



**County of McHenry
County Administration**

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McHenry County forms Underage Drinking Task Force

WOODSTOCK, IL - The McHenry County Underage Drinking Task Force, comprised of officials from various McHenry County agencies that deal with minors, including health, law enforcement, and education, held its first meeting on Monday, June 21st to begin discussion on the many issues that arise from underage drinking. At this meeting, the Task Force members shared their experiences with underage drinking and the steps that can be taken to combat this issue. An underlying theme that emerged from this meeting was that the Task Force needs a broad based effort to raise awareness about the seriousness of the law on parental responsibility with underage drinking. There is no single answer to this problem.

“We are way over due in bringing everyone together to discuss this important topic,” stated McHenry County Board Chairman Ken Koehler. “Underage drinking needs to be addressed, along with other issues that are plaguing our McHenry County young adults. Outreach to parents through education is probably the most important step we can take.”

Representatives from the McHenry County Sheriff’s Office also participated in this meeting and emphasized the importance of the parents’ relationship with their child. Knowing where your child is and who your child is with may help reduce the opportunities for teens to partake in underage drinking. Monitoring your child’s Facebook page or other social networking sites by “friending” them or observing what they do is also important. Law Enforcement encourages youth and parents to notify their local police or sheriff’s office of underage drinking parties or any other criminal activity that is taking place. Those that would like to report criminal activity anonymously can contact Crime Stoppers of McHenry County at 1-800-762-STOP (7867). Crime Stoppers does not use caller id.

The next meeting for the McHenry County Underage Drinking Task Force will be Monday, July 19 at the McHenry County Administration Building. For more information, please call Adam Lehmann at 815/334-0309.

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