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KROKODIL – A New and Horrific Morphine Substitute

By Rahimah Shah, Administrative Assistant

Krokodil, whose actual name is desomorphine has become an extremely popular, highly addictive and short-lasting drug on the market. In 2012, I came across a news media documentary VICE video that featured the shocking details of this drug. Within a year’s time, three suspected cases of krokodil have recently been reported in Canada as well as a few scattered cases within Southwestern United States and in the Midwest. Information on this drug is available and important for our constituents to be aware of.

Widely used in Russia and Ukraine over the many past years, it gained international attention in 2010 due to its cheap production and use. It is a heroin substitute that is easily made from crushed codeine, cooked with highly toxic ingredients like gasoline, lighter fluid, paint thinner, industrial cleaning oil and other toxic additives.

Ingredients to make the deadly toxic Krokodil mix include paint thinner, gasoline, crushed codeine and other toxic additives.

AADAP Celebrates its 37th Drug Court Graduation

By Louis L. Lewis AADAP Drug Court Coordinator

AADAP in collaboration with the Inglewood Superior Court held its 37th graduation ceremony Friday September 20, 2013 for 25 participants. The event was held at the Los Angeles Superior Court – Inglewood Department 6, where the Honorable Patricia J. Titus presides. The program is an intensive twelve-month program in which nonviolent drug users undergo routine drug testing, group therapy, daily 12-step meetings and job training. The program sentences addicts to treatment programs instead of time behind bars.

The Supervising Judge of the Inglewood Courthouse and Mike Watanabe, President/CEO of AADAP attended the event, along with several special guests, including families of the graduates. All who attended were inspired to see 25 of the AADAP Drug Court participants complete the program.

The program opened with a welcome and introductions by The Honorable Patricia J. Titus who supervises the Inglewood Drug Court Program. Following the welcome and introductions Timothy Hu, Deputy District Attorney and Rhonda Haymon, Deputy Public Defender provided a brief history of the Inglewood Drug Court. The program included special remarks by John C. Viernes, Director of Los Angeles County Substance Abuse Prevention and Control, the presentation of the graduates by The Honorable Patricia J. Titus, and a beautiful a capella rendition of the Lord’s Prayer by True Devotion. A highlight of the program was special surprise guest appearance.

AADAP Drug Court Graduates

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At the December 2013 graduation ceremony, attended by famed actor, Lou Gossett Jr., attendees at the program got to hear inspirational remarks provided by Mr. Gossett Jr. and Mr. Viernes followed by words of thanks to the court and AADAP for saving their lives and helping them get back on track by the AADAP graduates. The graduates also shared with the audience what their plans were to remain clean and sober after the program.

AADAP would like to thank the Honorable Judge Patricia J. Titus and the entire Inglewood Court staff. We also want to thank our treatment partners, the families of the participants, and the entire AADAP Drug Court team for their dedication and hard work.

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cooking implements. The mixture is filtered and boiled before being injected into a vein. The drug is named as ‘krokodil’ due to the flesh-eating impact it has upon the skin, tissue and organs. Cases have shown to rot limbs of users from the inside out and portray a look of crocodile scales. Users tend to not survive past three years after using. According to International Business Times report out of the U.K., “The drug eats the users flesh from the inside out. It dissolves the user’s jawbones and causes blood vessels to burst, leaving the skin green and scaly, where the name krokodil came from. The flesh destroyed becomes gangrenous and often users have to have limbs amputated.”

The use of this frightening drug has alerted many, especially after the trickle of cases that began to show up in the United States within the past nine months. A few users claimed to have made the drug themselves, while others thought they procured heroin. Dr. Robert Geller, Medical Director of the Georgia Poison control Center and Professor of Pediatrics, Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia provided his professional opinion based on his medical experience over a telephone interview.

In response to whether there is an increase of this drug, Dr. Geller stated that they do not know yet. There have been a few cases reported in the United States, but what the medical team does know is based on what has been published. Actual cases haven’t been seen at his facility. He added, “The reality is that it is a poorly tolerated compound and the way the drug is made lends itself to containing a lot of impurities. These impurities contribute to adverse reactions. There is also no quality control.” In regard to the treatment of users addicted to krokodil, Dr. Geller elaborated that the treatment is the same as with any addiction to an opioid. He said, “In comparison to other drugs, this one does not have a good safety record. Most importantly, people need to find a way to completely get off the drug addiction lifestyle.”

