



**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
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**WHITE HOUSE DEPUTY DRUG CZAR
FOR DEMAND REDUCTION JOINS NEW JERSEY LEADERS
TO DISCUSS PRESIDENT'S TREATMENT INITIATIVE
AT TURNING POINT TREATMENT CENTER**

(Washington, DC) -- Dr. Andrea Barthwell, Deputy Director for Demand Reduction at the Office of National Drug Control Policy, today will visit the Turning Point drug treatment center, in Cedar Grove, New Jersey, to detail President Bush's Access to Recovery Treatment Initiative. She is being joined by David Heins, New Jersey Department of Human Services Deputy Commissioner of Family Services, Carolann Kane-Cavaiola, Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Health and Senior Services, and Manuel Guantez, Executive Director, Turning Point, Inc.

"This initiative presents new and effective means for the federal government to help people get into recovery," remarked Deputy Director Barthwell. "We know that treatment works. But we also know that too many Americans cannot access treatment for a variety of reasons. By offering people an option to choose treatment which suits their individual needs, we will be able to directly help drug users who have recognized their problem. This program will also help overall drug treatment system by bringing in increased accountability."

The new initiative will work by allowing individuals to utilize federal alcohol and drug abuse dollars at all effective treatment organizations. Those individuals will be assessed and receive a voucher to pay for an appropriate level of treatment. Individual states would be required to monitor the outcomes of the voucher program and to make adjustments based on the extent to which improved client outcomes are or are not achieved in a cost-effective manner.

"Substance abuse touches the lives of so many of the people we serve," said New Jersey Department of Human Services Commissioner Gwendolyn L. Harris. "It affects people trying to leave welfare to enter the workforce and is a major contributing factor in the incidence of child abuse. Expanding access to drug treatment will reap benefits across the entire spectrum of social services."

"We are impressed at the Administration's sensitivity to the problem of addiction, particularly in New Jersey, at a time when federal resources are scarce," stated Manuel Guantez, Executive Director of Turning Point. "We are committed to providing quality addiction treatment to the indigent and uninsured of New Jersey. The additional \$600 million requested from the White House will certainly help to improve access for our public treatment population."

The new initiative is designed to allow treatment providers, faith-based and other community organizations, workplaces, and schools to help drug users receive the treatment and support services that are best suited to their individual needs. Combined with prior year requests, this increase in funding will meet the President's commitment to provide an additional \$1.6 billion for treatment services over five years.