



Substance Abuse Council

A Drug Prevention Coalition Serving Calhoun County

DATE: February 3rd, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact Carol Meyer-Niedzwiecki at 441-5986 or 568-0580 (cell)

Medicine Abuse Topic of Town Hall on February 5th

The Substance Abuse Council, Battle Creek Enquirer, and Summit Pointe will host a Town Hall on Thursday, February 5th from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at Burnham Brook. The Town Hall invites parents, educators, retailers, law enforcement officials, medical community, substance abuse providers and others to learn about medicine abuse issues being seen both nationally and locally. Locally designed solutions are being developed and public input is needed.

A panel, moderated by Eric Greene of the Battle Creek Enquirer, will include: Dr. James Gandy (Medical Director, Summit Pointe/Behavioral Health Resources), Thomas Burns (Drug Enforcement Administration), Lt. Wayne Edington (Michigan State Police Southwest MI Enforcement Team), Bill Ford (Detective Sgt., Dept of Environmental Quality), and Joseph Kuchenbach (Program Director, Psychological Consultants of Michigan).

Approximately 2.4 million teens or one out of 10 youth nationwide report having abused cough remedies to get high. Recent National Institute on Drug Abuse's "Monitoring the Future" survey responses note decreases in all drug use except for prescription drugs and inhalants. People raise their risk of harm by using otherwise safe and beneficial medications intentionally to get high. Taking huge amounts, as much as 25-50 times the recommended dose, can result in

dangerous side effects including hallucinations, heart problems, vomiting, seizures, or loss of consciousness. With continued use, tolerance builds and the risk of addiction rises as does the tendency to try other controlled drugs.

The Town Hall expects to raise awareness by sharing current research based information with parents who are key in the process of impacting their children's choices and behavior.

For more information about the Town Hall or materials about medicine abuse, call the Substance Abuse Council, a drug prevention coalition serving Calhoun County, at 269-968-4699; www.drugfreebc.org

The Substance Abuse Council partners with United Way of Greater Battle Creek to solve community problems.

United Way of Greater Battle Creek's mission is to mobilize the caring power of our community to measurably improve lives. For more information, visit United Way's office at 34 W. Jackson St., Ste. 4B, Battle Creek MI, 49017; call (269) 962-9538; email info@uwgbc.org; or visit the web site at www.uwgbc.org.