



## COMMUNITY FORUMS ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE

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### Sample Call to Action Activities

#### Letter to the Editor

A letter to the editor can be an effective tool to spread our message to a wide audience. You can find a sample letter on the IADDA website under *Training & Resources* click the Community Forum link. Encourage participants to take the time to write their own version and send it to your local paper.

#### Organize a Call-in Day

Set aside a specific day in which you ask participants at the forum to contact members of the Illinois General Assembly. Encourage them to share stories about how they and/or the community have been affected by underage drinking and the lack of funding for substance abuse.

Provide the fact sheets/talking points provided on substance abuse funding.

#### Letter/Postcard Raiser

Organize participants to raise as many letters and/or postcards as possible. Participants can sign pre-written letters/postcards. Encourage participants to send personalized letters as this often has a stronger affect. Legislators report that receiving even a dozen personalized letters from constituents will grab their attention. Send or hand-deliver the letters to members in their district offices.

#### Action Wall

Suggested by Margaret Polovchak of Maine Township - student presenters inform attendees what they can do to help prevent underage drinking, and then issue a call to action. Students then asked attendees to write down one thing they will do when they leave the meeting in the next 24 hours, and in the next month to help decrease teen alcohol use. Students asked the attendees on their way out to sign the action wall and put 1-3 words that describe what they commit to doing. The action wall is a sheet of newsprint (donated by local newspaper) about 6 feet long. Students had different colored markers that they gave to attendees as they came out. You can use pictures of the wall and people signing for news releases. She had heard of some communities taking the wall to different sights, meetings, presentations to get cross community participation. It was even suggested that the wall appear in a 4th of July parade on a float (they didn't do that) but interesting idea.

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