



MEDIA ADVISORY
Midwest Asian Health Association (MAHA)
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAHA and McK-UDOS to present Townhall Meeting on Underage Drinking

CHICAGO, October 15, 2021 – In honor of Red Ribbon Week, the Midwest Asian Health Association (MAHA) and the McKinley Park Underage Drinking and Other Substances Abuse Prevention (McK-UDOS) Coalition invite all community members to an Underage Drinking *Communities Talk* event.

Red Ribbon Week raises awareness of drug use and the problems related to drugs facing our community, and encourages parents, educators, business owners, and other community organizations to promote drug-free lifestyles.

According to survey findings from the 2020 Healthy Chicago Survey, Jr., administered by the Chicago Department of Public Health in collaboration with Lurie Children's Hospital, 65% of adults from all 77 community areas in Chicago indicated that drug use, tobacco, and e-cigarettes, and stress were top health problems facing Chicago youth. Alcohol use was of particular concern amongst 46% of adults, as binge drinking among youth during the COVID-19 pandemic remained at levels comparable to previous years when social distancing and lockdown measures were not in place.

The townhall will highlight various impacts of underage drinking to help community members better understand the issue. Panelists will discuss neurological effects of substance use on youth brain development, review public safety concerns and legal consequences of youth substance use, and present available resources and strategies that parents can use to communicate openly with their children about substance use.

More details for this townhall meeting can be found below:

Town Hall Panel Discussion

Date: Tuesday, October 26th

Time: 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Platform: [Join Zoom Link Here](#)

Featured Panelists:



Edward Boone- Community Outreach Coordinator for the Statewide Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS) and the Illinois Violent Death Reporting System (IDVRS) both at Northwestern Medicine.



Carlos Rodriguez- Program Director at WestCare, Illinois. He is a trainer on the topics of experiential therapy, substance-abuse counseling, cultural competency, neuroscience of addiction, gang prevention/intervention, adolescent development, trauma and Balanced and Restorative Justice.



Michelle Flagg- manages the Industry Education Division at the Illinois Liquor Control Commission, where she is responsible for educating the liquor industry and public regarding the laws that govern liquor sales and consumption throughout the state.



Adam Davies- Health Educator for both the Potocsnak Family Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine and the Sex Development Program at Lurie Children's Hospital.

About McK-UDOS: Established in 2014, the mission of McKinley Park Underage Drinking and Other Substances Abuse Prevention Coalition (McK-UDOS) is to reduce the level of underage drinking and marijuana use among youth in McKinley Park as well as other surrounding community areas of Chicago through building community partnerships, assessing the community's needs and resources, developing strategic plans, and implementing and evaluating the coalition's activities for awareness, advocacy, education, and sustainability.

About MAHA: The Midwest Asian Health Association (MAHA) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization established in 2003 with a mission to reduce health disparities for medically underserved, low-income populations in the Midwest through providing culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate services, which include community outreach education, screening and immunization, linkage to care, research, and advocacy.