Even though rise of krokodil in the United States is still in question, Rusty Payne, spokesman for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has noted that the DEA “expects to see more cases of krokodil emerging in the future.” There is a rise of synthetic and street drugs in our country and addicts, who choose to use krokodil are clearly driven to such an extreme choice of a drug due to their addiction. This life choice underscores the vital need for good drug treatment services like AADAP and our other brother/sister organizations across the country. We must remain continuously informed of new deadly drugs like krokodil that has great potential to preset devastating problems for its users and our communities. With the power of knowledge, we need to support treatment options to prevent and treat addiction.
AADAP Celebrates and Honors Veterans

By Amalya Anneyan, Veteran’s Counselor

On November 8th, 2013 the AADAP conference room was colorful with red, white, and blue festive decorations in honor of Veterans Day. The celebration was a great opportunity to show our appreciation to the Veterans throughout our agency and community.

Veterans Day is an annual Federal holiday that honors military veterans, who served U.S. armed forces in wartime. Although the official proclamation of the holiday occurred on the anniversary of the termination of World War I, it has now expanded to honor Veterans who have served U.S. throughout all wartime.

The celebration at AADAP was both joyous and reflective. Veterans, their guests, AADAP clients and staff members were in attendance. It was an emotional event as speakers and the audience showed their immense appreciation and support for the veterans. The event began with the Crenshaw High School Junior ROTC Color Guard and Pledge of Allegiance by Andre Durst. Jocella Collins, proud mother of a veteran, talked about the occasion. Ms. Collins highlighted the sacrifices of our veterans and how important it is to appreciate and recognize their valor. This was followed by two more guest speakers: James Wright -- Employment Development Department, Disabled Veteran’s Outreach Program Specialist and Active Duty 3rd Class Petty Officer Vahe Anneyan -- son of Employment Access counselor, Amalya Anneyan.

The celebration closed with volunteer speakers from the audience and final remarks from the Program Director, Daisy Assis-Nakanishi. In the final remarks, she thanked the veterans for their service and the EA, ODF, OA units for ensuring that Veteran’s Day was celebrated festively and honorably. All of the speakers did an awesome job in highlighting the sacrifices of the Veterans.

The attending veterans received small gifts as a token of appreciation and enjoyed refreshments with cake.

CISAAP Community Coalition Helps Pass Social Hosting Law Aimed at Reducing Underage Drinking in Carson

By Richard Bis, Community Organizer

The Social Host Ordinance that passed unanimously on June 18, 2013 by the Carson City Council is now a new law. It officially took effect as a City Municipal Code on August 2, 2013. By passing the Social Host ordinance, the Carson City Council took another bold move to improve the public health and safety of its citizens by curbing underage drinking in the Carson community. Mayor Pro Tem Elito Santarina, the sponsor of the of the Social Host Ordinance remarked, “Adopting this law in the City of Carson is a triumph to keep my pledge and commitment in always protecting our young citizens of Carson. They must not be victims of irresponsible citizens who expose them to early consumption of alcohol at an early stage of their lives. I am thankful to CISSAP for their leadership and efforts.”

The Social Host Ordinance (SHO) prohibits the hosting, permitting, or allowing a party, gathering, or event where minors consume alcoholic beverages. A crucial point of the ordinance is that it holds accountable the responsible adult(s) who knowingly, or should have known, that an underage drinking party was occurring on property that they own, lease or otherwise control. The ordinance adds a new section to Article IV Public Peace, Chapter 2 Alcoholic Beverages, Sections 4211 to 4211.9 of the Carson Municipal Code. The law fines those who provide alcohol to youths during parties the amount of $250 for a first violation; $500 for a second violation within one (1) year from the date of the first violation; and $1000 for each additional violation of the same ordinance within one (1) year from the date of the first violation.

The new Social Host law aims to reduce access to alcohol and drinking by minors in Carson. It sends a clear message that providing a venue for teenagers and youth to drink is not acceptable. Surveys, focus groups and interviews on underage alcohol access and drinking conducted by AADAP show that the number one contributing factor of underage drinking access in Carson is due to the social practice by adults who knowingly provide the alcohol to the youth during house parties, get-together, and special occasions. In addition, the assessment identifies that 8 out of 10 local teens said they can get alcohol at home; 7 out of 10 local teens said that they get their alcohol during parties, get-together, and special occasions; 9 out of 10 local teens said they have access to alcohol while adults are home; and 8 out of 10 Carson Teens said that adults allow the youth to drink as long as they are supervised.

To date, there are 7 counties and over 50 cities in California with laws making adults liable for socially providing alcohol to the youth. Data shows that in cities with Social Host Liability Ordinance only 5% of those found guilty of breaking the law are repeat offenders.

