



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Youth Leaders Maintain Momentum with New Class

Newark, OH--September 20, 2017--The Youth Leadership Council (YLC) of Licking County began its seventh cycle (year) on June 1, 2017. Cycle Seven is comprised of 34 high school students representing 10 of 12 high schools in Licking County and led by a eight member executive team. Through prevention education, civic engagement, leadership development, and community service representatives collaboratively work to make Licking County a happy, healthy, safe and drug free place to live work and go to school.

Members of the YLC commit to a year of service and since 2011, have contributed nearly 30,000 hours of community-wide engagement raising awareness of concerns related to bullying, drug use, mental illness, underage drinking, and violence. YLC members receive extensive training in prevention science, leadership, and community impact then propose "*change projects*" in an effort to combat those mental, emotional, and behavioral health issues facing every community in Ohio.

Since June, the current council has provided 1,424 hours of service through collaborations with the Licking County Health Department, the Licking County Family YMCA and the Licking County Foundation. Additionally, YLC member serve on community coalitions including the Licking County Prevention Partnership, the Safe Communities Coalition, the Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention Coalition, and TURN, the Tobacco Use Reduction Network and last October was named the 2016 Youth Prevention Organization of the Year by the Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention Association of Ohio. For more information or to partner, visit www.kidscaretoo.org and like, follow and friend us on social media.

Cycle Seven Executives:

President: Abbey McNaught (Heath High School)

Vice President: Noah Hersey (Licking Valley High School)

Chief of Staff: Cameron Vayansky (Lakewood High School)

Administrative Director: Jenna Chorpensing (Lakewood High School)

Communications Director: Cody Miller (Newark Catholic High School)

Community Engagement Director: Jordan Aronowitz (Licking Valley High School)

Leadership Development Director: Ashley Abner (Johnstown-Monroe High School)

Project Management Director: Paul Collier (Heath High School)

