



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**VIRGINIA COMES TOGETHER TO ADDRESS UNDERAGE DRINKING AT
TOWN HALL MEETINGS ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH**

Richmond, VA (March 16, 2010) . . . Over 27 community coalitions from Alexandria to Harrisonburg to Virginia Beach to Martinsville to Bristol are among the hundreds of communities nationwide that will hold an Underage Drinking Prevention Town hall meeting beginning in Richmond on March 18th and concluding in Martinsville on April 22nd. These Town Hall meetings will discuss raising awareness and the consequences of underage drinking in Virginia communities.

These community coalitions, in collaboration with the Federal Government's Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking, are sponsoring the events which coincide with the beginning of April's Alcohol Awareness Month.

Parents, teachers, youth, faith leaders, judges, law enforcement, businesses will gather to discuss the impact that underage drinking has on their individual community and develop strategies to address the issue. Underage drinking is unique to each locality and each community can find their solutions when members comes together to keep their youth safe, healthy and alive!

One in four middle schoolers in the Commonwealth of Virginia has tried alcohol before the age of 13. One in four high schoolers in Virginia report binge drinking and 4 out of 10 high schoolers report drinking in the past 30 days. Most alarming is that middle and high schoolers report that their parents would not disapprove of them drinking as much as using tobacco or marijuana.

Research clearly indicates that parents and families have the MOST influence on whether or not a child uses alcohol. Perceived parental disapproval is a powerful influence on underage alcohol use. Children who believe their parents would strongly disapprove of their using a particular substance are less likely to do so than those whose parents somewhat disapprove or neither approve nor disapprove. National research reports that children and teens are less likely to abuse alcohol if parents are involved in their lives, make and enforce clear rules, and are positive role models.

The Community Coalitions of Virginia works collaboratively to prevent and reduce substance abuse and related risk factors in Virginia communities in ways that are measurable and improve the quality of life. More information on the coalition can be found at www.ccova.org.

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Upcoming Underage Drinking Town Hall Meetings

Current information as of March 16, 2010

If town hall specifics are missing for a community of interest, please contact the person listed to determine what plans are being made.

Virginia

Alexandria, Virginia

Organization Name: Alexandria Community Services Board

Email: noraine.buttar@alexandriava.gov

Phone: 703-746-3670

Event Name: How to Raise A Drug Free Kid

Location: TC Williams High School Auditorium

Address: 3330 King St

City: Alexandria

Date: 03/24/2010

Event Time: 7:00 PM

Town Hall Leader: Joseph Califano, Founder and Chairman of CASA at Columbia

Organization Name: South County Youth Network, Inc.

Email: Burnette.Scarboro@fcps.edu

Phone: 703-277-2661

Arlington, Virginia

Organization Name: Arlington Community Services Board

Email: tawallace@arlingtonva.us

Phone: 703-228-1540

Ashland, Virginia

Organization Name: I CARE Coalition

Email: malambert@co.hanover.va.us

Phone: 804-365-4228

Big Stone Gap, Virginia

Organization Name: Concerned About Our Community Underage Drinking Prevention Coalition
Email: ktaylor@frontierhealth.org
Phone: 276-523-8316

Bristol, Virginia

Organization Name: Highlands Community Services
Email: ltopshee@highlandscsb.org
Phone: 276-645-5731

Chesterfield, Virginia

Organization Name: SAFE - Substance Abuse Free Environment
Email: frith.safe@earthlink.net
Phone: 804-541-1276

Event Name: Underage Drinking Town Hall
Location: Colonial Heights Baptist Church
Address: 17201 Jefferson Davis Highway
City: Colonial Heights
Date: 03/27/2010
Event Time: 4:00 PM
Town Hall Leader: Malissa Meacham-Perry, Chair, Underage Drinking Task Force

Covington, Virginia

Organization Name: Alleghany-Highlands Community Services
Email: dburns@ahcsb.org
Phone: 540-965-2100

Event Name: Underage Drinking Town Hall Meeting
Location: First Christian Church
Address: 231 E. Fudge Street
City: Covington
Date: 03/22/2010
Event Time: 6:00 PM
Town Hall Leader: Debbie Burns, Coordinator Children's & Prevention Services

Fairfax, Virginia

Organization Name: Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County Public Schools
Email: diane.eckert@fcps.edu
Phone: 571-423-4278

Fredericksburg, Virginia

Organization Name: Rappahannock Area Community Services Board
Email: dcooper@racsb.state.va.us
Phone: 540-373-3223

Front Royal, Virginia

Organization Name: Northwestern Community Services
Email: cshifflett@nwcsb.com
Phone: 540-636-2931

Organization Name: Warren Coalition
Email: michelle@warrencoalition.org
Phone: 540-636-6385

Goochland, Virginia

Organization Name: Goochland-Powhatan Community Services
Email: lhopkins@co.goochland.va.us
Phone: 804-556-5419

Harrisonburg, Virginia

Organization Name: Strong Families/Great Youth Coalition
Email: tonya.osinkosky.6567@rhcc.com
Phone: 540-433-4421

