

You Are Invited to...

An afternoon Workshop for Professionals - Teen Therapists, Prevention Educators, Nurses and Counselors, School Staff:

What Are They Thinking? The Adolescent Brain: Substance Abuse and Risky Behavior is the theme of this forum designed to help with understanding the rebellious and often dangerous behaviors and activities of tweens and teens. The presentation features the latest research on the structure and neuro-chemistry of the adolescent brain, explores the psychological and social motivations for drug use, reveals the signs and symptoms of at-risk youth, explores elements of treatment and examines prevention and intervention strategies. The evening forum will also help parents with building communication and trust with their child and with setting boundaries and consequences for adolescents.

Internationally renowned, Michael Nerney comes to Emerson with over 25 years of experience in the field, 12 of which were as a teacher and coach in junior high and high schools. He has worked with federal and state agencies including the Federal Office of Substance Abuse Prevention, the Bureau of Justice Assistance, New York State's Education Department, Department of Social Services, Department of Correctional Services and the Governor's Office of Employee Relations, among others. He also wrote and was awarded a federal grant under the Youth-At-Risk Act, to design and deliver training programs for residential facilities within the New York State Division for Youth.

Nerney's particular areas of expertise include psycho-pharmacology, adolescent chemical dependency, relapse prevention, gender differences in communication and managing violent incidents. He has served as a consultant for two major television networks, most recently appearing on ABC's *20/20*.

Where and When:

The Adolescent Brain will be presented on Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at the Emerson Junior Senior High School in the Media Center for professionals from 1:00 to 2:45 and for parents at 7:00PM. Counselors and educators from other schools and agencies are as welcome as parents are from other towns. The presentation features the latest research on the structure and neuro-chemistry of the adolescent brain, explores the psychological and social motivations for drug use, reveals the signs and symptoms of at-risk youth, explores elements of treatment and examines prevention and intervention strategies.

Light refreshments will be served!

Registration & Fee

Please RSVP to Joanne.Stickles@gmail.com by Friday February 14th. A donation of \$20.00 per person is requested to help defray the costs of this speaker. Checks may be made payable to SAGE (Substance Awareness Group of Emerson) and mailed to SAGE at Emerson High School, 131 Main St., Emerson, NJ 07630. But please don't let budget restraints keep you away.

These special presentations are made possible, in part, through the funding of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, both Park Ridge and Emerson are Municipal Alliances for Prevention.