

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 12, 2012

9 a.m. EDT

Contact: NIDA Press Office

301-443-6245

media@nida.nih.gov

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

National Inhalant Prevention Coalition to highlight dangers of helium
NIDA's David Shurtleff will speak on inhalant abuse

The National Inhalant Prevention Coalition, with support from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration ([SAMHSA](#)) and the National Institute on Drug Abuse ([NIDA](#)), will hold a press conference to focus on the dangers of inhalant abuse, including helium inhalation, featuring:

WHO: Gil Kerlikowske, Director, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy

David Shurtleff, Ph.D., Acting Deputy Director, NIDA, NIH

Harvey Weiss, Executive Director, National Inhalant Prevention Coalition

Brian Dyak, President/CEO and Co-founder, Entertainment Industries Council, Inc.

Loriann and Justin Earp, Eagle Point, Oregon, mother and stepfather of Ashley Long, a 14 year-old girl who died on February 18, 2012, after inhaling helium from a pressurized tank.

WHEN: Thursday, March 15, 2012
9:30 a.m. EDT

WHERE: National Press Club
Zenger Room
529 14th Street, NW
Washington, D.C.

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The National Institute on Drug Abuse is a component of the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIDA supports most of the world's research on the health aspects of drug abuse and addiction. The Institute carries out a large variety of programs to inform policy and improve practice. Fact sheets on the health effects of drugs of abuse and information on NIDA research and other activities can be found on the

NIDA home page at www.drugabuse.gov. To order publications in English or Spanish, call NIDA's DrugPubs research dissemination center at 1-877-NIDA-NIH or 240-645-0228 (TDD) or fax or email requests to 240-645-0227 or drugpubs@nida.nih.gov. Online ordering is available at <http://drugpubs.drugabuse.gov>. NIDA's media guide can be found at <http://drugabuse.gov/mediaguide/>.

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