

# Partnership to discuss grant for addiction recovery

By **MATT SCHMITZ**  
**News Tribune**

When Michael Couty addresses Thursday's crowd about the nearly \$23-million grant awarded to Missouri last month for addiction-recovery services, he could be foreshadowing a new option for local residents seeking help.

Couty, director of the state Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, will be the keynote speaker at Partnership for Community Solutions' (PCS) first-ever fall forum, which will be from 4-8 p.m. Thursday at Ramada Inn, 1510 Jefferson St.

The event will serve a dual purpose as an observance of September as National Recovery Month, and as the official coming-out party for PCS, the broad consortium of area recovery-services providers.

The federal Access to Recovery grant, of which Couty will speak, will provide Missouri \$7.6 million a year for three years. Crossroads Community Recovery Center, which spearheaded PCS, has applied to share in the grant and hopes to hear back this month.

Through vouchers, the grant provides financial aid to those

seeking treatment for substance abuse. What type of assistance is up to the person who needs it.

"Crossroads may be able to provide some funding for faith-based services, recovery-support centers and address gaps in services, such as transportation and child care, things like that," said Angie Carter, Crossroads director.

"There will be an assessment. If they qualify, the person can choose which services they wish to access."

PCS is the result of momentum gathered in recent months to establish a comprehensive, area-wide network of service providers with the objective of improving the availability of services. That forward motion peaked in April, at another forum, sponsored by Missouri Recovery Network and Crossroads for Alcohol Awareness Month.

Thursday's forum will feature a panel discussion with the leaders of PCS's dozen subcommittees, which run the gamut from family support to prevention to corrections and enforcement. A question-and-answer session with the audience

will follow.

Other guest speakers will include State Rep. Bill Deeken, R-Jefferson City, and Cole County Prosecutor Bill Tackett, who will report on his new underage-drinking policy, aimed at getting parents of young alcohol offenders involved in the legal process.

Another highlight of the evening will be Crossroads consultant Don Carter's revealing the address of PCS's newly established Web site, intended as both a public

resource and as the cornerstone of maintaining communications among network members.

"It's the glue that holds everything together," Angie Carter said.

The event also will include dozens of informational booths, a silent auction of themed goodie baskets and a snack buffet.

"We just really want the public to come out and see what we're doing," Carter said.

*mschmitz@newstribune.com*