

NEWS RELEASE: July 22, 2010

**Free seminar on adolescent brain development Wednesday, July 28**

The Greene County Juvenile Office, in conjunction with Reclaiming Futures, is presenting a day-long seminar on adolescent brain development Wednesday, July 28, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Diamond Room, 2340 W. Grand St., Springfield.

The seminar features Michael Nerney, an internationally known lecturer and consultant in substance abuse prevention and education, who will present “Welcome to the Adolescent Brain.” Nerney is an expert in adolescent chemical dependency, gender differences in communication, psycho-pharmacology, relapse prevention and managing violent incidents.

Nerney will spend the morning session discussing the development of the brain and high-risk behaviors in youth. The afternoon session focuses on gender differences in adolescents. Lunch is not provided.

The seminar is funded by Reclaiming Futures, an initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Reclaiming Futures is dedicated to offering a new approach to teenagers caught in the cycle of drugs, alcohol and crime. The Greene County Juvenile Office received an on-going grant in 2008 to implement the Reclaiming Futures model in our community, including the Juvenile Drug Court and other programs. Reclaiming Futures promotes improved standards of care in juvenile justice and behavioral health, develops judicial and community leadership, offers training and technical assistance, and disseminates research findings.

The seminar is open to parents, and those involved in education, substance abuse prevention, mental health, juvenile delinquency issues and the general public. There is no charge to attend this seminar; however, a RSVP is requested by Monday, July 26.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Marilyn Gibson, Juvenile Drug Court Administrator and Greene County Reclaiming Futures Project Director, at 417-829-6159, or e-mail [Marilyn.Gibson@courts.mo.gov/](mailto:Marilyn.Gibson@courts.mo.gov/).

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