



Attorney General talks meth at JALC

By Codell Rodriguez, The Southern
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CARTERVILLE - Attorney General Lisa Madigan visited John A. Logan College on Tuesday afternoon to discuss progress made against methamphetamine addiction and a campaign to fight teenage meth use.

Madigan was joined by State Sen. Gary Forby, D-Benton, and State Reps. Brandon Phelps, D-Harrisburg, and John Bradley, D-Marion. They praised Madigan for steps she has taken against meth use and production.

"Meth has gone down, and we owe a lot of that to Lisa Madigan," Phelps said.

The next tool to be used will be the Illinois Meth Project, an ad campaign targeting children ages 12 to 17. Madigan said the advertisements, which have been used in Montana and central Illinois, tell true stories of children who have dealt with meth addiction.

Madigan said after the campaign, meth use decreased by 70 percent with adults and 45 percent with teens. She said it is especially important because children may not know the dangers of the drug.

"Once they take it, it is such an addictive drug," Madigan said.

Steven Mange, executive director of the [Illinois Meth Project](#), said the campaign has already made a difference in central Illinois and they hope to start the campaign in Southern Illinois by April.

One ad includes images of an unconscious teenage girl in an emergency room and a sink containing a razor blade and spattered blood. The ad says, "No one thinks they'll try to tear off their own skin. Meth will change that."

Forby said the project will be well-received in the region because methamphetamine use is a major issue in the region.

Forby said Madigan has exceeded expectations with combating meth and hopes there will be more help and funding toward fighting the drug.

One such act is a pilot program Madigan began earlier this year to track purchases of pseudoephedrine, a key ingredient used in making meth. Madigan said another law passed in 2006 that put pseudoephedrine behind pharmacy shelves has decreased meth labs in the state by 40 percent.

Bradley said when he came into office, meth was one of the top concerns he heard from people in the region.

"I really think we have made a difference and we still have more to do," Bradley said.