



**Drug Endangered Children: A Collaborative Response**  
**2014 Indian Nations Conference**  
Lori Moriarty, Vice President  
Eric Nation, Director of Training and Development  
Stacey Read, Director of DEC Network Development  
**December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

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our Goal:  
Healthy, Happy & Safe Children  
**100%**

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**CHILDREN  
AT RISK**  
[www.nationaldec.org](http://www.nationaldec.org)

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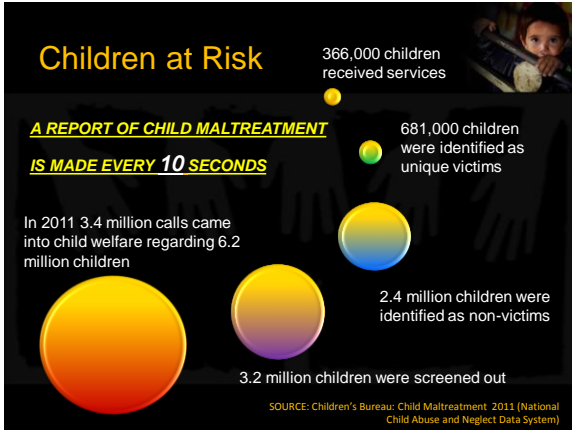
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## Defining Drug Endangered Children (DEC)

The National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children defines drug endangered children as children who are at risk of suffering physical or emotional harm as a result of illegal drug use, possession, manufacturing, cultivation, or distribution.

They may also be children whose caretaker's substance misuse interferes with the caretaker's ability to parent and provide a safe and nurturing environment.



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## Defining Drug Endangered Children (DEC)



Children + Drugs = Risk



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## Children at Risk



Risk (n.): The chance of something going wrong; the danger that injury, damage or loss will occur.

-Encarta Dictionary of North America



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**Children at Risk**



- **All** drug endangered children are **at risk**
- **How much risk** and **risk for what** varies

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**Children at Risk**

Children of parents with substance use disorders have a higher likelihood of developing substance use problems themselves.

SOURCE: (CSAT 2005, Price & Simmel, 2002, Young, Gardner & Dennis, CSAT, 2004)

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**Children at Risk**

- Children whose parents abuse alcohol or drugs are:
  - **3 times more likely to be verbally, physically or sexually abused**
  - **4 times more likely than other children to be neglected**

SOURCE: A Guide for Caring Adults Working with Young People Experiencing Addiction in the Family, CSAT, SAMHSA

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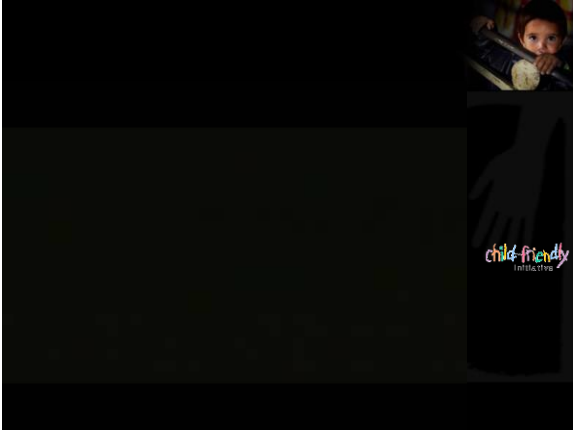
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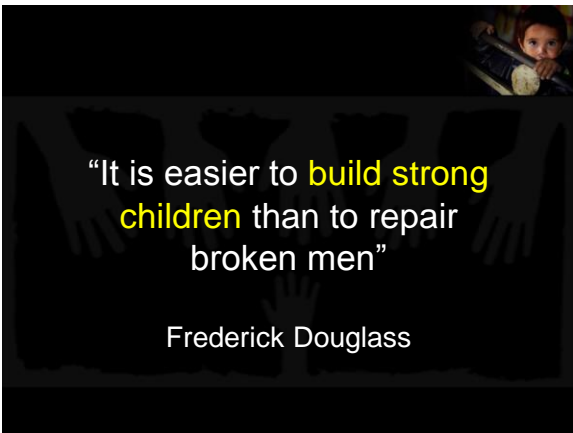
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THORNTON LAB RAID  
APRIL 4, 2002

