

Department of Justice

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U.S. ATTORNEY CONTINUES THE BATTLE AGAINST PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE; HOSTS PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE SUMMIT

ROCHESTER, N.Y. - U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today “A Call to Action II: Combating the Prescription Drug Abuse Epidemic.” The one day summit, sponsored by the U.S. Attorney’s Office, will examine the problem of prescription drug abuse from multiple points of view.

Recent studies estimate that 20% of the population may take prescription drugs for non-medical conditions, leading to a cycle of abuse that has now reached epidemic proportions. According to national statistics, approximately one in five high school students admit to having taken a prescription drug without a doctor’s prescription. At the other end of the spectrum, as the number of persons aged 65 years and older grows with the aging of baby boomers, experts predict that prescription drug abuse among the elderly also will rise significantly.

The summit is a multi-disciplinary examination of the prescription drug abuse problem that is sweeping across Western New York and the country. Experts from the medical profession, education, treatment and prevention, and law enforcement communities will come together to examine the issue in depth and discuss potential ways to address the epidemic. Participants will also hear from those who have experienced the tragedy of prescription pill addiction first hand.

“Prescription drug abuse continues to be a serious drug problem across the country and here in Western New York,” said U.S. Attorney Hochul. “It is an epidemic that is dangerously impacting, and in some cases ruining, the lives of individuals and families. Our Office has been working with our law enforcement partners and those in the community to address the problem. This summit is a continuation of those efforts involving the medical, prevention and treatment, education and law enforcement

communities.”

In addition to the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the summit is also supported by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the University of Rochester Medical Center, and DePaul’s National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence. The first summit, held last year, attracted 500 people from across Western New York.

The upcoming summit is open to the public and is offered free of charge, but with advance registration necessary. The summit will be held this Friday, November 2, 2012 from 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at the University of Rochester Alumni and Advancement Center, 300 E. River Road, Rochester. Members of the public can register at <http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/cpe/>.

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