



NEW FOR RELEASE

September 19, 2008



**COALITION ANNOUNCES
FALL PARENT EDUCATION FORUM:
“TEENS & PRESCRIPTION DRUGS”**

The East Williston/Roslyn Community Coalition for Drug Free Youth (EWRCC) invites parents and residents to a special forum to bring awareness to the troubling trend of prescription and over the counter drug abuse among our nation’s teens. Every day, 2,500 youth (12-17) abuse a prescription pain reliever for the very first time (SAMHSA, 2007a).

The Forum entitled “Teens & Prescription Drugs: Do You Know Who’s in Your Medicine Cabinet?” will be held on Wednesday, October 29TH at 7:30 p.m. at the Roslyn High School Auditorium. Panelists include Nelly Alia-Klein, Ph.D., Associate Scientist from Brookhaven Labs addressing the effects of teen prescription drug abuse on the teenage brain; Dr. Richard Gallagher, Director of the Parenting Institute & Thriving Teens Project at the NYU Child Study Center, addressing what parental efforts keep teens on a healthy path; Scott Maidat, L.C.S.W., C.A.S.A.C., Director of Chemical Dependency Services at South East Guidance Center discussing the scope of teen prescription drug abuse and types of treatment for addicted teens; and Oscar Michelin, Esq., founder of The Law Squad, focusing on the legal ramifications of teens involved with prescription drugs.

According to the Partnership for a Drug Free America’s annual tracking study: 1 in 5 teens has abused prescription pain medication; 1 in 10 report abusing prescription stimulants and tranquilizers and 1 in 10 has abused cough medication. Children as young as 12 yrs. old are using prescription drugs to get high or for “self medicating”. The vast majority of teens abusing prescription drugs are getting them from the medicine cabinets of friends, family and acquaintances (The Partnership for a Drug Free America: www.drugfree.org).

Since 2003, EWRCC has been working towards a simple but formidable goal to reduce alcohol and drug use among the youth of our communities. EWRCC’s objective is to educate families as they face today’s many parenting challenges by means of parent education workshops, public service ads and community website (www.ewrcc.org). EWRCC strives to give parents the access to the critical resources they need to address teenage drug and alcohol use. An incorporated, not-for-profit organization, EWRCC relies on contributions from individuals, corporations and government for its work on behalf of the children of the communities. For more information about EWRCC or this parent education forum, contact Cathy Samuels, President at 516-248-3489.