North Metro  
Task Force Raid  
Video  
Adams County,  
CO April 2002

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### Understanding Risk



- Risk of Physical Abuse
  - Erratic discipline
    - Severe, inconsistent & inappropriate discipline
  - Increased irritability
  - Irrational rage

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### Understanding Risk



- Risk of Neglect
  - Lack of supervision
  - Lack of necessities
  - Lack of safe and nurturing environment
    - Neglect of basic needs: food, shelter, clothing, medical care, education, supervision

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### Understanding Risk



- Risk of Exposure to Illegal Activities
  - Property Crimes
  - Drug dealing
  - Drug transporting
  - Kidnapping
  - Home invasions

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### Understanding Risk



- Other Risks
  - Exposure to violence
    - Domestic
    - Crime-related
  - Overlay deaths
  - Exposure and ingestion
  - Sexual abuse
  - Emotional Abuse
    - Disruption of parent/child relationship, child's sense of trust, belonging

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### Understanding Risk



- Other Risks
  - Loss
    - Parents
    - Death
    - School
    - Sibling Separation
    - Pets (loss or death)
    - Home

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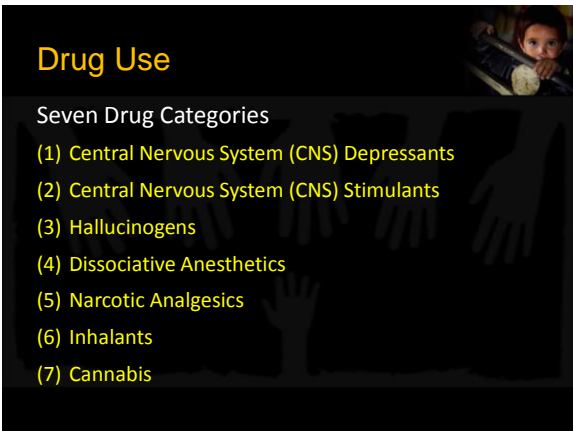
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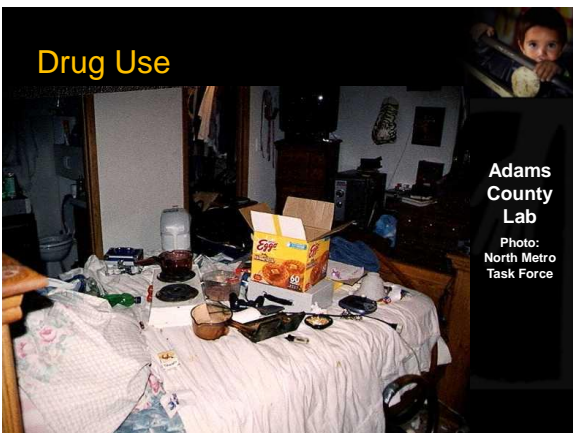
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True Stories

[www.nationaldec.org](http://www.nationaldec.org)

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Evidence of Harm

- When do we take action to protect children?
- Do we consider illicit drug activity alone justification to intervene?
- Do we wait until additional maltreatment circumstances arise?
- What if we wait too long?

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Neglect caused more child fatalities than Physical Abuse

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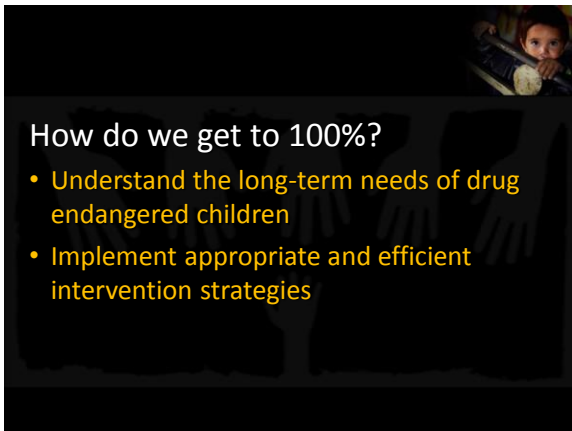
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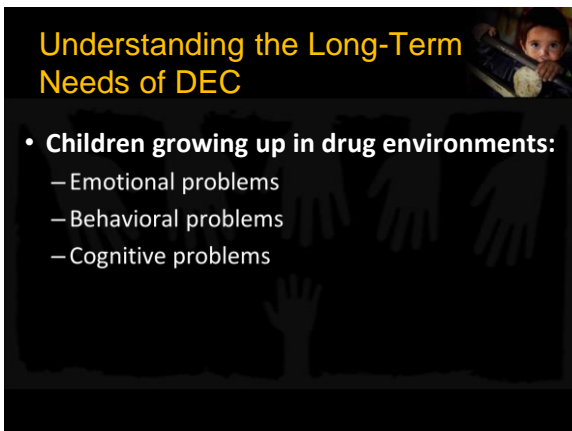
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### Understanding the Long-Term Needs of DEC

