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Hampton Community Opioid Partnership to Host Special Workshop on Vaping

The Hampton Community Opioid Partnership will host a community workshop from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020 at the Hampton Community Center, 3101 McCully Road, Allison Park, PA 15101.

The partnership consists of representatives from the Hampton Township School District, Hampton Township, the FBI's HOPE Initiative, local ministerium, and medical professionals from both UPMC Health Network and Allegheny Health Network. The partnership is committed to offering several events throughout the year, with the purpose of spreading awareness about the growing opioid epidemic.

An update on the opioid crisis will be provided in the opening session by Scott Brady, a U.S. Attorney for Western Pennsylvania. Mr. Brady will detail the progress made against the epidemic thus far and the next steps being taken.

The second session of the evening will feature Dr. Gary Swanson, a psychiatrist with the Allegheny Health Network. Dr. Swanson will present current data as it relates to the use of marijuana/THC/CBD vaping products and how it affects child brain development. Prevention tips for parents, and treatment options for children who already are addicted to nicotine and other vaping products, will be included in the discussion.

“As most people are aware, significant concerns have been raised regarding serious medical problems related to vaping,” said Dr. Swanson. “Since 2019, over 2,500 people have been hospitalized with serious medical complications related to vaping, with 56 deaths being reported.

Dr. Swanson will discuss some of the possible sources of these problems, especially in regard to the relationship with the use of THC products with vaping devices. He also will cover other reported benefits and problems associated with the ingredients in marijuana, such as THC and CBD, especially in regard to the effects on adolescents and brain development, and the significant risks to adolescents who use these products.

The third and final session is a Q&A Panel, featuring the following panelists:

- Scott Brady, U.S. Attorney
- Dr. Gary Swanson, AHN Psychiatrist
- Dr. Tom Brophy, Emergency Medicine/Addiction Medicine
- Robert Jones, FBI Pittsburgh Special Agent in Charge
- Paris Pratt, DEA Pittsburgh Assistant Special Agent in Charge

Event moderator and emcee will be the Rev. Dr. Ted Martin of Hampton Presbyterian Church.

Resource tables will be available for the duration of the event.