

For Immediate Release:
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Dr. Rickard Terenzi to address Teen Prescription Drug Misuse

As part of CASA's *Lock Your Meds* Prescription Drug Misuse Awareness Campaign, Rickard Terenzi, Ph.D., CASAC, Chief, Drug Treatment & Education Center of North Shore University Hospital, will discuss current trends and dangers in teen prescription drug misuse at CASA's Sector Meeting on Thursday, September 30th at 9:00 a.m. at North Hempstead Town Hall. All community residents are invited to attend this most important community meeting.

According to the 2009 National Survey of Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), the nonmedical use of prescription drugs continues to have more new users in the past year than any other class. In 2009, there were 2.6 million new users, 2.2 million of which were for nonmedical use of pain relievers. For ages 12 and older, the 2009 estimate of 5.3 million current nonmedical users is up 20% from the 2002 estimate of 4.4 million. With many prescription painkillers sitting unused and unsecured in medicine cabinets, most young people who misuse prescription medications report that they obtain these drugs from friends and family.

Dr. Rickard Terenzi is Chief of the Drug Treatment and Education Center of North Shore University Hospital. He has been with the agency since 1979. He is an Assistant Clinical Professor at Hofstra University School of Medicine and is one of the founding fathers of the Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship Program and the *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*. For over 30 years, Dr. Terenzi has been involved in helping people understand and cope with the problems and pressures of drug and alcohol abuse. He has lectured extensively to parent, teacher and student groups and has been actively involved in working clinically in the substance abuse field.

The Lock Your Meds: Be Aware Don't Share Prescription Drug Misuse Awareness Campaign was developed by the National Family Partnership. Manhasset CASA has partnered across the community to provide information regarding the health and safety risks of prescription medication misuse. With the primary focus on keeping prescription and over-the counter pharmaceuticals away from our youth, the campaign includes a Pharmaceutical Take Back Event sponsored by the Nassau County Police and Town of North Hempstead on Saturday, October 23, 2010 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Manhasset High School.

For more information or if you would like to volunteer for the campaign, contact Cathy Samuels, Project Director, Manhasset CASA at 516-267-7548 or go to www.manhassetcasa.org.



Rickard Terenzi, Ph.D., CASAC, Chief, Drug Treatment & Education Center of North Shore University Hospital presents at Manhasset CASA's Sector meeting on Thursday, September 30th at 9:00 am at North Hempstead Town Hall about the current trends and dangers of teen prescription drug misuse.