

In The Know

A monthly newsletter to keep you current and In The Know on topics related to the Prevention of Substance Abuse

New legislation unveils in Steuben

In December 2014, Steuben County District Attorney, Brooks T. Baker, presented a new law to the Legislators of Steuben County known as the Social Host Law. The Legislators passed this law; which prohibits the consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or illegal drugs by minors on private premises in Steuben County. It encompasses providing to minors alcoholic beverages and/or illegal drugs or prescription drugs not prescribed by a physician. The Steuben County District Attorney's office, the Steuben Chief's of Police Association, and the Steuben Prevention Coalition want to be clear that it is *never* legal for any adult to provide alcohol and/or drugs to someone else's child even with the permission of that child's parent. The providing host can now be arrested and prosecuted criminally under this new law. Depending upon the level of the of-

fense, fines can be as high as \$1000 and up to a year in jail. Also for every offense, completion of a court-approved alcohol and drug awareness program is required. In addition to these criminal penalties, civil liability may also still exist for providing the alcohol and/or drugs and/or the place to consume it. Steuben County District Attorney, Brooks T. Baker, states "enforcement of this newly enacted Social Host Law is a priority prosecution in my office, and there will be a no tolerance policy for those who violate it." This law is just another positive step forward in the mission to create a safe and healthy environment for our youth to grow and thrive. Steuben County's Social Host Legislation is set to take effect February 2, 2015. You can read the District Attorney's press release which is attached to this newsletter.

Parents, the key to prevention?

We do not live in a perfect world; drugs, alcohol and sex are a reality that youth face almost daily. Schools and agencies do a great job addressing teen issues, but the fact remains that prevention starts at home. All too often parents and caring adults don't talk early or often enough to their children about these issues.

With the current trends we are seeing in our county and across the US regarding the numbers of teens using drugs and alcohol and becoming sexually active at younger ages parents must become the key players in prevention. Talking early and often does not encourage children to want to try substances, but does set a standard and a boundary that tells children that you are being honest and upfront and that you care about what is going on in their world.

According to the National Crime Prevention Council "Research shows that the main reason that kids don't use alcohol, tobacco, or drugs is because of their parents -- because of their positive influence and because they know it would disappoint them. That's why it is so important that parents build a strong relationship with their kids and talk to them about substance abuse -- the earlier the better!"

Many times there is an apprehension about bringing up such topics, but there are people and agencies with information that can help to make them easier and factual.

Combined with what teens learn in classrooms and from the guidelines they receive at home, they are better equipped to make positive choices when situations arise.



Here are some tips for parents:

- ◆ Establish and maintain good communication with your children.
- ◆ Get involved in your children's lives.
- ◆ Make clear rules and enforce them consistently.
- ◆ Be a positive role model.
- ◆ Help your children choose friends wisely.
- ◆ Talk to your children about drugs and relationships.
- ◆ Make family time a priority.

Parents and caring adults can not be apprehensive regarding these issues as young lives are at risk and these risks increase with age. Drugs, alcohol and teen pregnancy are real and we cannot pretend they are not; become equipped with information to share and help prepare our children as their futures depend on it. For more information, please contact us at (607) 776-6441.

Do you or someone you care about need help because of Drugs, Alcohol or Gambling call:

1-877-8HOPENY (1-877-846-7369)

24 hours a day, 7 days a week * Free & confidential information and referrals.

The Council Corner

Representatives in Steuben County are getting proactive on drug issues in Canisteo. In effort to decrease drug use in the Canisteo community and surrounding areas, many organizations have stepped in to help. On January 15, 2015 Steuben Council on Addictions partnered with The Wimodaughian Library in the Village of Canisteo to host a discussion panel. Represented on the panel were Prevention Educator Stacey O'Dell, Sheriff's Office Investigator Donald Lewis and MATCH Outpatient Counselor Cindy Gardner. Along with the panel there were other professionals present to chime in to the discussion and share their expertise including Loyola Detox located at the VA in Bath. Numerous types of drugs, activities and community actions were discussed by the group that was present. With Prescription drugs being the top drug of choice among 12 and 13 year olds, the panel encourages individuals to dispose of prescription medications they are no longer using. Instead of flushing pills down the toilet or crushing them at home, they advise you to take them to the police station or a designated pill drop off area. It is the hope that other programs such as this one on the subject of drugs and community involvement will occur in the future, watch for details from the Council. Thank you to Heidi and her staff at the library for helping to host this event and also to the Canisteo Acorn Market for their generous donation of a sheet pizza for the event.

