
THE BRONX HEALTH LINK, INC.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Robert Lederer, 718-590-2648

Bronx Educational Forum to Explore Drug Use, Pregnancy and Parenting

Free June 3 event will present evidence about prenatal exposure to drugs, drug testing and treatment, the rights of pregnant women, and parenting experiences of mothers who have used drugs

Title: **Drug Use, Pregnancy and Parenting: What the Research and Experts Have to Say**

Date/time: **Thurs., June 3, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

Address: **Lehman College, Music Building, East Dining Room, 250 Bedford Park Blvd. West, Bronx, NY 10468**

(May 26, 2010) A free educational forum on drug use, pregnancy and parenting will be held on June 3 at Lehman College in the Bronx. The event is designed for perinatal health professionals (nurses, physicians, social workers), attorneys, community organization staff, and consumers in the Bronx. The forum is cosponsored by The Bronx Health Link, a nonprofit educational agency, and National Advocates for Pregnant Women, a non-profit organization that works to ensure that policies addressing pregnant women, children and families are based on science, not stigma.

Experts will discuss evidence-based information about the effects of prenatal exposure to drugs, effective drug treatment for families, what evidence of drug use indicates about parenting ability, and the legal and ethical principles in cases involving drug use, drug testing, pregnancy and parenting. Also a consumer advocate will discuss her experiences, both as a mother and as an advocate working in and with New York City's child welfare system.

"Intervention to protect children when their parents are drug users is an important area of child welfare," said Lynn Paltrow, JD, Executive Director of National Advocates for Pregnant Women. "However, the scientific knowledge about the subject does not always match media coverage or what's easily accessible to people working in the child welfare and related fields. This event will challenge your assumptions, identify valuable resources, and generate hope about families where drug use is an issue."

Added Joann Casado, JD, Executive Director of The Bronx Health Link, "In the Bronx, as in many other places, health and social service providers don't always have the latest information on which to base their actions about mothers who test positive for drugs. As a result, they may make assumptions that don't apply to many mothers-to-be who are both able and committed to give the best care to their babies. The speakers at our forum will help distinguish myth from fact, and evidence from media hype, and provide meaningful tools for improved advocacy, representation, care and treatment."

Registration is required. Please RSVP at <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/680604707>. For further information, call: 718-590-2648, or email Robert Lederer at bob@bronxhealthlink.org.

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