

May 2012

Our New Name and New Look

The Ellington Drug Abuse Prevention Council (DAPC) decided it was time for a change. The organization has been in existence for over 15 years and after reviewing the many different roles it plays, it was unanimous among the members that a new name to reflect the roles was in order. *The Council for Developing Positive Youth Culture* or DPYC has a simple mission and that is to create and sustain a positive culture for Ellington's youth through collaboration among the community, schools and town agencies. The council will continue to meet every second Tuesday during the school year and also will continue to serve as the coalition for the Partnership for Success (PFS) grant that was awarded by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to the Town of Ellington for the prevention of underage drinking.

The DPYC is represented in various ways throughout the Ellington Community. The student leadership group, *Rise Above*, is in its fifth year with a mission to be role models in the student community, especially concerning drugs and alcohol, and provide various events throughout the year for both middle school and high school students. A community service component has taken off in the last few years and Rise Above students can be seen at events throughout town. For more info on Rise Above, visit our website listed in this newsletter. The DPYC also is represented through *The Parent Connection*, where parents work to help keep youth safe through awareness materials. Finally, DPYC also serves as the Youth Services Advisory Board and supports the many programs and activities that are provided by Youth Services.

The DPYC is hopeful with this new name and look, community members will join us in our efforts to create and sustain this positive culture for our youth of all ages!

Project Prom 2012



The DPYC kicked off the prom season this year with a slogan contest held in April at Ellington High School. The theme for the week of prom, May 14-18 is **Project Prom 2012**. (The prom will be held May 19th.) The contest awarded two free prom tickets to the person who came up with the best slogan.

The winning slogan was "*Red Solo Cup, don't fill me up!*" which is a take on a popular country "party" song. The prom week will focus on safety and various activities are planned. There will be a wrist band giveaway, a "Did you know" day, a Black Out day (wear black) to support anyone affected by alcohol, a visit from the Connecticut State Police with several simulators and ending the week with a cookie giveaway with the slogan on the outside of the bag.

Prom Tips



Ellington High School's Junior/Senior Prom is Saturday, May 19th. Here are some tips to help keep your child safe before and after the prom.

- Make sure your teen has a plan for the evening and that you know what it is.
- Know all the "hot spot" destinations
- Take an inventory of the alcohol in your home and secure if needed.
- Know who is driving. If it's a rented limo, check their policy on allowing alcohol in the vehicle.
- Discuss the school's prom rules with your teen and the consequences
- Encourage seat belt use
- Do not rent hotel rooms for prom-goers
- Communicate with other parents and school officials.
- Stay up for the prom-goer's return home and let them know you will be waiting.

Inside this issue:

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- Prom tips
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- Fake ID's
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- Talking to your child early
- Summer safety

Teens Risk Identity Theft with Fake ID's

Fourteen teens were arrested in Saratoga Springs, NY recently and over 40 in Chicago last year for obtaining fake ID's online but what they didn't realize is the future trouble that it may also bring. The teens purchased these fake ID's via a website in China and also submitted their photos and social security numbers. The teens not only face a misdemeanor charge for owning a fake ID but also risk their personal information being sold to identity thieves. One teen tricked and convinced her parent to sign for a money order for the fake ID and the parent now faces a felony charge. Because their identity is sold, it may not be until later in their lives when they try to get a mortgage or credit card that they will learn the reality of their actions. The ID's are so realistic that Homeland Security officials have been working on identifying the foreign websites and shutting them down. Unfortunately it is not that easy to shut them down, especially when they are overseas.



Consequences of Supplying Alcohol to Youth



Spring and summer brings warmer weather and important events. With prom and graduation season upon us, there also comes an increase in parties and underage drinking. There are parents who believe adult supervised house parties (taking the keys) are a way for teens to gain experience with alcohol and be in a "controlled" environment.

Not only are these parents breaking the law by hosting a house party but they are violating the rights of all other parents who rightfully expect other adults not to facilitate dangerous activities involving their children. The first offense for parents who host is an infraction. After that they are subject to a \$500 fine and up to one year in prison. In addition, they can be held liable for injuries to their guests and also face cancellation of their homeowners' insurance policy. Parents are subject to liability even if a party takes place without their knowledge. It's just NOT worth it.



