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Rx drug abuse: Call to action for shared community solutions

A free forum, "Call for Action Rx Medications" that is part of a long-term effort to mobilize the community to respond to the issue of misuse and abuse of prescription drugs, will take place on Thursday, November 13 at 7 p.m. in the Lecture Hall (room 212) of Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) at 5000 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard in Bradenton.

The forum will include a performance of "The Holding Cell" – a play about teens and addiction, by The Source Teen Theatre. Following the performance, there will be a discussion of advocacy efforts for a Florida Prescription Drug Monitoring Bill. The event is free and open to the public.

The devastating impact that misuse of prescription drugs has on young people and adults and their families was the impetus for this Sarasota/Manatee county effort. This event is a follow-up to a forum held in Bradenton in May that brought together health care professionals including pharmacists, concerned parents and residents from both counties to develop an action plan to bring this issue to the next level.

Forum sponsors include Families Against Addictive Drug Abuse, the North Port Community Health Action Team and Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention, Sarasota County Health Department and the Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP).

Pre-registration is required to assure receipt of an Advocacy tool-kit. To pre-register, visit call4action@chip4health.org or call the Community Health Action Team (CHAT) Coordinator Diane Ramseyer at 941-650-4856.

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