



Every 15 minutes - be aware

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The powerful Every 15 Minutes program is scheduled for Benicia and Liberty High Schools on April 8-9. This is a program about teens, the choices they have to make about alcohol and other drugs, driving and the consequences. It is a program designed to show teens in a demonstrative, dramatic and emotional way they are not invincible and that their choices affect not only themselves but their family, friends and community. The free program ends with a community wide session at 7 p.m. April 9 in the BHS gymnasium.

To any parents or community members who might naively think otherwise, the California Healthy Kids Survey documents that the problem of alcohol and drugs should be a concern to all Benicians. Indeed, alcohol and other drug usage by our youth is somewhat higher than both the county and state averages according to the survey. An important presentation recently at BHS by Earl Miller of Reach Out Benicia underscored just how prevalent the problem is in our town.

Every 15 Minutes, originally sponsored by the California Highway Patrol(CHP) and the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), is a collaborative venture among Benicia's Youth Action Task Force and Benicia and Liberty High Schools. The scenario driven program, developed by local students, involves Benicia's Police and Fire Departments, Medic Ambulance and CalStar medical evacuation personnel and Sutter Solano Hospital. Benicia's Every 15 Minutes program has evolved into what has been characterized by an outside party as one of the "two best programs in the state" and is made possible through dedicated CHP/OTS grant funding and the generosity of local individuals and groups, businesses, and service organizations.

Please attend whether you are a parent or a concerned community member. If you attend and observe and listen closely, you will be emotionally impacted by this compelling program.