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Student coalition formed to curb underage drinking

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By Alethia Russell

Outlook Staff Writer

The Tallapoosa County Coalition for Underage Drinking, also known as Tallapoosa County CARES (Community Advocates for Responsible Environments), recently formed a youth advisory board of students to assist in the development of a prevention plan in Tallapoosa County.

The organization is about 30 members strong and is funded as a smaller part of a bigger grant funded through the state and East Alabama Mental Health.

Students who serve on the coalition were nominated by the principals of their respective schools as well as other prominent leaders in the community.

“We’re really excited that they accepted their nominations,” said Alexis Sankey, community education prevention specialist for East Alabama Mental Health. “Who better to know about the problem with underage drinking than the youth.”

Sankey said she hopes through the activities coordinated by the youth advisory board, the community will have events that will help keep them from engaging in underage drinking.

The students will be welcomed into their positions at a kickoff luncheon at the Alex City Courthouse July 8 at noon. Several local businesses have sponsored the luncheon.

“We look forward to planning a lot of events in the community, not just for teens, but for the entire community,” Sankey said.

Residents can like the Tallapoosa County Coalition for Underage Drinking on Facebook or follow them on twitter at @TallapoosaCARES to keep up with events.

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