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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Teen art contest deadline extended

Contest asks for teens to create art that promotes healthy relationships

(Anchorage, AK) — “Make Art, Not Babies” is the slogan of an art contest sponsored by the Department of Health and Social Services’ section of Women’s, Children’s and Family Health and the Youth Alliance for a Healthier Alaska, its youth advisory committee. The deadline for contest entries has been extended from Feb. 19 to Feb. 25, 2010. The contest was designed and created by youth for their peers.

“Sometimes you need an extra couple of days to finish your project, and we’re hoping that extending the deadline will help more teens finish and perhaps encourage more teens to participate who thought it was too late,” said Sophie Wenzel, program coordinator.

Alaska teens between the ages of 14 and 19 can submit original “PG-13” appropriate art in two categories — video/audio or photography/graphic art — depicting what it means to have a healthy teen relationship and to promote sexual responsibility.

Cash prizes are being rewarded for the top three entries in each category.

“We’re asking teens to draw on their own experiences and ‘tell it like it is,’” said Wenzel. “Sometimes teens appreciate advice that comes from their peers more than from an adult authority figure.”

The winning entries will be used as part of a statewide campaign to promote healthy teen relationships.

More information and contest rules are available at <http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/wcfh/yaha.htm>.

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