In solid support of the Social Host ordinance is the Carson Initiative for Substance Abuse Awareness and Prevention (CISAAP), a community member-based coalition. CISAAP membership represents civic organization, faith centers, schools, law enforcement, city, and non-profit agencies. For the past seven years, CISAAP, in conjunction with the City of Carson, has been planning and organizing the weeklong Red Ribbon Week celebration for substance abuse and underage drinking prevention during the 4th week of October and other substance abuse prevention activities throughout the year. For more information on CISAAP participation and/or alcohol and other drug prevention in Carson, contact Richard Bis at rbs@aadapinc.org.

www.aadapinc.org
AADAP’S TOY DRIVE 2013

Donation Request

Every year, AADAP distributes toys to the clients and client’s children. We make a goal to pass out over 1,000 TOYS.

SIMPLY DROP OFF YOUR TOYS AT THE CORPORATE OFFICE.

2900 S. CRENSHAW BLVD. LOS ANGELES, CA 90016

The holidays are one of the most difficult times for those who are in need.

Please bring toy donations unwrapped and you will receive a contribution form for tax purposes.

A TOY FOR A CHILD GOES A LONG WAY.

Thank you for your generosity.

Get your orders in by December 27th!

All of our mochi is made fresh to order.
$2.75 per lb. (2lbs. for $5)

A true treat for your New Year's!

Contact Jon Fukuda for orders and info
323.293.6284 jfukuda@aadapinc.org
For same day orders (Dec 30th) call 323.293.6291

AADAP Mochitsuki 2014

PICK UP ONLY on Dec. 30th at AADAP
5318 S. Crenshaw Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90043

Family Matters

Family Matters is an open forum for everyone to participate. Because AADAP is committed to the family concept, we invite all of you to share your ideas and thoughts. You can call or write AADAP c/o of Rahimah Shah at rshah@aadapinc.org.

TC's Annual Carnival & Haunted House

By Dinora Moran, TC Caseworker & Tuyet-Nga Thach, TC Counselor

Halloween was definitely a night to remember. On October 31st, 2013 we had the opportunity to host the famous TC Annual Carnival and Haunted House event that was truly a festive experience for all of us. We believe one thing is true- “the people of the Earth are one family” (Benedict, Ruth). It felt good to see everyone with such diverse backgrounds come together to have fun despite our differences. The carnival was so much fun, booth operations ran smoothly and everyone participated.

TC clients created the most amazing and spooky haunted house, which both young and old dared to enter! Thank you to everyone, who brought their minds together to create a superb, but very creepy 2nd floor boil!

We had all different types of activities that included: live music by DJ Nelson and Amy, karaoke, drawing/coloring table for the kids, darts, ping pong toss, spider in the hay, three point shoot out, football toss and face painting. One of the highlights of the night was watching everyone get on the dance floor to do the electric slide. Let’s not forget, we had lots of food and drinks including: delicious sweets, cotton candy, popcorn, nachos, hotdogs and Jarritos!

Our annual Halloween event would not have been a great success without our scary Haunted House. Getting their inspiration from Knott’s Scary Farm, which they visited the previous week, the TC residents worked hard to make sure they made this Haunted House memorable. Tuyet and I gave it a try and the clients did a great job trying to scare us. Although we did not run out like everyone else, I was proud of how well the residents did.

I also want to thank the guests that made the Haunted House a success. Congratulations to the individual Costume Contest winners and the Halloween Pumpkin Contest unit champions: 1st place: YFP, 2nd Place: EA and 3rd Place: Admin! There was such great energy projected into this event and that was evident by everyone's enthusiasm. We would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who attended and supported this event. Special thanks to the Holiday Committee members, OA kids/ staff and of course, the TC residents for all your creativity and hard work. This event would not be possible without all of your help! It was a surprise to discover that our very own TC staff, let Lea’ea, started the Halloween Carnival/ Haunted House event.

Let’s cherish the simple things in life and keep this tradition going! Although this year’s Halloween was a great success, next year’s will be even better!
TC Graduation Celebration for Israel F.

By Edward L., TC Client

On November 8, 2013, the Therapeutic Community (TC) celebrated Israel F.’s graduation. His family, friends and loved ones all came together to celebrate his accomplishments. Israel entered the program when he was a rebellious teenager in need of some guidance to change his lifestyle. Although Israel struggled while in the program, he managed to overcome the obstacles he encountered and remained motivated. We are all very proud of him because he inspires all of us to not give up on ourselves.

