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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Healthy Carolinians of Orange County Hosts Screening of “Out of Reach”, a Short Film about Prescription Drug Abuse Created by a Teen Filmmaker**

Orange County, NC- Healthy Carolinians of Orange County (HCOC) will host a special screening of “Out of Reach”, a short documentary about medicine abuse created by a teen filmmaker, at 7:00pm on Wednesday January 28<sup>th</sup> at Chapel Hill High School in Chapel Hill, and 7:00pm Thursday January 29<sup>th</sup> at C.W. Stanford Middle School in Hillsborough.

Dallas native and high school student Cyrus Stowe was selected by entertainment company Genart and Partnership for Drug-Free Kids to turn his entry into a short documentary with the help of director Tucker Capps (of A&E’s “Intervention”). The short documentary, entitled “Out of Reach,” captures the issue of teen prescription drug abuse as it exists in Cyrus’ world, and is a reflection of the issue of teen medicine abuse across the country.

In 2012, in NC, there were 1,014 accidental drug overdoses, of those, 565 were from prescription opioid painkillers. In Orange County, prescription pain medication, specifically opioids, causes about 10 unintentional poisonings deaths every year, and prescription drug misuse/abuse is a contributing factor to increased suicide rates.

“This film is a teen’s wake-up-call to parents. Seeing how rampant prescription drug abuse is in a typical American high school will help put this dangerous behavior on parents’ radar and motivate them to take action,” said Ashley Mercer, Healthy Carolinians Coordinator. “We are proud to partner with Partnership for Drug-Free Kids to shed light on this epidemic and motivate families and communities to take action.”

Following the viewing of Out of Reach, a panel discussion and Q& A will take place with experienced individuals.

Wednesday night (Chapel Hill) panelists include:

Britta Starke, LCSW, LCAS, CCS, with UNC Hospital’s Alcohol and Substance Abuse outpatient program; Catherine (Kay) Sanford, MSPH, with the NC Harm Reduction Coalition; Jimmy Cioe, LADAC, CSAC, CPSS, with the Governor’s Institute on Substance Abuse; Lisa Mayhew, MS, with the Office of State Medical Examiners; and Mike Mineer, with Chapel Hill Police Department.

Thursday night (Hillsborough) panelists include:

Judge Carl Fox, District 15B Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, Jeff Nieman, District 15B Assistant District Attorney; Britta Starke, LCSW, LCAS, CCS, with UNC Hospital’s Alcohol and Substance Abuse outpatient program; and Catherine (Kay) Sanford, MSPH, with the NC Harm Reduction Coalition.

Both events will be facilitated by Nidhi Sachdeva, MPH, with NC Department of Health and Human Services.

To learn more about the film, we invite you to join us for one or two of the community film screenings.

RSVP for the screening by calling Ashley Mercer at 919.245.2440.

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