Iowa Professionals Work Together to Protect Drug Endangered Children

ALTOONA – Over 200 Iowa law enforcement officers, prosecutors, human service workers, health care professionals, substance abuse and mental health providers, child development specialists and educators will participate Monday, April 4, 2016, in the Iowa Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Conference at the Meadows Convention Center in Altoona.

“As Iowa families face a diverse challenge from illegal drug abuse, we are blessed to have a diverse set of professionals from human services, drug prevention and law enforcement working hard to make Iowa a better place for young children,” said Steve Lukan, Director of the Governor’s Office of Drug Control Policy. “This conference is the premier opportunity for these various fields to come together to learn, collaborate and empower others to take action.”

Conference topics include: The risks to children of newer prescription and synthetic drugs, as well as other controlled substances such as methamphetamine and marijuana; identifying controlled substances; the impact of trauma on children; holistic approaches for dealing with drug affected families; and best practices for multidisciplinary teams caring for drug endangered children. Governor Branstad has also signed a proclamation recognizing April 27, 2016 as Drug Endangered Children Awareness Day.

Opening plenary speaker, Jerry Moe, is the National Director of Children’s Programs at the Betty Ford Center in Rancho Mirage, California. He will be available to media during breaks and immediately after the conference.

Iowa DEC Conference Agenda
8:45 a.m.  Morning Keynote: “Through a Child’s Eyes: Understanding Addiction and Recovery” by Jerry Moe, MA
10:30 a.m.  Workshops
Noon  Break
1:00 p.m.  Workshops
2:45 p.m.  Afternoon Keynote: “Pills and Thrills: What’s Trending?” Linda Kalin, RN, BS, CSPI

The Iowa DEC Conference is hosted and co-sponsored by the Polk County Alliance for Drug Endangered Children, in coordination with the Iowa Alliance for Drug Endangered Children and several other local and state organizations.

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