



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 29, 2019

Community Gathers for Just Say Yes: Solutions for Substance Abuse Prevention, A Community Summit Featuring Dr. Harvey Milkman

A collaborative public health initiative focused on preventing youth substance use in Franklin County is set to begin with a community summit this fall. *Just Say Yes: Solutions for Substance Abuse Prevention* takes place September 26th and 27th, coordinated by Yes Arts (formerly Hands Healing HeArts), the Franklin County Health Department and the Franklin County Agency for Substance Abuse Policy (ASAP). The summit is sponsored by WesBanco and supported through grants from the Kentucky Social Welfare Foundation, the Kentucky Department for Public Health and LexArts.

Led by Dr. Harvey Milkman, an American psychologist and world-renowned expert on preventing youth substance use, the summit will engage a wide range of individuals and organizations across the county, including parents, educators, teens, youth service organizations, coaches, after-school programs, businesses, law enforcement, government agencies, elected officials, faith groups, artists and more. The breadth of engagement is reflected in the summit's co-sponsors, which include the City of Frankfort, Franklin County Fiscal Court, Frankfort Independent Schools, Franklin County Schools, the Frankfort Area Chamber of Commerce, Paul Sawyier Public Library and South Frankfort Presbyterian Church.

The summit includes two days of stakeholder workshops as well as a public event at the Grand Theatre on September 26th at 7:00 p.m. The event, *Just Say Yes: An Evening of Creative Performances and Proven Strategies*, will feature performances by:

- The Kings Center's HeartBEATS hip-hop & beat-making program;
- Kentucky Dance Academy's youth dancers;
- Artist Doris Thurber reading her piece *Maya Died*, which mourns the overdose death of Thurber's daughter even as it inspires hope and a call to action for all of our youth; and
- Surprise performances by other local youth.

Dr. Milkman will keynote the evening with a presentation on the ["Youth in Iceland" program](#), a community initiative which has resulted in dramatic reductions in substance use among Icelandic teens. Free registration and a full summit agenda can be found at www.yesarts.org.

Reporters are invited to the summit press conference September 26 at 1:30 p.m., the public event at the Grand Theatre, and any other sessions of interest.

What: Press Conference
When: 1:30 p.m. September 26, 2019
Where: Paul Sawyier Public Library, River Room

For more information or for interview requests, please contact:

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