- Some Examples of Emotional Problems
  - Attachment Disorders
  - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
  - Anxiety
  - Depression
  - Complex Emotions

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### Understanding the Long-Term Needs of DEC

- Some Examples of Behavioral Problems
  - Interpersonal Problems
  - Inappropriate Sexual Behaviors
  - Low Threshold for Stimulation
  - Eating Disorders

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### Understanding the Long-Term Needs of DEC

- Some Examples of Cognitive Problems
  - Difficulty talking and listening
  - Difficulty paying attention
  - Difficulty remembering
  - Trouble reading, especially learning to move from left to right
  - Often do not learn from mistakes or experiences
  - Trouble picking up on social cues

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# Long Term Needs Part 2

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## Children at Risk



Children who experience child abuse & neglect are 59% more likely to be arrested as a juvenile, 28% more likely to be arrested as an adult, and 30% more likely to commit violent crime.

SOURCE: childhelp.org

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## Children at Risk



- On daughter's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday, daughter told teacher and school resource officer about drugs in her house.
- SRO advised taskforce of the information
- Task force executed search warrant and discovered meth lab
- Father's first phone call from jail



Courtesy of Eric Nation, Jasper Sheriff's Office, IA.

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## Children at Risk



Dad: Are you there? Daughter: Ya  
 Dad: How does it feel to know you just sent your dad to prison for a long time? Daughter: Sorry  
 Dad: No you're not f@%-#\*\* sorry! You had no business saying this s\*#@ to anybody! All you had to do is say something to me or grandma! What f@%-#\*\* business did you have going running your f@%-#\*\* mouth at school?  
 Daughter: Sorry  
 Dad: No! No sorry my a\*\*! This is no sorry to it! Answer my question! Why did you go run your f@%-#\*\* mouth at school?  
 Daughter: I had no business  
 Dad: No! You didn't have no business! But, thanks to you, I will be spending a lot of time in prison! I'm done talking to you! Bye!

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## Children at Risk



- Daughter arrested years later for felony theft
- Daughter has been in and out of the criminal justice system on numerous occasions




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## Collaborative Mindset




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## Collaborative Mindset

COLLABORATION:

[E]xchange of information, altering of activities, sharing of resources, and **enhancement of the capacity of another for the mutual benefit of all** and to achieve a common purpose.

Chris Huxham, *Creating Collaborative Advantage*

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## Collaborative Mindset

"I have seen that in any great undertaking it is not enough for a man to depend simply upon himself."  
- Lone Man (Isna-la-wica), Teton Sioux



Traditionally, Native people collaborated to perform most tasks.

Collaboration is an essential Native value.

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## Collaborative Mindset




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Collaborative Mindset

By collaborating, we increase the likelihood of success for the good of children & families

The slide has a dark background with a faint image of hands holding a child. The text is centered in white.

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Collaborative Mindset

Break the cycle of abuse & neglect for the next generation

The slide has a dark background with a faint image of hands holding a child. The text is centered in yellow.

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**October 11, 2002: Meet Kayla**, 4 year old girl who greets SWAT officers at the door of her home as it is raided.



- The girl is completely calm as the SWAT team secures the house.

