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County Executive



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WAUKESHA COUNTY DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES TO HOST FORUM ON
TEENAGE BRAIN DEVELOPMENT**

WAUKESHA, Wis. – Waukesha County Drug Free Communities (DFC), in cooperation with the School District of Waukesha, will be hosting a series of forums about the effect of drugs and alcohol on teenage brain development presented by Dr. Ken Winters on March 18th and 19th.

The forums will provide a holistic view of teenage brain development: the emerging science around brain development, the impact of drugs and alcohol on the brain and the role of parents, teachers and the greater community on supporting healthy teenage brain development. There will also be an opportunity for questions at the end of the presentation.

On the evening of March 18th, Dr. Winters will present a program designed specifically for parents. The forums being held on Friday, March 19th are geared toward community members and professionals. The events will be held at the times and locations below:

Thursday, March 18 – 6:15 p.m. registration, 6:45-8:15 p.m. Presentation designed for parents, Steinhafel’s Community Room, W23 N1013 County Road F, Waukesha.

Friday, March 19 – 8:00 a.m. registration, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Presentation for community members, Excellence Center Leadership Hall, N4 W22000 Bluemound Road, Waukesha.

Friday, March 19 – 12:00 p.m. registration, 12:30-2:30 p.m. Presentation for professionals, Waukesha Memorial Hospital Education Center, Triber Auditorium, 725 American Avenue, Waukesha.

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“Drug Free Communities to Host Forum,” continued ...

In response to recent incidences in Southeastern Wisconsin regarding drug use and abuse among teenagers, the DFC coalition believes it is important to educate the community on the risks of this behavior and help empower parents, teachers and the community to take an active role in preventing drug abuse.

Local law enforcement has reported an increasing amount of prescription drug abuse and accidental poisoning among teenagers in recent years. To address these reports, DFC sponsored a prescription drug collection last fall in an effort to reduce prescription drug abuse and accidental poisonings in Waukesha County. The coalition will be holding another drug collection on May 8th.

Dr. Winters is the Director of the Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse, a Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Minnesota and a member of the National Organization on Effective Treatment for Adolescents.

The DFC program is a federal effort to reduce youth substance abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The coalition represents a number of partnering agencies including schools, healthcare professionals, law enforcement, media, parents, youth, state and local agencies and civic and volunteer groups.

To RSVP for a forum, please contact Erin Drout by emailing her at edrout@waukeshacounty.gov or calling her at 262-896-8263. For more information on the drug collection program, please visit www.waukeshacounty.gov/drugcollection.

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