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February 20, 2004

Mr. Tony Bylsma, Director  
Narconon Drug Prevention & Education  
4442 York Blvd, Suite 18  
Los Angeles, CA 90041

Dear Mr. Bylsma,

Thank you for your follow up letter and 2003 Summary of Program Results. Sigal has also been helpful in providing Narconon presentation scheduling information to SHPD staff. We appreciate receiving program updates and a schedule of presentation so we may have the opportunity to observe future classroom presentations. After reviewing the presentation outlines you provided we have a few questions we would like you to clarify:

**Target Audience**

1. Pg. 1 "Narconon presentations are suitable for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up." The list of participating schools you provided lists Alice Fong Yu and Sanchez ES – grade levels 1,2, and Kindergarten. Our understanding is that Narconon did not provide presentations for K,1, and 2 students. Please clarify.

**Presentation Content**

2. Pgs. 1-3 include information about "Presentation 1: Drugs and the Body and Presentation 2: Alcohol and the Media."

- Pg. 2 – Part II "Drug defined." "All drugs are basically poisons. The amount which you take is what determines the effect. A small amount acts as a stimulant (speeds you up). A larger amount acts as a sedative (puts you to sleep). An even larger amount acts as a poison and can kill you. This is true of any drug."

In an attempt to simplify the message about drugs, the statement is inaccurate. We request you provide an accurate definition (e.g. Drug: A chemical substance that changes the structure or function of the body or mind) and information about classification of drugs (depressants, stimulants, etc.) and specific examples of substances which are known to cause lethal overdose.

- Pg.2 – Part III "How drugs affect the body." "Drugs burn up vitamins and minerals in the body. Most drugs or their byproducts get stored in fat within the body and can stay there for years. Even occasional use has long-term effects. This is a problem because later, when the person is working or exercising or has stress, the fat burns up and a tiny amount of the drug seeps back into the blood. This triggers cravings so the person may still want drugs even years after he's stopped taking them."

MAY-25-2004 16:45

The general statement about drugs or their byproducts stored in fat and a tiny amount of the drug seeping back into the blood is misleading. We request you revise this piece to address short and long term effects of substance use with examples of specific substances (tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, etc.). Please clarify what the demonstration includes and the explanation that accompanies the demonstration.

- Pg. 2 – Part IV Definition of addiction is not provided. Reasons given for why people take drugs is incomplete.

Please provide a definition that addresses both psychological and physical addiction. It is important to identify other reasons people may abuse drugs including curiosity and experimentation.

- Pg. 3 – Part III “Like any other drug it is poisonous to your body. .... Alcohol is made of dead rotted food”

Both statements are misleading, we request these statements be removed from the presentation. Please provide short and long term effects of alcohol use.

- Pg. 3 – Part V Answer to second question is incomplete and reads “Making alcohol illegal was tried once but it failed to keep people\_\_\_\_\_”.

Please provide the rest of the answer.

#### Other presentations and newsletter:

As discussed during our December 2003 meeting, you indicated Narconon offers a number of other presentations (Presentations # 1-8) that address a variety of drug education topics. In addition to the two presentation outlines you have provided (#1 - Drugs and the Body and # 2 –Alcohol and the Media), we would like a complete outline for each presentation Narconon is offering to SFUSD students.

We did receive a fax from Sigal with a copy of a letter to Health Coordinators that has been mailed out with a brief description of a presentation on Peer Pressure and Drugs. We have not received an outline of this presentation. Please let us know when we will receive complete outlines of this presentation and any other presentation topics Narconon is currently offering SFUSD schools.

Further, from our discussion in December 2003 it was our understanding that no printed materials are distributed to students or teachers as part of any Narconon presentation in SFUSD. Please clarify if this is not the case. We did receive a copy of the newsletter you plan to mail out to school contacts at the end of February. The Newsletter contains an article “The Life Cycle & Mechanics of Addiction” which includes information about effective detoxification methods. This information is not substantiated by any reputable authority (e.g., NIDA or NIH) and is not appropriate to share with school staff. School Health Programs cannot authorize or recommend that Narconon distribute the newsletter to SFUSD school staff.

Thank you,

Kim Coates