As Israel progressed, he began to take additional responsibilities outside of the program. During the 28 Phase of the program, he worked as a soccer coach at Menlo Elementary School through the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO). Because of his enthusiasm and charisma, he was then asked to attend a 3-day paid training in Chicago to get an official coaching certification. Upon his return, Israel was hired by the retail store, Vans, and is currently working at an entry-level sales position. He also has been offered a manager position for Vans, Inc. Israel has a passion for skateboarding. In his free time, Israel loves to skate at the parks in Long Beach. He has learned to use skating as a healthy coping tool to maintain his sobriety and also continues to be a good role model for the youth he works with.

I was in the program while Israel was here and I had the opportunity to watch him mature into a respectable, young man. Karina D. and I were honored to be the leads of his graduation celebration along with the rest of our family. We all put in a lot of energy to make his graduation memorable. The TC cooks prepared some of his favorite food, which consisted of: chow mein, shrimp fried rice, orange chicken, beef broccoli, egg rolls and salad. A video of Israel presented that highlighted special moments of Israel in the program. At the end of the graduation ceremony, Israel was presented with a certificate of completion and a red rose given by Lauren Lee, TC Coordinator, as a symbol of his new life. Thank you to all of you who supported Israel through his journey in the program. We hope to see you all at our upcoming Dinner Dance graduation ceremony for all the TC graduates!

OA Tae Kwon Do Lesson

By Richard Yi, Olympia Academy Counselor

To say our very first Olympia Academy (OA) Tae Kwon Do testing was a success is an understatement. Eight Olympia Academy students were filled with confidence and gave it their best from beginning to end. Not only were the parents impressed, but Master Jason Ahn, Master John Lee, and Instructor Michael were astounded by their performance. To see so much discipline and respect from recovering addicts and especially from just white belts was a sight to see for everyone.

The students showcased their ability to punch and kick, but at the same time, showed self-control and respect. They performed Kicho #1 as part of their white belt forms and showed much physical coordination and mental discipline. Afterwards the OA students broke a wooden board with an Axe kick in just one try!

The students have been learning Tae Kwon Do from Instructor Richard, a counselor at OA for a few months now. Tae Kwon Do has taught them self-confidence, respect, discipline, and a new way to enjoy life sober through physical exercise and applying “Family Concept” with everything they do. Thank you to Master Jason Ahn, Master John Lee, and Instructor Michael for joining us in our very first AADAP OA Tae Kwon Do testing - it was truly an honor. We also thank the parents for coming out and showing your everlasting support to our kids. Congratulations OA students, and remember this is just the beginning.
AADAP is a substance abuse rehabilitation center. If you or anyone you know is struggling for help, please contact us at (323) 293-6284.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to AADAP, please send contributions to the address above or visit us at www.aadapinc.org.

Please contact Dean Nakanishi at the number above if you would like to donate your vehicle or make an In-Kind donation.

**Staff Voices**

Editor’s note: Staff Voices is a section that sheds light on AADAP’s diverse staff population.

In the early 1960’s my parents were a part of an influx of South Pacific Islanders of Samoan descent to migrate into the United States. My parents came from the islands of Ma’na’a in a village called Fale’a’soa and my father comes from Tutuila, the village of Mau’a’us’i. My father came to the mainland first and lived with relatives while seeking employment. He later saved up enough money to bring my mother and 3 older siblings from Samoa to the mainland. There were 6 siblings in total five brothers and one sister. We were brought up in the traditional Fa’a’samoa (the Samoan way). He worked as a medical assistant on the islands, but sought better education and opportunity on the mainland. I remember he was attending Harbor College with other uncles and aunts and they would study together. My mother worked as a nurse in a senior citizens home.

What I do today was impacted by the values I was taught growing up in the Fa’a’samoa. Spirituality and education was set high and because there were no villages on the mainland, humbleness and being of service to family, church and community village were priority.

I remember there used to be a back house that was a crack house where drugs were used and sold. The house owner was kicked out and she and her friends had nowhere to go. I felt compassionate about their situation and decided to form a group at the church called MTS, Ministers to Society. My plan was to not go out and proselytize, but to share what was taught to me by catering love through service. I would personally go from house to house asking for food and clothing to give back to areas that had a need. The result was people reached out and we collectively showed that someone cared.

I strive to continue this labor of love. We are all aware that there are struggles in all walks of life. I have great gratitude that I work in a place like AADAP. It has allowed me to teach what was freely given to me growing up. Being with AADAP allows for my spiritual growth and the values of tradition and service by giving back to the community.

Ieti Lea’ea and his Mother