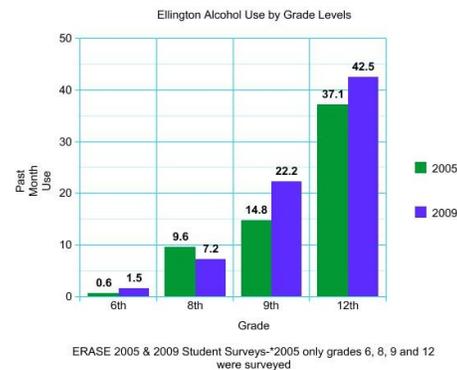
Parents of Seniors—College Drinking

This summer is an important time for parents to prepare their new high school graduate for what lies ahead in college. Talking with them about the consequences of excessive drinking in college is very important. Evidence suggests that the first six weeks of college is very crucial. During these weeks, parents can do a variety of things to stay involved. Inquire about the campus alcohol policies and call your son or daughter frequently. Ask about roommates and discuss the penalties for underage drinking as well as how alcohol can lead to date rape, violence, and academic failure. A special guide for parents can be found on the website www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov. Drinking by college students aged 18 to 24 contributes to an estimated 1,825 student deaths, 599,000 injuries, and 97,000 cases of sexual assault or date rape each year.



Talk to Your Child Early About Drugs and Alcohol

Transitioning from elementary school to middle school and high school can be a scary time for teens. Alcohol use by Ellington youth increases substantially with each grade level. As a parent, YOU MATTER. Below are some tips to help ensure that your child remains drug and alcohol free:



The Parent Connection and Rise Above are on Facebook

For more information on youth and alcohol, check out these websites:

<http://bethechange.ellington-ct.gov>

www.settherulesct.org

www.faceproject.org

www.theantidrug.com

www.teen-safe.org

www.stopalcoholabuse.gov

www.preventionworksct.org

www.housepartybill.org

www.madd.org/under21

www.mourningparentsact.org

www.dontserveteens.gov

www.alcoholfreechildren.org

www.Alot2Lose.com

www.thecoolspot.gov

www.sadd.org

www.niaaa.nih.gov

www.notmykid.org

www.drugfree.org

1. It is never too early to prevent your child from trying drugs.
2. Take every opportunity to build lines of communication. Spend time together—eat dinner as a family, read, play a game. Show that fun stuff doesn't involve drugs.
3. Listen. Take an active interest in what is going on in your child's life.
4. Learn. In order to educate your child about the dangers of drugs, you need to educate yourself first.
5. Be aware. Look for warning signs.
6. Set and declare limits. "This family doesn't do drugs." Enforce these limits. If you say no to drugs or not drinking and driving, the rule applies to parent too. Be consistent. Set a good example.
7. Get involved in your community.

For more information visit www.theantidrug.com

Summer Safety

Summer can be a risky time for teens. More teens try marijuana for the first time in the summer months than any other time of the year. Each day in June, July and August, approximately 6,100 young people try marijuana for the first time; that's 38% more per day than during the rest of the year. It can lead to a host of health, social and behavioral problems at a crucial time in kids' lives, when their bodies and brains are still developing.

Marijuana can be addictive and more kids are in drug treatment for marijuana than for all other illicit drugs combined. Teens using marijuana are also more likely to take risks, such as having sex, engaging in violence, riding with someone who's driving high or using alcohol or other drugs.

Here is a **S-U-M-M-E-R** drug-free checklist:

- **S**et Rules
- **U**nderstand and Communicate
- **M**onitor your teen's activities and behaviors
- **M**ake sure you stay involved in your teen's life
- **E**ngage your teen in summer activities
- **R**eserve time for family



Young people who learn about the risks of alcohol and drugs at home are up to 50% less likely to try them than their peers who learn nothing from their parents. Look for teachable moments in everyday life to keep the conversation going.

Source: About.com

Be sure to check out our websites!

<http://youth.ellington-ct.gov> and <http://bethechange.ellington-ct.gov>

