

MEDIA RELEASE

Information **Advisory** **Warning** **Update**

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St. Clair County SPEAK Kick-Off Meeting September 26

This summer, community agencies and members came together to develop a plan to address youth substance use. During three day-long planning sessions, representatives from local schools, law enforcement, faith-based community, human services agencies, and other organizations looked at Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth (MiPHY) data, identified problem areas, and prioritized strategies. The community is invited to celebrate the unveiling of a five year strategic plan to address underage drinking, vaping, youth marijuana use, and opioid use on September 26th, 2019.

St. Clair County SPEAK is our new local substance use prevention coalition. SPEAK's mission is "Striving for a healthier community by working together to prevent youth substance abuse."

The kick-off meeting will be in the Learning Commons at Central Middle School located at 200 32nd Street, Port Huron from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM. Light refreshments will be available. At this meeting, participants will get the chance to learn something new about themselves and see how their unique talents fit into the strategic plan. All community members, including youth (ages 10 and older), are needed to make SPEAK a success.

"The health and wellbeing of youth is a strategic priority in the St. Clair County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), so the timing of SPEAK is excellent," said Dr. Annette Mercatante, Medical Health Officer. "The single most important predictor of a healthy future is healthy children and adolescents. Good health and a prosperous economic future go hand in hand."

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