

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

CONTACT:

Joe Gallagher  
Communications Coordinator  
New Futures  
603-225-9540 Ext. 107  
[Jgallagher@new-futures.org](mailto:Jgallagher@new-futures.org)

**NEW HAMPSHIRE TO BECOME 20<sup>TH</sup> STATE AFFILIATED WITH SMART APPROACHES TO MARIJUANA (SAM)**

New Hampshire will become the 20<sup>th</sup> state affiliated with Smart Approaches to Marijuana (Project SAM). This comes as an effort to ground the NH marijuana policy debate in science. A press conference for the affiliation will be held on January 30<sup>th</sup> at the Legislative Office Building in Concord from 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM.

**A middle ground in marijuana policy?**

Founded by Patrick J. Kennedy and Dr. Kevin Sabet, SAM is an alliance of organizations and individuals dedicated to a health-first approach to marijuana policy. SAM believes in an approach that neither legalizes nor demonizes marijuana. The organization rejects dichotomies—such as “incarceration versus legalization”—that offer only simplistic solutions to the highly complex problems stemming from marijuana use. SAM champions smart policies that decrease marijuana use and do not harm marijuana users and low-level dealers with arrest records that make it harder to break free from cycles of substance dependence. SAM’s “third-way” approach to marijuana policy is based on science and principles of public health and safety.

**MEDIA ITINERARY FOR SAM KICKOFF – JANUARY 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2013**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>10:30 AM – 11:00 AM</b> | <p><b>SAM Kickoff Press Conference at the Legislative Office Building</b></p> <p><b>SPEAKERS: Linda Paquette<br/>Patrick J. Kennedy<br/>Tym Rourke<br/>Dr. Kevin Sabet</b></p> <p><i>*Additional speakers may be named</i></p> |
| <b>11:30 – NOON</b>        | <b>Media availability upon request</b>   |
| <b>3:00 PM – 4:30 PM</b>   | <b>Presentation and Q/A on marijuana policy issues at Institute of Politics at St. Anselm.</b>   |

**Linda Saunders Paquette** is the Executive Director of New Futures. She received her Juris Doctor degree from Franklin Pierce Law Center in 1978 and is a member of the NH Bar Association. After graduating from law school, Linda directed the Elderly Legal Services Program of the New Hampshire Bar Association, was the Managing Attorney of the Belknap/Merrimack County Public Defender Program, taught Evidence and Trial Advocacy at Franklin Pierce Law Center, and served as a special justice for Concord District Court—hearing cases regarding Involuntary Emergency Admissions of individuals to New Hampshire Hospital. Linda joined the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in 1996.

**Patrick Kennedy** helped found and lead Project SAM. As a former U.S. Representative for Rhode Island's 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District, Patrick J. Kennedy has authored and co-sponsored dozens of bills to increase understanding and treatment of neurological and psychiatric disorders, including the National Neurotechnology Initiative Act, the Genomics and Personalized Medicine Act, the COMBAT PTSD Act, and more. Kennedy has openly discussed his struggles with depression and bipolar disorder for much of his life and in 2008, he brought his passion for mental health research and advocacy into the spotlight when he co-authored and was the lead sponsor of the Mental Health Parity & Addictions Equity Act. This legislation provides tens of millions of Americans who were previously denied care with access to mental health treatment. Kennedy has emerged as a top advocate for marijuana policy.

**Tym Rourke** is the chair of Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment. He is also the Director of Programs with the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. In addition to overseeing the foundation's grantmaking, Tym manages the foundation's second-largest portfolio of funds, which is dedicated to addressing substance use disorders in New Hampshire. Tym has over 16 years of experience in the Substance Use Disorders field, and currently serves as recipient of the Terrance Keenan Fellowship for Leaders in Health Philanthropy from Grantmakers in Health.

**Kevin Sabet** served in the Obama Administration as Senior Advisor at the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy from 2009-2011. He currently directs the Institute on Drug Policy at UF and is a consultant working with governments, NGOs, the media, and other organizations on a wide range of drug policy issues. His areas of specialization include evidence-based drug prevention, treatment, and law enforcement (both domestic and international), as well as the impacts of drug legalization and medical marijuana. He authored "Reefer Sanity: Seven Great Myths About Marijuana" and is a regular columnist at thefix.com and blogger at Huffington Post. Kevin is a co-founder of SAM.

\*Additional speakers may be named following this release.

## **About New Futures**

New Futures is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization that advocates, educates and collaborates to reduce alcohol and other drug problems in New Hampshire.