

News

Monday, March 14th, 2011 | Posted by [Press Release](#)

## El Dorado Hills Community Vision Coalition addresses underage drinking

El Dorado Hills Community Vision Coalition is collaborating with local schools, youth-serving organizations, and public agencies to address the topic of underage drinking. Youth will take a lead role as participants in a Town Hall Meeting on Underage Drinking on Thursday, April 7, at the Oak Ridge High School cafeteria, 1011 Harvard Way, from 6 to 8 p.m.

In addition to recognizing April as Alcohol Awareness Month, the goal of this event is to mobilize the community to employ strategies that have proven to be effective in reducing underage alcohol use. Strategies may include educating parents about the consequences of providing alcohol to minors, since the majority of underage drinking takes place at home, or supporting programs like Every 15 Minutes or Safe and Sober Grad Night, since underage drinking and driving kills about 5,000 teens every year.

“We are asking schools and parents to encourage and offer extra credit to youth who attend this meeting as we really want to get their opinions and advice on this topic. We need youth input in order to develop effective strategies,” said DJ Peterson, executive director of the coalition that aims to create safer communities by reducing youth access to alcohol.

A diverse group of presenters including youth, parents, educators, law enforcement, first responders, government officials, prevention specialists and others will exchange information and share ideas with participants to reduce risky behaviors and increase protective factors, such as youth development, resiliency and asset building. Provide your comments and recommendations to these community leaders for action.

For more information about El Dorado Hills Community Vision Coalition, call 916-941-8482 or visit the website at [EDHVisionCoalition.org](http://EDHVisionCoalition.org).

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