

NEWS!

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For immediate use

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LAKE ADAMHS DISTRIBUTES URGENT ALERT ON VAPING

An urgent alert on the dangers of vaping has gone out from the Lake County Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board and its Opiate Task Force.

Distribution was to schools throughout Lake County as well as other area entities that deal with youth.

The initiative grew from a conversation between Lake County ADAMHS Executive Director Kim Fraser and Doug Rohde, Supervisor of Chemistry & Toxicology for the Lake County Crime Laboratory. Rohde told Fraser one of the trends the Crime Lab is seeing involves counterfeit vape pen cartridges that contain dangerous substances.

“Doug told me that area law enforcement has confiscated cartridges containing substances like hallucinogens,” Fraser explained. “That’s of concern because it means that vapers – especially kids who may share vape pens – might not know what they’re ingesting. And studies show that most kids who vape believe that it does no harm, so they’re likely to just blindly trust that what they’re using won’t cause any issues.”

She adds that vaping in and of itself is a risky behavior – especially for youth. “Vape pens/Juuls deliver very high levels of nicotine; they’re extremely addictive,” she notes. “Plus, vaping liquids contain other toxic chemicals that have been linked to cancer, respiratory disease, and heart disease.”

(more...)

Vaping is marketed toward kids in some fairly blatant ways. The cartridges are available in a wide range of kid-friendly flavors – bubble gum and cotton candy as examples. They often look like pens or flash drives, so they're easy to hide. And although vaping is illegal in Ohio for those under 18, teens can easily find ways to buy the products online.

Fraser says the hope is that school systems will distribute the alert to their stakeholders including parents. It includes a section with advice on talking with kids about vaping.

The ADAMHS Board is responsible for planning, funding, monitoring, and evaluating services for Lake County residents dealing with mental illness and/or substance-use disorders. The Opiate Task Force is an ADAMHS-led collaboration of educators, courts, law enforcers/first responders, and other Lake County entities including the General Health District, Coroner's Office, and Department of Job and Family Services.

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