

## ***May 4, 2010 Teen Pregnancy Task Force Public Hearing Minutes***

Minutes from the Teen Pregnancy Task Force Public Hearing held on Tuesday, May 4, 2010 at 7:00 PM in the Mastic-Moriches-Shirley Community Library, 407 William Floyd Parkway Shirley, New York.

### **Speaker #1: Arona Kessler (Senior @ Stony Brook)**

Spoke of her own experiences in abusive relationships. Hopes that her story can help the Task Force w/ their recommendations. To summarize:

Young People need to learn about

- Need healthy and unhealthy relationships
- Risky behaviors and how they are assoc. w/ pregnancy and abusive relationships
- Non-judgmental adults needed

11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades—education not enough never mentions healthy and unhealthy relations

Young people not taught that their actions, hurts others, Love should never hurt

Coercive Sex—Partner uses physical manipulation to force to have sex

“Real men don’t hit or abuse.”

“Real men take no for an answer.”

### **Speaker #2: Rich (LI Teen Freedom)**

Teaches HS students about Healthy Relationships, Self Respect, Dignity, **Character, Consequences** of Unplanned pregnancy and STD’s. Facilitates a 10-15 Day Program.

Many students looking for ways to say no; **it’s okay to say no.**

Believes Sex Educators lower Bar, they brought up that Planned Parenthood stated sex is a social activity (Baseball is an activity; not sex) **Takes more than latex to fix it!**

### **Speaker #3: Maria Mc Cue (Rep. Peer Educ. Theater Students)**

- Communication w/ parents
- Older men/ younger women; **like being cared for**
- Sex ---Love; **most people who have sex are not in love.**
- **All the students see is sex.**
- **No transportation to programs**
- **Hard to be responsible**
- **Adults wait too long to discuss sex with kids**

### **Speaker #4: Janice Hayes (CYFS Case manger)**

Works w/ pregnancy and parenting teens 13-20

- Transportation issues
- Child care services – issues no education/ no work
- No GED services
- Medical regulations
- Illegal immigration losing medical after 6 wks
- **Ages 13-21: try to make them independent by age 21.**
- TASA regulations

**Speaker #5: Kelly Danis (CYFS Teen Parent Program)**

Limited funding

Provide Education/ Recreational Workshops

Work w/ younger girls at risk

\*Group of teens spoke\*

Protect yourself/ some are planned pregnancies/ hard work/life on welfare/ parent support

**Not really accidents; poor decision making.**

**Let children see a peaceful life.**

**Speaker #6: Social Worker – Bellport HS**

- Don't make deliberate choices about sex
- Kids aren't corrected
- Reduce risk factors; **get kids involved in sports, mentors**
- Evident Based curriculum
- Based on Healthy decisions
- Envelop **good** self concepts
- Make programs **males in prevention programs**
- Study of poverty and teen pregnancy

**Speaker #7: Martha Kahan (Eastern Suffolk BOCES)**

- Reduce risk factors “Health Smart Curriculum”
- **Starts in** Kindergarten
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade- Puberty
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade- Abstinence
- Insufficient Information to parents
- More aggressively advocate **to school districts to utilize BOCES/SCDHS Health Smart program** for sexuality education
- **Addresses “peer norms.”**
- “Social Noun
- Lessons of medicine

**Speaker #8: Alice Giodans- (Grandmother)**

Concerned about condom distribution in schools  
TV violence- contradictions on how one should live  
Respect life  
Self control

**Speakers #9: Jessica and Cynthia (LIAFS) Group Home 12-21**

Start abstinence in preschool; **influence of media**  
**Everyone in high school has had sex and a pregnancy scare.**  
Choices in life  
Uncomfortable speaking with adults

**Speaker #10: Ann Robinson (Grandmother)**

Worry about big businesses / Planned Parenthood  
Notification  
Ultrasound before abortion  
Waiting period  
Conscience  
Protect children under age  
Unhealthy contraception

**Speaker #11: Rachael Morgan**

2/3 pregnancies under 18  
Forced sexual experiences  
Planned Parenthood cover-up **concerning the reporting or abuse, i.e., statutory rape.**  
Mandated reports  
Increased risk of breast cancer  
Experiments on younger girls

**Speaker#12: Lynda Zach (CY&FS)**

Deal w/ both issues of each side  
Involve fathers  
Need to recognize the problem  
Transportation issues  
**Work with** Siblings at risk  
Turns can be successful

**Speaker #13: Kirsty (Life Center)**

Pregnant at 14  
Second child on the way

Should be taught Self respect, rather than condom use.

Value yourself and body

Birth control fails; is not the answer.

Teach abstinence

**Speaker #14: Peter O'Hara (Taxpayer/ Educator/Citizen/Parent)**

We teach "Say no to drugs, but qualify the "Say no to sex."

"Say No to Sex"

Attitude of sexuality

Parental support

Planned Parenthood big business

Side effects of using protection

Teach NO SEX

**Speaker # 15: Clare Henshaw (Studying to be a HS teacher)**

Respect innocence of children

Parents are shrugging their responsibilities

Teach teens to respect themselves

NOT animals

NO condoms

Educators must not overstep their bounds.

**Speaker #16 Mary O'Neil: Abstinence Please**

Just Say NO

**Speaker #17: Andrew Pollard**

Taught to wait to have sex from an early age, because the parents care, not to be controlling

Friends w/ STD's

Teens will delay; it can be done

Give info on birth control

Education is the key from an early age

They have choices

**Speaker #18: Adessa (Resident of South Carolina) SCDON OMH**

Kids having children too young

Sex education is needed

Age plus culturally appropriate

Conversation continue

"A healthy baby begins with you."

**Speaker #19: Diana Romero (Peer & Student)**

To reduce Teen Parent rates thru Education

Psychological, physical emotional consequences of sex.

Benefits of living abstinent

Set Long term goals

Parent involvement and self control

Immune to media; media vs. reality.

Second chances; fresh start

**Speaker #20: Kenny McKenzie (SNAP)**

Encourage parents to raise children; if children are neglected, abused, refused—they will make poor choices.

Comprehension approach to life's journey

**Speaker #21 Pat (Mother)**

Don't repeat mistakes

Start Over

Set Goals

Abstinence only!

Self respect