Event Name: Charla Sobre la Prevencion del Alcohol
Location: Harrisonburg Mennonite Church
Address: c/o RMH Community Health, 235 Cantrell Ave
City: Harrisonburg
Date: 03/27/2010
Event Time: 9:00 AM
Town Hall Leader: Tonya Osinkosky, Coordinator, RMH Health Education

Henrico, Virginia

Organization Name: Too Smart to Start Coalition
Email: gor04@co.henrico.va.us
Phone: 804-222-8194 x3006; gor04@co.henrico.va.us; www.toosmart2start.com

Event Name: **Think! Don't Drink**
Location: **Deep Run High School**
Address: **4801 Twin Hickory Drive**
City: **Glen Allen, VA**
Date: **03/30/2010**
Event Time: **7pm – 8:30pm**
Town Hall Leader: **Nicole Gore**

Event Name: Think! Don't Drink
Location: Wilder Middle School
Address: 6900 Wilkinson Road
City: Henrico, VA
Date: 04/20/2010
Event Time: 7pm – 8:30pm
Town Hall Leader: Nicole Gore

Prizes will be given away including a flat screen tv; youth and adult sessions!

Luray, Virginia

Organization Name: Page Alliance for Community Action
Email: rwells@pagecounty.k12.va.us
Phone: 540-843-2808

Lynchburg, Virginia

Organization Name: Central Virginia Community Services
Email: jennifer.smith.ramey@cvcbs.org
Phone: 434-948-4831

Manassas, Virginia

Organization Name: Prince William County Community Services Board
Email: amendez@pwcgov.org
Phone: 703-792-7737

Event Name: Town Hall Meeting on Underage Drinking Prevention
Location: McCoart Administration Building
Address: 1 County Complex Court
City: Woodbridge
Date: 03/25/2010
Town Hall Leader: Angie Mendez, Prevention Specialist

Martinsville, Virginia

Organization Name: Piedmont Community Services
Email: bfavero@piedmontcsb.org
Phone: 276-632-7128

Event Name: Martinsville/Henry County Town Hall Meeting
Location: Dutch Inn, Collinsville
Address: 2360 Virginia Avenue
City: Collinsville
Date: 03/23/2010
Event Time: 6:00 PM
Town Hall Leader: Kayla Craddock, STOP Act Coordinator

Norfolk, Virginia

Organization Name: Norfolk Community Services Board
Email: patricia.meyer@norfolk.gov
Phone: 757-823-1623

Petersburg, Virginia

Organization Name: District 19 Community Services Board
Email: rsmith@d19csb.com
Phone: 804-863-1689

Pulaski, Virginia

Organization Name: Pulaski Community Partners Coalition
Email: PCPC1@verizon.net
Phone: 540-980-3228

Richmond, Virginia

Organization Name: The MCSHIN Foundation/NCADD Richmond
Email: richmond.va@ncadd.org
Phone: 804-249-1845

Event Name: The McShin Foundation's Town Hall Meeting
Location: The Marquee
Address: 3015 Cutshaw Avenue
City: Richmond

Date: 03/18/2010

Event Time: 6:00 PM

Town Hall Leader: John Shinholser, President

Town Hall Leader: Bill Borchert, Main Speaker

Roanoke, Virginia

Organization Name: Roanoke Area Youth Substance Abuse Coalition

Email: ksullivan@brbh.org

Phone: 540-982-1427

Organization Name: Roanoke County Prevention Council

Email: nhans@fsrv.org

Phone: 540-772-4341

Saluda, Virginia

Organization Name: Rural Virginia United Coalition

Email: cmatteo-kerney@mpnn.state.va.us

Phone: 804-758-9398

Event Name: Town Hall Meeting: Preventing Underage Drinking

Location: Lancaster Community Library

Address: 235 School St.

City: Kilmarnock

Date: 03/25/2010

Event Time: 5:30 PM

Town Hall Leader: Lynn Jaeger, Project Director

South Boston, Virginia

Organization Name: Southside Community Services Board

Email: kchandler@sscsb.org

Phone: 434-572-6916

Suffolk, Virginia

Organization Name: Western Tidewater Community Services Board

Email: amorris@wtcsb.org

Phone: 757-255-4198

Virginia Beach, Virginia

Organization Name: Virginia Beach Department of MH/MR/SAS
Email: pbarner@vbgov.com
Phone: 757-385-0816

Warrenton, Virginia

Organization Name: Faquier CADRE Inc.
Email: fcadre@mindspring.com
Phone: 540-347-2340

Waynesboro, Virginia

Organization Name: Central Shenandoah Valley Office on Youth
Email: StultzJY@ci.waynesboro.va.us
Phone: 540-942-6757

Event Name: The Effects of Underage Drinking
Location: Augusta Health, Community Care Bldg
Address: 78 Medical Ctr Drive
City: Fishersville
Date: 03/31/2010
Event Time: 7:00 PM

Town Hall Leader: Dr. Brian Kelley, Dept. Chair of Psychology, Bridgewater College

Williamsburg, Virginia

Organization Name: College of William and Mary
Email: jlruess@wm.edu
Phone: 757-784-4271

Organization Name: Historic Triangle Substance Abuse Coalition
Email: klucas@tni.net
Phone: 757-476-5070

Winchester, Virginia

Organization Name: CLEAN, Inc.
Email: kbronson@cleaninc.org
Phone: 540-722-3589