



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Kerensa Mansfield
Community Health Coordinator
860.448.4882 x309
kmansfield@ledgelighthd.org

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Underage Drinking Statistics are Focus of Community Forum Former Jets Player Dennis O'Sullivan Keynotes Event

LEDYARD — Although teen drinking in Ledyard has decreased, there is still work to be done. Surveys of parents and teens collected information on use and attitudes surrounding alcohol, tobacco and other drugs by teens in Ledyard. While teens reported less recent drinking in 2009 than they did in 2007, many said that alcohol is easy to get and that their parents have hosted underage drinking parties.

The Ledyard Safe Teens Coalition will share findings of these surveys at a community forum at Ledyard High School on Tuesday, October 6 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Project Evaluator Dr. Archie Swindell will present information on both the use of alcohol by Ledyard teens and community attitudes about underage drinking.

These revealing statistics will be followed by a presentation from former NFL New York Jets football player Dennis O'Sullivan. O'Sullivan's presentation, entitled "Pure Performance," will focus on the negative effects alcohol and drugs have on an athlete's performance.

Join Ledge Light Health District, Ledyard Public Schools and the Ledyard Safe Teens Coalition for the start of a community conversation about fostering safe and healthy behaviors in Ledyard teens. This event is free, although space is limited. A light dinner will be provided. To register contact Coalition Coordinator Kerensa Mansfield at kmansfield@ledgelighthd.org or call 860-448-4882 x309 before October 5.

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Ledge Light Health District provides professionally managed comprehensive public health services designed to improve the quality of life and health and safety of its residents. The District service area consists of East Lyme, Groton, Ledyard, New London and Waterford, with a service population of over 120,000.

Ledyard Safe Teens Coalition is a grant funded initiative from the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to implement effective safeguards

aimed at preventing underage drinking in Ledyard. It is one of many educational programs from Ledge Light Health District designed with the goal of a healthier community.