



**The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, New Jersey**

1675 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road, Hamilton, NJ 08619

phone: 609-689-0121

email: [dmeara@ncaddnj.org](mailto:dmeara@ncaddnj.org) <http://www.ncaddnj.org>

# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

April 5, 2002

Contact: Dan Meara

609/689-0121 x 102

## **Treatment component essential to needle exchange initiative**

Mercerville, NJ (April 5) ... The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-New Jersey views needle exchanges as consistent with its overarching goal of treating addiction as a public health issue. The Governor's Council on AIDS and Health and Senior Services Commissioner Dr. Clifton Lacy have both emphasized that needle exchanges should not be an end in themselves but a vehicle to promote treatment of addicts, reflecting NCADD-NJ's position.

NCADD-NJ Policy Director John Hulick said, "The objective of reducing the spread of HIV through needle exchanges can be best achieved with the inclusion of treatment for addicts, which in turn will mean less hypodermic drug use. It is critical, therefore, that funding for education and treatment be provided for in the needle exchange program that is implemented."

Previous initiatives such as Welfare to Work, drug courts and drunk driving law all included a treatment appropriations that helped people overcome drug or alcohol problems. The state benefited from its investment by having more of its citizens leading productive lives rather than posing a risk to themselves and others. Needle exchange presents the state with another opportunity in this area.

(End)