The Steuben County Task Force on Underage Drinking is holding an Under Age Drinking Countywide Poster Contest for students in 6th- 8th grades. Posters must be submitted by 4/24/15. Classroom prizes will be given for first, second, and third place. Topic must relate to underage drinking. For more information contact Jim Bassage at (607)776-6441.

In The Know and By The Numbers

A look at facts and figures relating to Underage Drinking and Driving.

- 1 in 3 high school students indicated they used alcohol in the past 30 days (before survey)
- 1 in 3 high school students indicated they drank more than 5 drinks in the past 30 days (before survey)
- 1 in 4 high school students surveyed rode with someone who had been drinking.

2014 Steuben Prevention Coalition Risk and Protective Survey.

- The per-mile fatality rate for 16- to 19-year-olds is four times that of adults.

- Teenagers make up only 10% of In 2009, 5,474 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes that were reported to have involved distracted driving.

<http://www.safeteendriving.org/resources/statistics.php>

- 1/3 of teen partygoers have been to parties where teens were drinking alcohol, smoking marijuana, or using cocaine, ecstasy or prescription drugs while a parent was present. By age 17, 46% of teens have been at such parties where parents were present.

<http://www.who-inc.org/HelpYou/prevention-services-tips.htm>



Youth who drink alcohol are more likely to experience:

School problems, such as higher absence and poor or failing grades. Social problems, such as fighting and lack of participation in youth activities. Legal problems, such as arrest for driving or physically hurting someone while drunk.

Steuben Underage Party Tip Line

Anyone with information about anything related to underage drinking - such as parties or underage sales - in Steuben County are urged to call the toll-free line. The tip line will be monitored seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

All calls are anonymous.

1-877-862-4847

Catholic Charities Steuben Prevention Services

8 East Morris Street
Bath, NY 14810

Phone: (607) 776-6441

Fax: (607) 776-6664

Prevention Director: Jim Bassage

Prevention Educators:
Barb McCollum, Stacey O'Dell,
Erin Fleming, Michele Sexsmith

*Administrative Assistant &
DDP Coordinator:* Diana McIntosh

Clerical Assistant: Peggy Wurzer

Drug Free Communities Coordinator:
Norm McCumiskey

*Drug Free Communities Program
Assistant:* Pam Aini

Bath Hope for Youth Counselors:
Sherry Sutton—Campbell-Savona
Bridgette Lanphere—Hammondspoint
Jennifer Beaty—Haverling



Steuben Council on Addictions is a division of Catholic Charities Steuben. In The Know is a regular monthly update about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs to help in the prevention of substance use and abuse. For more information please contact Stacey O'Dell, Prevention Educator at sodell@dor.org.

2015 Steuben County Task Force on Under Age Drinking Countywide Poster Contest



Rules:

Students in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades

Submit design on an 8 ½" x 11" sheet of paper

Colors, pencil, crayons, & paint are all acceptable.

On **back top left** of entry sheet, write in pencil the name(s) of designer(s), teacher name, grade, class room number and school district. **Entries may be an individual or class/group design and you may attach a paragraph describing what the poster means to the designer(s).**

Poster should capture some of the following ideas:

- Anyone less than 21 years of age should not drink alcohol
- It is not legal, safe, or healthy for teens to drink alcohol
- Parents should not provide alcohol or a location for teens to drink alcohol.
- Prevention of injuries and death in youth as it relates to alcohol

Entry Deadline (NO LATER THAN 4/24/15)

Steuben Council on Addictions

8 E. Morris Street, Bath, New York 14810 Attn: Jim Bassage, Prevention Director

Questions-call (607) 776-6441 ext. 207

Countywide Poster Contest- Classroom Prizes:



1st Prize

"T" shirt



2nd Prize

Pizza Party



3rd Prize

Ice Cream Party

UAD reserves the right to use the winning poster design in Task Force activities and publications