

Posted on: February 26, 2016

## Orland Park Substance Awareness Forum & D230 Host Good Choices Seminar



"Empower Teens to Make Good Choices" Open to All High School Parents

Parents of teens are invited to a free seminar being hosted by the Orland Park Substance Awareness Forum (OPSAF) in cooperation with Consolidated High School District 230.

"Empower Teens to Make Good Choices" will be held Tuesday, March 1 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Carl Sandburg High School Performing Arts Center, 13300 South LaGrange Road. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and overflow parting will be available in the school's south lot.

"Communities across the country are faced with addiction issues, especially those related to heroin," said Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin. "Orland Park is meeting this head on with our creation of OPSAF, the Orland Park Substance Awareness Forum."

Organized by McLaughlin last spring, OPSAF is a multi-disciplinary group of community stakeholders gathered to help those dealing with substance abuse and addiction. Forum members include area school districts, religious leaders, hospitals, police and fire, drug counselors, youth counselors, teen centers and key community leaders.

"OPSAF is an amazing group of dedicated, passionate people with great experience dealing with drug problems from different perspectives," McLaughlin said. "Our goal with OPSAF is to create awareness, provide resources and information. The Teen Choices Seminar, hosted by OPSAF's Education Committee, is a great example of this effort."

The Empowering Teens panel includes Orland Township Youth and Family Services Cheryl Kokaska; Orland Park Police Chief Tim McCarthy; District 230 Student Assistance Coordinator Jessica Nelson; Rosecrance Counselor Rachel Ridge; and Dr. Leonard Spishakoff, an addictionologist at Palos Community Hospital.

"We invite all parents of teens and anyone else who might be interested to join us on March 1 to learn more about guiding young adults," McLaughlin said. "This promises to be an informative panel discussion that will hopefully give everyone some tips to help young people make the right choices at what is a very important time in their lives."

A resource fair will be held in the foyer of the Sandburg Performing Arts Center immediately following the presentation.