



NEWS FROM THE ULSTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE SPONSORS "WAKE UP CALL: A CALL TO ACTION ON ADOLESCENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE" CONFERENCE

Kingston, NY - (April 20, 2009) - Ulster County Executive Mike Hein, in partnership with SUNY Ulster, the Ulster County Adolescent Substance Abuse Task Force (ASATF), and the Ulster County SAFE Coalition (School, Agency, Family and Educators Coalition), is sponsoring "Wake Up Call: A Call to Action on Adolescent Substance Abuse" Conference. This full day conference will be held on Tuesday, May 12, starting at 8:00 am, in the Student Lounge at SUNY Ulster in Stone Ridge, NY. **It is the first of its kind in Ulster County to bring together schools, colleges, service providers and parents to raise awareness and create a direction to address this issue for our youth.**

"I am proud to be sponsoring this unique and important conference", said Ulster County Executive, Mike Hein. "Adolescent substance abuse is a concern that cuts across all communities, families and socio-economic groups in our County. I am proud of the commitment and dedication of the individuals and organizations that are helping us to face this challenge in a meaningful way."

"One in ten adolescents in New York State has a substance use problem. Early detection is critical to help identify a child who may be in need of help for alcohol or drug use. We can then properly link the care they need to prevent an addiction from ever beginning", states the **New York State Commissioner of the Office of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse, Karen Carpenter- Palumbo, LMSW, who will be present to address the Conference.**

The following will be offered to conference participants:

- First view of the public results of the 2008 PRIDE Survey (administered to all middle and high school students in Ulster County) presented by Jack Bennett, Director of Ulster Prevention Project & Eve Waltermaurer, Assistant Professor of Sociology – SUNY New Paltz
- Presentation of a new screening tool designed by the ASATF to assist school and youth serving agencies in identifying youth at risk of substance abuse and how to link teens to local resources as early as possible
- Overview of the newest neurological research on adolescent brain development and substance use by Pierrette Farber of Liberty Behavioral Management and Chris Dennehey of Step One

This community event is made available with funding from Ulster Prevention Project, Liberty Behavioral Management, UC BOCES, and Step One. Interested parties can register by May 1, 2009. For more information, contact Cheryl Qamar (845) 340-4174 or Jack Bennett (845) 458-7406.

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