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British and Italian Leaders Briefed on Drug Treatment Courts



December 15 – 18, 2013 (London, England and Rome, Italy) - British and Italian policy leaders received an education in Drug Treatment Courts as All Rise Ambassador Matthew Perry joined Board Member Earl Hightower and CEO West Huddleston in Europe for a series of high-level meetings and briefings. The delegation made the trip to London, England in partnership with the Policy Exchange, a leading UK think-tank, where they met with Parliamentarians, Policy Advisors to the Prime Minister, and other high-ranking officials. Following two days of meetings and presentations, they then travelled to Rome, Italy at the request of Dr. Giovanni Serpelloni, Head of the Anti-Drugs Policy

Department, to brief drug/health policy leaders from Arab Countries who specifically requested information about Drug Treatment Courts in the US.

“This trip marked a pivotal moment in the international expansion of Drug Treatment Courts,” said CEO West Huddleston. “In every meeting we attended we found leaders committed to adopting policies that promote treatment, recovery and Drug Treatment Courts. We were honored to partner with the Policy Exchange on this effort and stand ready to further assist our friends in the UK, Italy and the Mediterranean region as they seek to expand Drug Treatment Courts.”

Among the key officials the delegation met with were Rt. Hon. Chris Grayling MP, British Secretary of State for Justice; Antonia Romero, Director General for Criminal Justice Reform at the Ministry of Justice; and the Prime Minister’s Policy Unit including Deputy Director Antonia Williams as well as numerous Members of Parliament.

They also made headlines throughout Europe, including appearing on the BBC show Newsnight, where Matthew Perry and author Peter Hitchens engaged in a debate on the “fantasy of addiction.” The segment went viral around the

world, racking up over 750,000 views on YouTube so far.

Dr. Giovanni Serpelloni, Head of the Anti-drugs Policy Department co-presented with the delegation at the Italian National School of Administration in Rome where Earl Hightower had the honor of speaking about the state of substance abuse and mental health treatment and recovery in the US. Later that morning, the entire delegation addressed the audience of drug and health policy leaders from Mediterranean countries about Drug Treatment Courts. Left: Matthew Perry Appears on Italian TV.

“All over the world, leaders are seeking solutions to the problem of drugs and crime,” said Huddleston. “In Drug Treatment Court they are finding a solution. We were thrilled to share our experience with such an engaged and thoughtful group of people. I have no doubt that these meetings will result in more lives saved in Drug Treatment Courts.”

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