



Governor's Commission for a Drug Free Indiana LaPorte County Local Coordinating Council

LaPorte County Drug Free Partnership

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FEDERAL GRANT ACHIEVED!

The Drug Free Partnership is very pleased to announce success in our application for the federal Drug Free Communities youth prevention grant!

The grant will bring \$125,000 annually into our county for a potential of at least five years, focusing on alcohol, binge drinking, and prescription drug abuse.

Projects will include "Strengthening Families" sessions, and effecting "environmental change" through education and targeted marketing efforts. The grant also will help the Partnership build capacity to make a difference in our county.

"SPICE" / K2 Concerns Grow in LaPorte County

The LaPorte County Commissioners are joining other municipalities in considering banning an imitation marijuana product.

Some local gas stations / convenience stores and retailers are selling the herbs, which are laced with unregulated compounds much more powerful than marijuana.

The incense blend is sprayed with JWH-018 or HU-210 chemicals before being packaged for sale. This spray is reportedly an "analgesic chemical which acts as a cannabinoid."

The product is sold legally under brand names such as variations of Spice, Mr. Smiley, K2, Pep, Skunk, Sence, and Kind. Other names include Orange Dragon Smoke, Black Mamba, Genie, Blaze, Red X



Dawn, and Zohai.

Distributors call it incense, but users roll and smoke it like pot. The blend is sold in foil packets, as well as small jars or tubes.

Sgt. Mike Kellems of the LaPorte County Sheriff's Dept. has asked the County to consider banning the product. Similar

action has been taken in Valparaiso, other Indiana counties, states such as Michigan, and countries like Sweden and France.

At least eight patients have been treated in Marion County emergency rooms for elevated heart rates, hallucinations, and other problems after smoking Spice, according to the Indiana Poison Center at Methodist Hospital.

Other potential symptoms are severe agitation, panic attacks, dilated pupils, very pale skin, vomiting and, in some cases, eyelid tremors and seizures.

The toxicity of the chemicals is unknown, and basic drug tests will not detect its presence.





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Our Mission: To bring together individuals, organizations, and agencies both public and private, who seek to provide optimal resources for the combating of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug abuse in LaPorte County, with specific focus on binge drinking, prescription drug abuse, marijuana usage, and youth prevention efforts.

Low-cost drug and alcohol breath tests are available for purchase at LaPorte and Michigan City Health Department offices on Fridays; and at the Juvenile Services Center and Wanatah Public School daily.

PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS

Our open meetings begin at noon on the first Wednesday of each month, alternating between the 7th floor conference room in the Swanson Center / Marquette Mall Office Building in Michigan City, and the LaPorte First United Methodist Church, 1225 Michigan Ave, LaPorte.

Farewell to Jeane Bock...

The Drug Free Partnership will bid goodbye soon to Coordinator Jeane Bock as she relocates to a warmer climate. Her husband, Vinod, is already working at North Carolina Central University.



Jeane has shared oversight of the LCC with Sandy Gleim since June of 2008. With her extensive background in alcohol, drug, and tobacco issues, she has been a strong and valuable advocate to advance our work in prevention, treatment and justice.

Jeane also is a licensed social worker, and serves as Clinical Director at Samaritan Counseling Center.

Sandy will assume full coordination of the partnership's activities, including oversight of the new Drug Free Communities' grant. She further will maintain her position as Executive Director of Healthy Communities of LaPorte County, focusing on health, tobacco control, literacy and uninsured efforts. Her contact information is 219-326-6260, or sandy@laportecounty.net. Office location is 800 Lincolnway, Suite 200, LaPorte, IN 46350.



TOOLKIT ASSISTS BUSINESSES TO OBSERVE DRUG FREE WEEK

A specialized online toolkit has been developed for businesses to help them observe Drug-Free Work Week October 18-24.

The LaPorte County Coalition for a Drug-Free Workplace is offering the toolkit on Purdue Extension's web site at <http://www.ag.purdue.edu/counties/laporte/pages/default.aspx>.

Resources include posters, fact sheets, and powerpoint presentations related to reducing substance abuse and unhealthy behaviors. Materials were developed by the Department of Labor, SAMHSA, Drug Free Partnership, and the Indiana Tobacco Quitline.

In addition, winners of the third annual student poster contest will be Recognized on November 9 after Healthy Communities' of LaPorte County's annual meeting. For more information about Drug Free Work Week, contact Allison Goshorn, Purdue Extension, LaPorte County, 219-324-9407 or agoshorn@purdue.edu.



CHECK IT OUT ONLINE...

www.stopdrugabuse.com. Provides a portal of federal resources.
www.drugs.indiana.edu - Indiana Prevention Resource Center.
www.drugabuse.gov - National Institute on Drug Abuse.
www.health.org - US Department of Health and Human Services
SAMHSA National Clearinghouse for alcohol and drug info.
www.indianatobaccoquitline.net - state Quitline offering 2 free weeks of nicotine patches, gum, or lozenges. Or call 1-800-QUITNOW to register.