



Red Ribbon Celebration

College Initiative to Reduce
High Risk Drinking

Ohio Resource Network
Clearinghouse

Statewide Prevention
Coalition Association

Parents Who Host, Lose The Most:
Don't be a party to teenage drinking

Ohio Center for
Coalition Excellence

Know!

Youth Philanthropy
Council

www.DrugFreeActionAlliance.org

For Immediate Release:
November 7, 2008

Contact: Brad Reynolds
(614) 540-9985
breynolds@DrugFreeActionAlliance.org

State Substance Abuse Prevention Coalitions Select Leadership

Ashton and Thom to Co-Chair to Statewide Advisory Council

(Columbus, Ohio) – The Ohio Center for Coalition Excellence, a program of Drug-Free Action Alliance, announced that Toni Ashton, Director of Prevention Works for a Drug Free Fairfield County, and Erica Thom, Anti-Drug Coalition Manager Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Stark County, have been elected to serve as co-chairs of the Statewide Prevention Coalition Association (SPCA) Advisory Council.

Ashton and Thom will serve a two-year term on the 25-member Advisory Council which oversees SPCA efforts in providing training, resources and networking opportunities to assist community coalitions to reduce substance abuse and related problems. There are more than 100 community coalitions and prevention partnerships that participate in SPCA.

Ashton is the Director of Prevention Works for a Drug Free Fairfield County within the Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council. Prevention Works is a community coalition working to prevent and reduce substance abuse in youth. Ashton has more than 33 years of experience in the social work field.

Thom and the Stark County Anti-Drug Coalition work to promote a drug-free community by mobilizing diverse partnerships; developing, implementing and supporting environmental strategies; and increasing public awareness of the harmful effects of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in an effort that Stark County citizens will live in an educated, healthy community that is purposefully drug-free. Thom has served on the Advisory Council of the Statewide Prevention Coalition Association since July 2006.

SPCA will continue to focus efforts on reducing underage drinking. Alcohol continues to be the most abused drug among those under the age of 21, with figures remaining steady. The National Institute on Drug Abuse reports that almost 20% of 8th-graders and 42% of 10th-graders had been drunk at least once. Youth who begin drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who wait until the age of 21.

Drug-Free Action Alliance is a private, not-for-profit organization that provides leadership to promote safe and drug free communities throughout Ohio. Programs and initiatives include the Ohio Red Ribbon Celebration and “Parents Who Host, Lose The Most: Don’t be a party to teenage drinking.” Details about Drug-Free Action Alliance and SPCA can found at www.DrugFreeActionAlliance.org.

###