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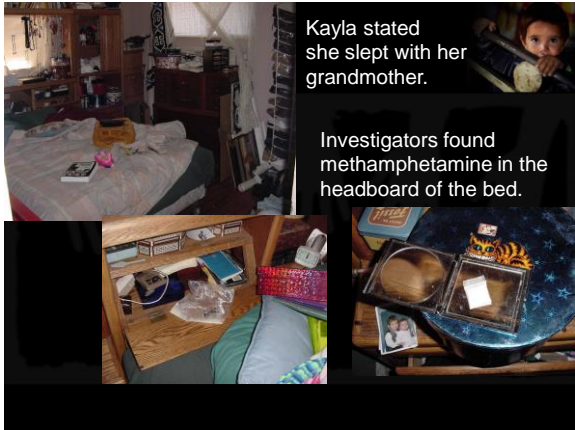
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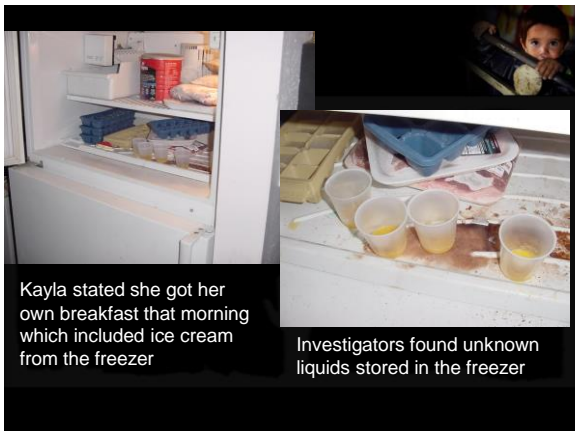
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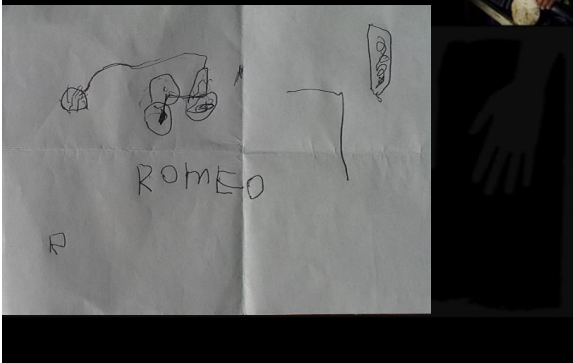
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### The Meth Lab Picture



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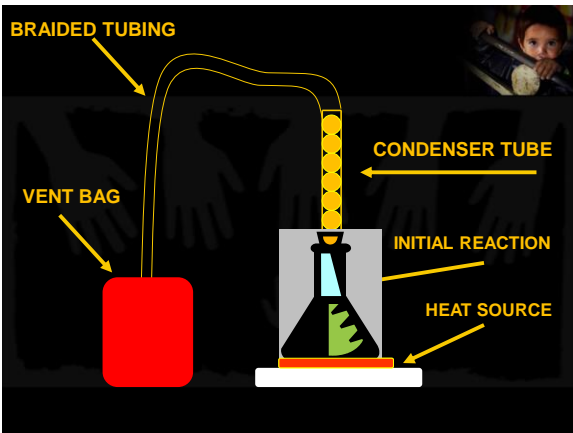
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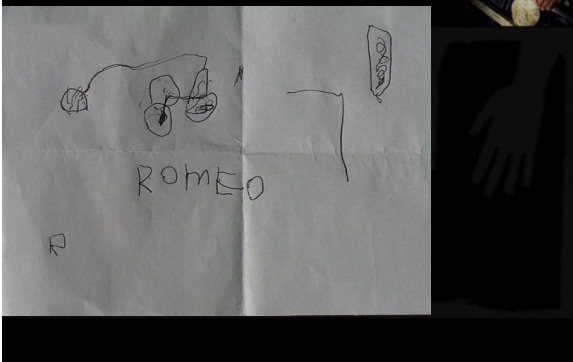
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### The Meth Lab Picture



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Jasmine



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The Importance of Intervention



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The Importance of Intervention

Moving children from

**RISK to RESILIENCY**



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## The Importance of Intervention

The earlier the intervention, the more efficient and effective the outcome

BUT ... research and clinical trends *also* support the potential for change throughout life

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## The Importance of Intervention

In other words...

It is never too early to intervene...

AND

It is never too late to intervene!

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We ALL have an  
**intervention &  
prevention**  
role to play

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## Changing the Status Quo

- Common elements for change:
  - Recognition of an unacceptable situation
  - Shared vision for a desired outcome
  - Strong leadership
  - Guided activities of many
  - Never give up!

