

Punxsutawney Spirit, PA

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Drug and Alcohol Commission to host workshop about teens

By Larry McGuire
Of The Spirit

BROOKVILLE — The Clearfield-Jefferson Drug and Alcohol Commission will host a workshop focusing on misperceptions and how they affect behavior of teenagers when it comes to drug and alcohol abuse.

The workshop, "The Social Norms Approach to Health Promotion and Prevention," Feb. 16 at the DuBois Country Club will feature keynote speaker, Dr. H. Wesley Perkins, Ph.D., a professor of sociology and chair of the department of anthropology and sociology at Hobart & William Smith Colleges in Geneva, N.Y..

Coalition Chairperson Susan Ford said that these misperceptions affect behavior of high school students:

- Most high school students don't drink alcohol.
- The majority of high school students think that the typical high school student drinks alcohol.

These misperceptions and how they affect choices young people make about whether or not to drink.

Perkins has published extensive research on alcohol and other drug problems among college students, adolescents and young-to-middle aged adults in professional journals. He is also the



H. Wesley Perkins

editor of a recent book, "The Social Norms Approach to Preventing School and College Age Substance Abuse."

The workshop is made possible by a grant through the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Clearfield-Jefferson Drug and Alcohol Commission and the Clearfield County Collaborative Board.

For more information concerning the workshop, contact Rachel M. Johnson, the Drug and Alcohol Coalition Coordinator for Drug Free Communities, at 371-9002.

In other business:

- Student members of the coalition from the DuBois Area School District met with Kevin Brown of WDSN Radio about recording their own public service announcements that will campaign against drugs and alcohol.

- A second Town Hall meeting was planned for the spring.

The first meeting was held at Penn State-DuBois, with several good speakers, including a Brookville High School student who lost his chance to go to West Point because he was arrested for underage drinking.

The coalition members decided to hold off on plans until the workshop with Perkins had been completed.

They hope to hold the next workshop at IUP-Punxsutawney.

The next coalition meeting is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12, at the Goodwill Conference Center in the Falls Creek Industrial Park.

Parents are encouraged to attend.