

STREET CRIME FORUM - JUNE 23, 2004

SESSION 1 – DISCUSSION GROUP A

DECRIMINALIZATION OF PROSTITUTION AND ADDICTION

PARTICIPANTS

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- Prescription of drugs – ORT – heroin, methadone, other (ritacin)
- Provision ↑ access to drugs - ↓ property crime
- Adequate support MHR = equity housing/welfare
- Provide drugs as stabilization
- Control distribution
- Lower expenditure on enforcement
- Redirect \$\$ to system support
- Develop economic argument re: war on drugs = decriminalization
Enforcement system \$\$ or System support \$\$
- Want individuals opportunity to move outside criminal system
- Agreement that war on drugs not working. That decriminalization will lower street crime
- Economic analysis
- Health costs
- Strategies to make it happen > identify
- Separate individual drugs from issue, i.e. coke/property crime
- Separate addiction/crime
- Isolate interests/drugs common public interests

RECOMMENDATIONS

- analysis of the economic, social, health and Justice costs of the criminalization of addiction and prostitution.

PROCESS IDEAS

- engage academics
- engage people who are in “institutions”/are custodians
- engage people in communities who are actively using and/or doing sex trade work
- policy analysis/statement from the committee which recognizes impact of these “deadly public policies” that criminalize addictions and prostitution.