

Allamakee Journal

“Pharming”, new trend in underage drug use to be discussed May 12

“Pharming”, a new trend in underage drug abuse, will be the topic of a presentation on Monday, May 12, at 7 p.m. at the NICC Community Room at the Wellness Center in Waukon. The training is being sponsored by the Allamakee Mentoring Program, and is open to parents and other adults interested in knowing more about this new direction in drug abuse. Cassie Friederich, Prevention Specialist with the Valley Community Coalition of Elgin, and Bill Deutsch, Prevention Specialist with Helping Services for Northeast Iowa, will present information on this drug use trend.

Pharming is the use of medically prescribed pharmaceuticals by those for whom the drug was not prescribed. One of the reasons that this type of drug use is on the rise is because of availability. As is true for alcohol, these drugs are available legally in the community, and youth may get them from their friends, from parents, and occasionally by misusing their own legal prescriptions. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, more than 2.2 million youth in the United States aged 12 to 17 used prescription drugs for non-medical reasons in the past year.

Youth at “pharming” parties typically do not know what are the effects are of the handful of pills that they are consuming. When combined with alcohol use, the results are even more unpredictable and dangerous.

Allamakee Mentoring is a program that works to match youth with caring adults for fun and friendship. For more information about the training, or about Allamakee Mentoring, please contact: Kathy Schwartzhoff at kathys@helpingservices.org, or Bill Deutsch at bdeutsch@helpingservices.org, 563-387-1720.