

NEWS RELEASE

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Butler County Mental Health Agency Hosts First Ever “Talk About It” Initiative

Officials host community workshops to decrease incidents of domestic violence among teenagers.

FAIRFIELD, Ohio — For the whole month of February, The Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services Board will attend multiple schools in Butler County including Hamilton High School, Ross High School, New Miami High School, Marshall High School, and Monroe High School, hosting their “Talk About It” campaign where individuals can learn about violence in relationships and secure ways to receive help. BCMHARSB is seeking to decrease the number of teen violence incidences reported while increasing private donations in the Butler County region.

At the “Talk About It” event, BCMHARSB will guide the public to resources available to find a way to combat relationship issues if they are prevalent. Comfort dogs, workshops, and activities will all be present at the campaign.

Helen Saber, head of The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, will be the head speaker articulating her experiences of dating violence as a young teenager and how she sought help. Members of the Citizens Against Domestic Violence Committee will be present to help students sign up for support groups or set them up with one-on-one therapy sessions.

“One of the biggest problems is teenagers feel alone and that their problems can’t be resolved,” says Megan Foster, head of BDCMHARSB. “One of our biggest goals as a committee in domestic violence is to motivate young people to gain the confidence to seek out help or leave their relationship if violence is involved. Many teenagers are embarrassed or feel shame when they are victims of sexual abuse, and it is our job to let them know there are solutions to their problems and they are not alone.”

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Parents are encouraged to come with their child for additional support as well as to learn more about the topic so that they are able to find out ways they can be another source of comfort and support for their child.

Dating violence is an evergrowing crisis especially in the young teenage community, according to the CDC. With 8% of high school students reporting physical violence taking place in their romantic relationships as well as 7% disclosing they were victims of sexual abuse, it is clear how pressing domestic violence is, with awareness and prevention being crucial to lowering the violence that takes place in young relationships.

“We have seen a startling rise in numbers of young adults being affected by violence in relationships,” says Scott Adams, Head Sheriff of the Butler County Sheriff’s Department. “We hope that having the ‘Talk About It’ event will urge the public to come together to learn more about this issue and find tangible solutions if they are victims.”

If you or someone you know is a victim of sexual abuse of any kind, you can contact the Butler County Crisis Hotline 24/7 at 1-844-427-4747 or call 911. Visit their website <https://www.bcmhars.org>.

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About Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services Board

BCM HARSB provides a comprehensive recovery program to prevent domestic violence in relationships while continuing to improve the quality of life of Butler County citizens through the support of addiction and mental health recovery services. Their care is best-practice based, financially stable, and publically funded and strives to maintain services that are measurable to the public. Eighteen volunteers serve on the BCM HARSB board, with all meetings being open to the public with the exception of Executive Sessions. Contact is available anytime at (513)-860-9240 or contact@bcmhars.org.

