of hope and methodology that can be circulated throughout the rest of the country.”

Illinois has experienced a significant rise in methamphetamine abuse over recent years. The meth initiative responds to this trend as the first-of-its-kind national model for reducing crime and recidivism among meth offenders. SWICC will dedicate 200 of its 667 beds to intensive meth treatment (another 200 will be added at Sheridan in 2008). In addition, SWICC’s prison-based treatment program will be expanded to include reentry and other institutional services including drug treatment, education and job training

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**TASC, Inc.** (Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities) is an independent, statewide, nonprofit agency that helps people transition beyond their involvement in criminal justice systems and government programs, and into health and self-sufficiency in the community. Adults and youth who have drug problems or other difficulties are referred to TASC by courts, corrections, child welfare, and other Illinois government service systems, and TASC manages their access to community-based treatment and support. In addition, through research, public policy advocacy, training, and consultation, TASC works to improve the social factors that affect our clients and communities. **Visit us online at [www.tasc.org](http://www.tasc.org).**







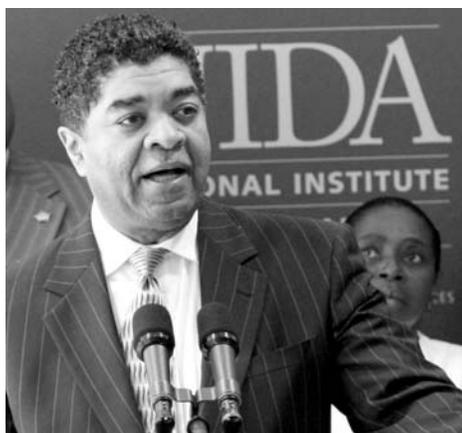
## NIDA Releases New Publication in Chicago

Recognizing Cook County as a jurisdiction where model programs are put into practice, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) chose Chicago for the July release of its publication, *Principles of Drug Abuse Treatment for Criminal Justice Populations*.

The publication identifies 13 essential principles for successful treatment of



Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley (front) praised TASC President Melody Heaps, "Melody has led the way in dealing with alternative treatments for drug users." (Background L to R) successful TASC clients Cheryl Cline, 3 years of sobriety and Timothy Bell, 9 years of sobriety.

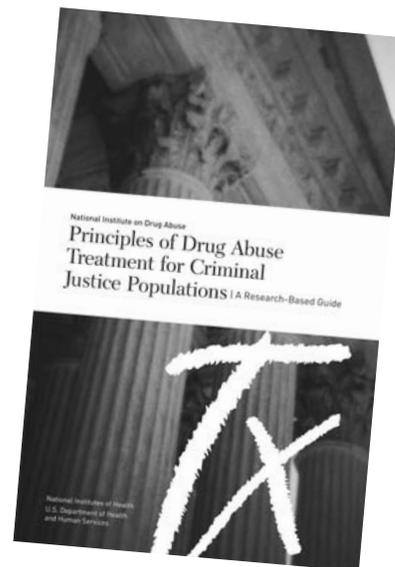


Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans commends the training given by TASC and NIDA. "We invited in the experts so that our judges could be on the cutting edge of neuroscience."

drug-involved offenders in the criminal justice system (listed below).

Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, Cook County Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans, and TASC President Melody M. Heaps joined Dr. Nora Volkow, director of NIDA, to introduce six former drug-involved offenders whose recovery illustrates the powerful results that can occur when these principles are applied. Like thousands of others, their journey to recovery began when they received treatment via interventions such as TASC.

NIDA's website (<http://www.drugabuse.gov/DrugPages/CJ.html>) provides a link to download the publication as well as links to other



informative resources regarding treatment for the criminal justice population, including TASC.

### 13 Principles of Drug Abuse Treatment for Criminal Justice Populations

1. Drug addiction is a brain disease that affects behavior.
2. Recovery from drug addiction requires effective treatment, followed by management of the problem over time.
3. Treatment must last long enough to produce stable behavioral changes.
4. Assessment is the first step in treatment.
5. Tailoring services to fit the needs of the individual is an important part of effective drug abuse treatment for criminal justice populations.
6. Drug use during treatment should be carefully monitored.
7. Treatment should target factors that are associated with criminal behavior.
8. Criminal justice supervision should incorporate treatment planning for drug abusing offenders, and treatment providers should be aware of correctional supervision requirements.
9. Continuity of care is essential for drug abusers re-entering the community.
10. A balance of rewards and sanctions encourages pro-social behavior and treatment participation.
11. Offenders with co-occurring drug abuse and mental health problems often require an integrated treatment approach.
12. Medications are an important part of treatment for many drug abusing offenders.
13. Treatment planning for drug abusing offenders who are living in or re-entering the community should include strategies to prevent and treat serious, chronic medical conditions, such as HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B and C, and tuberculosis.

### Interested in Youth Issues? Sign Up for Facts on Youth

Receive a monthly summary of new research about human-services issues specific to youth. **To sign up**, send an email to [research@tasc-il.org](mailto:research@tasc-il.org) with "Join Facts on Youth" in the subject line. Place your name, title, organization, and email address in the body of the message.

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## Recovery Coach Program Success Leads to Expansion

Funded by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), TASC's Recovery Coach Program (RCP) helps parents with alcohol or other drug problems achieve the sobriety and wellness needed to regain custody of their children.

The success of RCP in Cook County has prompted program expansion into St. Clair and Madison counties. The expansion also includes enhanced service delivery in housing, mental health, and domestic violence prevention and intervention services.

Results of a five-year study conducted by the University of Illinois Urbana-

Champaign found that individuals receiving TASC RCP services were more likely to access and complete substance abuse treatment. Additionally, they were more likely to achieve reunification with their children and in a shorter period of time than individuals without RCP services. [Go to <http://www.tasc-il.org/preview/RCPEval-03-06.pdf> for a summary of the evaluation results.]

TASC works with DCFS, courts, and community service providers to place parents into treatment and help families obtain services from a variety of social systems.

TASC is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Funding for TASC's services comes from a variety of federal, state and local entities, as well as private donors.

**If you would like to donate to TASC, please send contributions to:**

TASC, Inc., ATTN: Communications Dept.  
1500 N. Halsted • Chicago, IL 60622  
(312) 573-8211 • [dbaille@tasc-il.org](mailto:dbaille@tasc-il.org)

**Thank you for your support!**

### White House Commends Illinois Meth Initiative (continued from page 1)...

that will model the nationally recognized Sheridan Program.

According to an IDOC news release, "[w]hat distinguishes the programs at Sheridan and SWICC from other programs is... an extensive focus on community safety and also... funding for the most highly supervised and supported reentry program in state history." TASC provides the prison-based and community clinical reentry case management services for both programs.

*TASC receives significant funding from the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (DASA).*

*TASC is licensed by DASA and the Illinois Department of Human Services, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), and is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.*