

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 2, 2010

CONTACT: Diane Edwards
860-529-9545

*****MEDIA ALERT*****

TACKLING PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE AMONG CONNECTICUT'S YOUTH:

**THE GOVERNOR'S PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP, COMCAST AND
A&E NETWORK PRESENT FORUM ADDRESSING GROWING PROBLEM**

*Event to Feature Candy Finnigan of A&E's Emmy Award-Winning Series "Intervention,"
Partnership for a Drug Free America President, Steve Pasierb;
Parents, Students and Community Leaders*

WHAT: The Governor's Prevention Partnership, Comcast and A&E Network host a forum at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) on Thursday, March 4, at 5:15 PM, that will tackle the topic of prescription drug abuse among Connecticut's youth. The national PATS* survey, released today, reports that teen abuse of prescription (Rx) and over-the-counter (OTC) medicines remains a matter for concern, with about 1 in 5 teens in grades 9-12 (20 percent, or 3.2 million teens) reporting abuse of a prescription medication at least once in their lives, and 1 in 7 teens (15 percent, or 2.4 million teens) reporting abuse of a prescription pain reliever in the past year. 8 percent (1.3 million teens) have reported OTC cough medicine abuse in the past year.

PATS shows more than half (56 percent) of teens in grades 9-12 believe Rx drugs are easier to get than illegal drugs and 62 percent believe most teens get Rx drugs from their own families' medicine cabinets. Connecticut reflects this nationwide problem, with nearly one in 10 middle and high school students in our state reporting the misuse of prescription drugs.

*Partnership/ MetLife Foundation Attitude Tracking Study (released 3/2/2010)

WHO:

- Steve Pasierb, President of the national Partnership for a Drug-Free America
- Candy Finnigan of A&E's "Intervention"
- Jill Spinetti, President of The Governor's Prevention Partnership
- Brian Crowell, Assistant Special Agent, Drug Enforcement Administration
- Stephen C. Rogers, M.D., Connecticut Children's Medical Center
- Samuel Silverman, M.D., Treatment Professional, Rushford Treatment Center
- High school and college student panelists
- Doug Guthrie, Senior Vice President of Comcast's Western New England Region

WHEN: Thursday, March 4, 2010 - 5:15 PM – 7:00 PM - There is no charge to attend, however....
Reservations requested at <http://www.preventionworksct.org/rxinfo>

WHERE: Central Connecticut State University – Alumni Hall
1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06050

Media Contacts:

Comcast

Laura Brubaker
860-505-3445
laura_brubaker@cable.comcast.com

A&E Network

Gina Nocero
212-210-9163
gina.nocero@aetn.com

The Governor's Prevention Partnership

Diane Edwards
860-529-9545
diane.edwards@preventionworksct.org