

THE LAWTON CONSTITUTION

Your source for information in Southwest Oklahoma

Sun, 10/11/2015—2:43 am Staff

Residents To Voice Concerns On Prescription Abuse

Local residents concerned about the growing abuse of prescription drugs are invited to join in finding solutions to the problem.

The Lawton/Fort Sill Community Coalition's Rx Committee is meeting monthly to address the issue and receive community input. The next meeting will be at noon Oct. 20 at the Wichita Mountains Prevention Network Conference Room, 1318 W. Lee.

National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month is observed annually in October. The national campaign, sponsored by Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America and the Consumer Healthcare Products Association aims to educate parents and youth of the potential dangers associated with prescription and over-the-counter medicine abuse.

Nationally, prescription drugs are the second most abused category of drugs after marijuana, with one in five young adults reporting that they have abused a prescription drug, according to the Wichita Mountains Prevention Network.

In addition, the 2011 Monitoring the Future survey found that 5 percent of teens have abused over-the-counter cough medicines containing the active ingredient dextromethorphan to get high over the past year. When abused in extreme excess sometimes as much as 25 to 50 times the recommended dose dextromethorphan can produce dangerous side effects, especially when combined with alcohol, illicit drugs or certain prescription drugs.