

Contact: Pam McKeown
(405) 522-5102

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‘TEEN SUMMIT’ FOCUSES ON DANGERS, IMPACT OF MARIJUANA USE

The dangers of marijuana and its impact on young lives will be the focus of a “Court TV Teen Summit” to be held Wednesday, Feb. 19, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Stage Center, 400 W. Sheridan in Oklahoma City.

Coordinated locally by the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the “Straight Talk About Marijuana” teen summit will include students from the Oklahoma City and Putnam City school districts, as well as parenting and substance abuse prevention experts.

Larry Didier, ODMHSAS director of prevention programs, said marijuana use represents nearly 60 percent of all illicit drug use among youth.

“At the national level, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy is highly interested in reducing marijuana use among youth,” Didier said. “ONDCP recognizes that alcohol and tobacco use is pervasive, but for the near term, the reduction of marijuana use among youth is a top priority. Currently, nearly twice as many eighth graders use marijuana compared with a decade ago. Many kids don’t take the dangers of marijuana seriously. However, we they need to know that impulsive decisions can have long-term consequences.”

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teen summit/2

One of two locations nationwide, Oklahoma City's teen summit will be broadcast at a later date to more than 75 million homes nationwide. The summit will be featured as part of Court TV's national "Choices & Consequences" public affairs initiative, a joint venture with ONDCP's National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign.

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