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# LPPS launches student-led anti-drug clubs in response to opioid epidemic

*Students Together Against Narcotics and Drugs (STAND) Club educates students of dangers of teen drug and alcohol use*

**LINCOLN PARK, Mich.** – In response to the opioid epidemic’s impact on Lincoln Park families, Lincoln Park Public Schools has launched the **Students Together Against Narcotics and Drugs Club (STAND)**. STAND was formed in December 2017 and is an offshoot of the Downriver Chapter of **Families Against Narcotics (FAN)**.

A group of LPPS teachers and staff volunteered to develop STAND after **Judge Gregory Clifton**, an active member of the Downriver chapter of FAN, suggested FAN should have a presence in local middle and high schools. STAND will educate students about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, and serve as a resource for students whose friends or family members struggle with addiction.

“Drug and alcohol abuse has had a disastrous impact on many families in and around Lincoln Park,” said **Terry Dangerfield**, Superintendent of Lincoln Park Public Schools. “Given the sheer number of impacted families, we want to use this opportunity to educate our students about the effects drugs and alcohol can have on their lives. We hope STAND will serve as a safe place for students coping with loved ones suffering from drug abuse.”

After holding its initial planning meeting in December 2017, the group of volunteers set a goal of launching the program in coordination with National Drug Awareness Week, which was scheduled for the week of January 22.

LPPS officially launched STAND at a kickoff assembly in the Lincoln Park High School auditorium that featured Judge Clifton, Lincoln Park **Mayor Tom Karnes**, State Representative **Cara Clemente** and **Daniel Mercer**, Principal of Lincoln Park High School.

Following the kickoff assembly, Judge Clifton invited three recovering addicts to talk to students at the high school about how they started using, how they suffered at the hands of addiction and the steps they are taking to maintain their sobriety and rebuild damaged relationships.

In the middle school, they started a weekly informational “fact, myth or statistic” series about marijuana and alcohol abuse that airs during the morning announcements. Delivered over the school intercom and read by a STAND member, “fact, myth or statistic” has since become something students and staff look forward to every week.

“Because we launched STAND in the middle of the semester, and many students had already committed to other extracurricular activities, consistent student participation in club meetings has been a challenge,” said **Kelly Seagram**, a social worker at Lincoln Park High School.

“However, we are excited about STAND’s future because several students have expressed interest in joining STAND next school year to help educate their peers about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.”

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