

Prevention is the best cure for meth addiction

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A meth forum organized by Scw'exmx Child and Family Services on the realities of meth addiction was meant to give attendees the truth about drugs and the consequences of their use.

The forum, which had a youth session on Monday and an adult session on Tuesday for social workers, teachers and other service providers, was a presentation by Young Warriors Network and was led by addictions recovery specialist Lee Mason.

Mason described his presentation as preventative education, he says he wants to "put the fire out before it becomes an inferno." He described meth as the plague of the century and thinks people need to understand the truth about the drug in order to combat its effects on their communities.

He said people in the community may not want to notice there is a

problem. He referred to an anonymous questionnaire done by the almost 50 kids at the Monday session that has most kids answering yes, meth is in the community. Kids also said it was Mason's use of real life stories and video of addicts that they most remembered about his presentation.

With recipes available on the Internet and organized crime coming in to teach local dealers how to make meth, Mason said "it's so deadly, that if you do nothing you're basically killing people."

Mason's presentation on Tuesday was meant to inform and educate, but he also encouraged people attending to share ideas, experiences and feelings to help create strategies to deal with meth. While talking with some of the service providers at the event Mason identified providing children with activities, role models and healthy lifestyles as a way to combat drug use in the community.