

Public Schools: The New Gatekeepers at Urbandale H.S.

"Schools should be in the business of educating our children instead of probing each for unscientific mental disorders that will lead to false diagnoses. The false diagnoses will lead to a lifetime stigma and treatment with dangerous and ineffective psychiatric medications."
— Joseph Enge, Nevada teacher

TeenScreen, one critic states, "...is a nefarious effort to recruit our children into the quagmire of biological psychiatry." School kids have never needed much persuasion to enter quagmires of biological psychiatry through either prescription drugs nicked from parents' medicine cabinets, or by buying recreational drugs."
— Michele Kirsch

"As a psychiatrist since 1947, I am appalled that mental health screening is now being required ... Such screening greatly exaggerates the significance of the normal variations in psychological state. Normal kids will therefore be labeled 'sick' and referred for 'treatment.' That labeling is often harmful in itself; once tagged, how does a kid prove he's not mentally ill?"
— Dr. Nathaniel S. Lehrman, M.D., former Clinical Director of Kingsboro Psychiatric Center, Brooklyn, NY; former Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Albert Einstein and SUNY Downstate Colleges of Medicine

"There is no question that children and teens afflicted with mental illness need help. The consequences of undiagnosed, untreated mental health problems are sobering, sometimes fatal. But mandatory screening is fraught with its own ethical and long-lasting effects."
— Lindalyn Kakadelis, journalist

"Such programs would boost the sale of antidepressants even after the FDA ordered "black box" labels warning that the pills may spur suicidal thoughts or actions in minors."
— Marcia Angell, medical ethics lecturer at Harvard Medical School and author of *The Truth About Drugs*

What is TeenScreen?

TeenScreen is a mental illness screening program developed by Columbia University Children's Psychiatric Center. The National Advisors are primarily made up of consultants from the drug industry (http://www.teenscreentrueth.com/teenscreen_advisory_board.htm) marketing drugs through public schools.

In the case of the Urbandale school, the school board, led by the advocacy of Greg Robinson, School Superintendent, has endorsed, without adequate parental or community input, implementation of the *TeenScreen* program. However, *TeenScreen* cannot implement the program without parental consent.

What can parents do? Parents would do well to monitor the school closely. Above all, learn the facts. Brief diagnostic instruments, especially broad screenings, are not well validated. With any type of government intrusiveness, there is a risk of harm, not only in terms of stigmatization, misdiagnoses and medications but as it regards interventions... the nightmare of social services having the authority to intrude into the family. *TeenScreen* results as much as 80% false positives-as many as 24% of those referred for treatment.

Parents can refuse to have their child participate in the Teen Screen survey. This invasion of mental privacy will continue until angry parents notify their board and the Board of Education that they do not want our education system practicing medicine or being used as a marketing tool for the Pharmaceutical industry. Mandatory reporting laws and privacy issues make the compulsory screening of children especially heinous.

Parents are starting to wake up to this invasion of their authority over the care and upbringing of their own children, slowly becoming aware that some emotional troubles could be caused by allergies, poor nutrition, environment or vaccines.

Vaccines responsible for behavioral disorders:

TeenScreen will not inform you that researchers have found that this generational epidemic of symptoms, labeled as: ADHD, ADD, Autism, Asperger's, inability to focus, hyperactivity, and depression, has been caused by increases over the past 25 years in the number of doses of vaccines and the number of vaccines that the states have mandated our children receive to attend public schools. Today's children get as many as 37 vaccine actives by the time they start school.

Further, though the Autism Spectrum Disorders were first classified as psychiatric, "these disorders are not 'psychiatric' problems per se, they are medical problems (toxic insults) with psychiatric (behavior) manifestations. As one can easily understand, ... the toxic insult in most cases of Autism Spectrum Disorders is undoubtedly mercury toxicity secondary to Thimerosal (mercury)" — Alan Clark, MD. [See also: Statements by Mark Geier, MD, PhD, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., and Cong. Dan Burton, all at www.NoMercury.org.]

Misuse of psychotropic drugs in treating our children:

Instead of appropriate medical evaluation, our children are assessed by psychological screens (e.g., *TeenScreen*) and referred for psychiatric care where they often receive dangerous, mind altering, life changing, anti psychotic medications (e.g., Lexapro, Concerta, Zoloft, and Zyprexa that are often not approved for children). Also, the FDA-approved labeling warns that these medications can cause "suicidal ideation". Worse, these drugs are a factor in many school-related shootings (see: "*Hannity's America on FOX News: Medication and School Shootings*" posted on <http://www.progressiveconvergence.com/hannity-fox-video.htm#video>).

*Kenosha parents union power point on Teen Screen. <http://kenoshaparentsunion.org/TSQ&A/index.html>

Best link on TeenScreen: www.psychsearch.net/teenscreen.html

TeenScreen: Clips from ABC Report; Fox News and NPR: www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFU9puZQKBY

Help for children with symptoms related to vaccine toxicity: www.GenerationRescue.org

2500 personal stories of medication related suicides: www.ProgressiveConvergence.com

Email contacts for Urbandale Board Members: <http://www.urbandaleschools.com/board.php>

Contact email: Ncowmail@gmail.com