



News Release

(630) 221-7029

PLT Organizations

360 Youth Services
Advocate Health
Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists
Breaking Free
Building Parent Connections
Carol Stream Police Department
College of DuPage
District 87 Schools
Downers Grove Township
DuPage County Health Department
DuPage County Juvenile Probation
DuPage Metropolitan Enforcement Group
DuPage Regional Office of Education
Glen Ellyn Police Department
Hanover Police Department
Heritage Health
Hinsdale Fire Department
Illinois State Police
Latino Treatment Center
Linden Oaks Behavioral Health
Lions Clubs International
Lisle Township
NAMI DuPage
National Guard
Northeast DuPage Family and Youth Services
Northwestern Medicine
On Balance Parenting
Parents and Teens Together
Robert Crown Center
Rosecrance
Samaritan Interfaith
Streamwood Behavioral Health
Teen Parent Connection
Village of Carol Stream
Warrenville Youth and Family Services
WeGo Together for Kids
YWCA

April 27, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DuPage Teens Host Virtual Mental Health Panel

DuPage County—DuPage County high school teens will be hosting a virtual Teens Talk Mental Health Panel on May 4, 2021, at 4 p.m. to address the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on teens throughout the past year. Panelists will include Representative Terra Costa Howard, Glenbard North High School Social Worker Dr. Jeff Money, Rosecrance Behavioral Health Community Relations Coordinator Matt Quinn, Glenbard West student Gavin Schilling, and Naperville North student Jordan King.

Moderating this panel is high school senior Justine Rozenich. Early into the COVID-19 pandemic, Justine took the initiative to organize a two-day virtual Health Symposium to help her high school peers who were struggling with COVID-19 restrictions.

“We’ve missed regular activities, playing sports, going to dances, and being able to hang out together. We have also learned how resilient we can be, but the past year has taken a toll on many people’s mental health. This panel is a great way for teens to express their feelings and discuss ideas to increase mental health among teens,” said Justine.

Data collected through the 2020 Illinois Youth Survey, a self-reported adolescent survey administered in Illinois schools, indicated depression rates among DuPage County teens, pre-COVID, were double the national average. This is deeply concerning as researchers have found that about half of those who experience a mental health disorder during their lives will also experience a co-occurring substance use disorder and vice versa.

The Teens Talk Mental Health Panel is open to the public and teens are especially encouraged to attend and listen in. People can register for this event at <https://bit.ly/3sB5CD4>.

The event is being hosted and moderated by Reality, the teen advisory board to the DuPage County Health Department, and the DuPage County Prevention Leadership Team. Reality is comprised of high school aged teens throughout

-More-

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-Page 2-

DuPage who advocate for various prevention policies for healthy and safer communities. For more information on Reality, visit www.dupageplt.org/reality.

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