



Livingston COMMUNITY PREVENTION Project
"Supporting community health and wellness"

For Immediate Release

November 17, 2015

Marijuana is not harmless. Marijuana impairs coordination and perception, affects learning and memory, and can increase anxiety, panic and paranoia. Research shows one in six youth who use marijuana in their teens become addicted.ⁱ

A new community group has formed and is working to address the movement to legalize marijuana. The group is an official marijuana subcommittee of Livingston County Community Alliance. They are working to help keep Michigan and Livingston County safe from the dangers of marijuana by protecting the health and wellbeing of our county's youth.

"The health of our communities' youth is our number one priority," said Amy Johnston, The Pinckney Coalition Coordinator and a member of the committee. Amy continues, "If there is a decriminalization of marijuana, the availability of the drug increases and youth use of marijuana increases." According to the White House Office of National Control Policy, "one in 11 people who have ever used marijuana will become dependent on it; this risk rises to one in six when use begins in adolescence."

Currently, the subcommittee is distributing a survey to Livingston County businesses to understand the impact of drug policies and drug testing in the workplace. The survey can be found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LivCoBusinessSurvey>. The survey consists of a maximum of 21 multiple choice questions and should take approximately 5 minutes to complete. No identifying information will be collected and the responses will be kept confidential. All reporting of findings will be provided in aggregate summary so no individual response can be identified. Any identifying information provided in the comment sections will be removed from the report's findings.

The marijuana subcommittee is made up of concerned community members and agencies including Key Development Center, Karen Bergbower & Associates, Brighton Center for Recovery, LESA, United Way, Livingston County Catholic Charities and LACASA. If you would like to get involved or want more information, please contact Kris Nelson of Key Development Center, Inc at 810.220.8192.

ⁱ <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>

Collaborative Partners:

Karen Bergbower & Associates Key Development Center, Inc. LACASA Livingston County Catholic Charities