



Dear Members of the Ashland Community,

The Decisions at Every Turn (DAET) Coalition, Ashland's youth substance abuse prevention coalition, is committed to preventing and reducing youth substance use and improving the social, emotional, and mental health of Ashland youth. As a diverse group of community stakeholders, we achieve this by raising public awareness, contributing to effective policy, creating a sustainable resource network and promoting community level change to increase the protective factors and reduce the risk factors that impact youth substance use.

As a federal Drug Free Communities Support Program grant recipient, DAET is prohibited from lobbying at the state and local level; however, statewide and local policy decisions regarding substances with addiction potential do impact youth substance use. Perception of harm, perception of disapproval by parents and peers, access and availability of substances, and social norms around substance use all impact youth decisions whether to use substances. We invite members of the Ashland community to engage with DAET to learn more about the most effective strategies to reduce youth substance use, including "environmental" strategies. Our next Coalition meeting is May 22nd at 5:30pm in the Ashland Middle School Library. Please email us at Coalitioninfo@AshlandDecisions.org with any questions or feedback.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Byrnes".

Elizabeth Byrnes, PhD on Behalf of the DAET Leadership Team
Co-Chair, Decisions at Every Turn Coalition