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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 March 21, 2011

**PREVENTION EXPERTS DISCUSS RISKS OF UNDERAGE DRINKING
 SESSIONS OFFERED IN BOTH ENGLISH AND SPANISH**
Opportunity to learn about underage drinking prevention and encourage family communication

WHAT: A public forum for parents and youth in grades 6-12 to discuss the problem of underage drinking while learning and developing ways to prevent alcohol use by minors.

<u>WHO:</u>	Aaron Byzak, President	North Coastal Prevention Coalition (NCPC)
	Erica Leary, MPH	Program Manager, NCPC
	Lieutenant Leonard Mata	Oceanside Police Department
	Jayson Bordges	Project REACH After-School Program Coord.
	Damaris Torres	NCPYC Member, Vista High School Senior
	James Greer	OUSD School Official

WHEN: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

WHERE: Cesar Chavez Middle School, Library (English), Multi-Purpose Room (Spanish)
 202 Oleander Drive, Oceanside, CA 92057

- WHY:**
- To increase awareness for teens, parents and the community of the risks of underage drinking, and community efforts to reduce the problem.
 - Youth who drink before age 15 are seven times more likely to develop alcohol problems than those who begin drinking at the legal age of 21 (2002-2006 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health).
 - According to the 2009 CA Healthy Kids Survey, alcohol is the most abused drug by youth – 20% of 7th graders and 39% of 11th graders in Oceanside report drinking alcohol in the past 30 days.
 - According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (G. Smith et. al 1999), alcohol is a contributing factor in the leading causes of death for teens and young adults, including motor vehicle crashes, homicides and suicides.

About North Coastal Prevention Coalition (NCPC)

The mission of NCPC is to reduce the harm of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and other drugs in the cities of Carlsbad, Oceanside and Vista through community action, education, support and collaboration. Funded in part by the County of San Diego, HHS, Alcohol and Drug Services, and by SAMHSA through the STOP Act with grants to Vista Community Clinic.