The Brain Chemistry of Addiction
Marijuana - Truth and Consequences
Methamphetamine Update

(1-½ hours – 3 Hours)

Understanding the brain chemistry of addiction on a bio-chemical level (in layman's terms) helps people focus on the disease concept of chemical dependency and continue to maintain compassion for the person who is suffering from this illness. This lecture will also address different kinds of addiction, genetic predisposition, environmental impact on brain landscaping and the role of nutrition in recovery. Risk and protective factors for prevention are discussed, as is relapse prevention. The comorbidity of mental illness and addictive disease is discussed. Updated data and research on marijuana/ methamphetamine given.

Session Objectives:

1. To understand addiction on a bio-chemical basis.
2. Understand the impact of trauma and PTSD on substance abuse.
3. Understanding the biochemical basis of craving, tolerance and the need for total abstinence.
4. The interface of addictive disease and mental health disorders.
5. Awareness of risk/protective factors in determining vulnerability to addictive disease.
6. Update data/research on marijuana/ methamphetamine.
7. Awareness of the unique vulnerability of the adolescent brain to drugs and alcohol.
8. Awareness of the unique vulnerability of women to addictive disease.

What Past Participants Have Said:

"I have always believed that addiction is a disease, but I finally understand how and why. Thanks"

"This is the most informative lecture I've heard in all 4 years of school."

"How I wish I had heard this when I was young, I might have saved me years of anguish."

"Every parent, teacher, and social worker should hear this. It makes so much sense."

"Your stories have touched me deeply, and changed the way I think about alcohol and drugs."

"They should teach this in every school starting in Junior High."