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## Changing the Status Quo

- Candice Lightner, MADD Founder
  - Sept 1980: MADD incorporates
  - End of 1980: MADD grows to 11 chapters
  - 1982: MADD grows to 100 chapters; participates in drunk driving commission at President Reagan's request
  - 1983: 129 new anti-drunk driving laws passed
  - 1984: Uniform drinking age raised to 21; MADD grows to 330 chapters in 47 states
  - 2000: Congress makes .08 BAC the national illegal limit for impaired driving
  - TODAY: More than 300,000 lives saved and more than 50,000 victims served




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## Changing the Status Quo

- John Walsh, Missing Children Advocate
  - 1981: Adam Walsh Child Resource Center founded
  - 1982: Missing Children Act passed
  - 1984: Missing Children's Assistance Act passed
  - 1984: National Center for Missing and Exploited Children founded
  - 2006: Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act passed
  - TODAY: The recovery rate for missing children has gone from 62% to 96%




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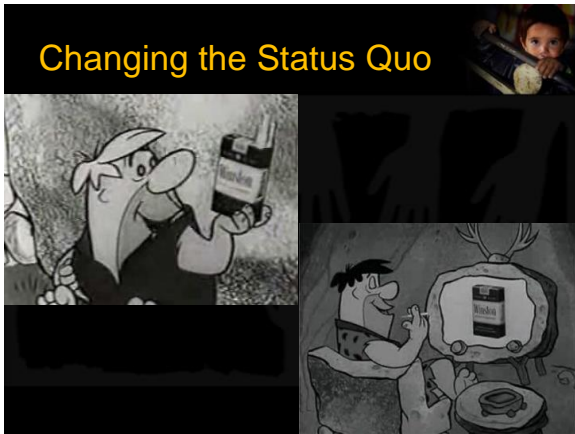
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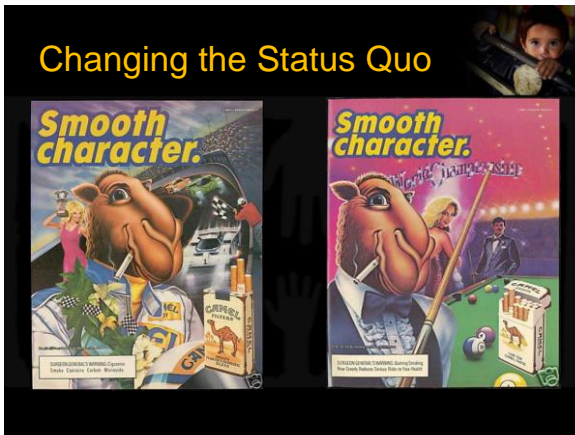
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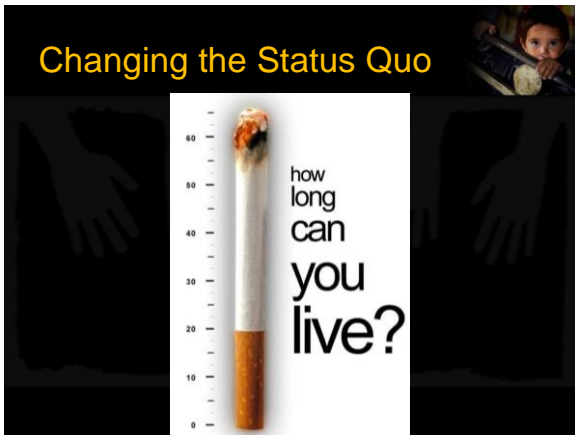
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Brothers



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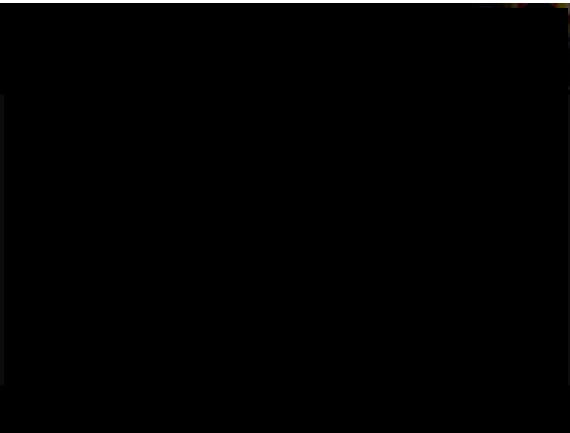
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**Believe in the future  
and create the reality**

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