

## Iu Mien community forum on violence held at SMHA

A Iu Mien community forum to discuss the problems of drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence and mental health issues that are suspected of playing a role in the recent murders of four local Mien was held for Sacramento's 10,000-member community on December 17, 2010 at the Los Robles Sacramento Mutual Housing Association Community Center.

"It's time for the community to come together to share the concerns we are facing today and how we can work together to find safe, healthy solutions," said Kate Saechao of Lao Family Community Development Inc., which hosted the meeting.

"We know there's a lot of mental health issues and drug use going on not just with young people but old people who don't realize

how dangerous it is," said victim counselor Maichew Chao.

On Oct. 8th, Kouiewang Saetern allegedly murdered his wife and two of his sons - both college students - in a fight over drug money, police said. "We've been told by the wife's close friend Saetern had a history of mental problems," Chao said.

On Dec. 10, Muangliem Saeteurn, 60, was allegedly stabbed to death by her husband, Sy Choy Saeteurn, 65, police said. Relatives said the suspect was crying before the incident, and had been depressed, lost his appetite and wasn't himself lately, Chao said. "If a family member is using drugs, has mental health problems or is a victim of domestic violence, we'll tell them how to get help."

The forum included a free lunch for community members.



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