

## Walters students stage "Reality Party"

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WALTERS\_A group of Walters High students acted out their views on underage drinking and drug use for parents Tuesday night.

It was called the "Reality Party" and it was intended to be a reality check for parents of teens who turn a blind eye to drinking and drug use.

The party was timed to coincide with the day that "Cody's Law" went into effect.

This law states that anyone convicted of allowing underage drinking or drug use could face fines of upwards of \$5,000 and possible jail time. It's named for Cody Greenhaw, of Tulsa, who died of a drug overdose in 2004 at a party in which adults supplied the drugs.

On Tuesday, teenagers portrayed a typical high school Friday night, complete with beer bong, liquor bottles and trash can punch.

Walters sophomore Chance Stillwell has seen what goes on behind parents' backs, so he joined the Reality Party to open their eyes.

"I know that a lot of people here drink, and a lot of them dip and I thought that this right here could kinda help show them what they're doing is damaging their bodies and is really bad for their health," said Stillwell.

Desire Gribble's transition into high school brought along with it the reality of underage partying and it shocked her.

"Surreal at first. I knew from TV that kids have done this stuff, but I didn't know that it was happening here in Walters," said Gribble.

That reality inspired some concerned adults to form the Coalition of a Healthy and Drug Free Walters. Members, including Cotton County District Attorney Mark Clark, feel the worst part is that some parents let it happen knowingly.

"Some parents are starting to have parties in their home or allowing teenagers to drink in their home, thinking that is somehow safer. In fact the danger still exists and the punishments are there for any parents that do that," said Clark.

"I've seen the effects of how early drinking then led to drugs and everything and that's what our coalition is all about-- trying to build a basis for a healthy lifestyle while combating substance abuse and underage drinking in our community," said Coalition Director Kim Dwyer.

Organizers say the goal of Tuesday night's demonstration was to open up the dialogue between parents and their teens.

Chance Stillwell thinks the purpose of the whole night can be summed up in one question.

"Is it really worth it, just for a good time and something you probably won't even remember the next day," said Stillwell.

Until today, what is called the Social Hosting Ordinance could only hold parents or guardians supplying or allowing underage drinking or drug use responsible if bodily injury or death to a minor occurred.