

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Event Explores Alcohol & Drug / Child Abuse Link**

(Marysville, OH, January 23, 2009) The Sober Families Safer Homes conference, on Friday, January 30 will feature well-known speakers from Columbus highlighting how alcohol and drug abuse is a risk factor for child abuse and domestic violence. The event will be held from 8:30 AM to 4 PM at the Community Services Building, 940 London Avenue, Marysville.

According to Brenda Rock, Director, Council for Union County Families and sponsor of the program, "We assessed our needs in Union County and determined that alcohol and drug abuse is a root cause for child abuse and domestic violence. Not surprisingly, this is a national trend as well. The conference is open to all but is targeted to help case workers, social workers and other professionals know how to effectively help people dealing with these problems. The ultimate goal is to help parents improve their parenting so their families will be safer, healthier and happier."

Program speakers include: Annette Franks, LPC, an educator, counselor and expert in addiction studies and Pat Lyons, LISW, counselor and executive director of Prevent Child Abuse Ohio. Their topics will include information on working with members of dysfunctional families, child maltreatment prevention strategies, effective intervention strategies for families struggling with substance abuse issues, and keeping children safe in the home.

In addition, a lunchtime panel of survivors of alcohol and drug abuse and domestic violence will provide their personal perspective on the issues. The panelists include Elsie Fowler, MS Ed., case manager with Consolidated Care, Inc., as well as David Cook, LISW, of New Horizons Mental Health in Lancaster.

The \$20 cost of the program includes a continental breakfast and boxed lunch. There will be six CEUs offered to counselors and social workers and five RCHs for chemical dependency professionals. Those interested can contact Rock at 937-642-8990 or e-mail her at [brock@co.union.oh.us](mailto:brock@co.union.oh.us).