

## **URGENT WARNING TO PARENTS** **UNIVERSAL MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING** **COMING SOON TO YOUR SCHOOL**

President Bush formed a group called “The New Freedom Commission On Mental Health, (NFC). The NFC, headed by Michael F. Hogan, Ph.D., who has direct financial ties to both the pharmaceutical industry and Teen Screen, has recommended universal mental health screening and treatment for infants, toddlers, children, and adolescents and plans to “partner” with schools throughout the United States to implement this. By both federal and state law, in order to implement such screenings a school is required to first get written parental consent. However, the creator’s of this screening have developed the concept of “passive consent.” This means that as long as a parent does not send a letter to the school insisting that their child not undergo this screening, it is assumed that the parent has given “passive consent,” even if they were never notified about it.

It should be understood that there is a distinct lack of scientific evidence that has afflicted all attempts to diagnose and treat psychiatric issues in children of all ages and there are **no** tests in existence that accurately assess mental health, which is a vague, subjective concept. The screening instruments that exist have no validity or reliability and cannot effectively assess, predict, or prevent suicide, depression, anxiety, or psychosis. This is further complicated in children by their rapid developmental changes. It should be clearly understood, that the follow-up put forth by these screening programs involves direct referrals for psycho-active medications both as treatment and as prevention, regardless of the fact that there are no studies supporting the effectiveness of either. These medications have been shown in numerous studies to not be effective in children and are sometimes deadly. In addition, at present, studies have shown that children are over-diagnosed psychiatrically and this will increase exponentially where these screenings are done. Initial funding for these programs has come primarily from the pharmaceutical industry.

Karen Effrem, M.D. has produced a briefing booklet and CD titled “The Dangers of Universal Mental Health Screening. It is available on the ICSPP web site ([www.icspp.org](http://www.icspp.org)), and also on the site [www.edwatch.org](http://www.edwatch.org). You can also obtain a DVD of Dr. Effrem’s testimony before the legislature from both web sites. Her presentation is powerful, persuasive, and frightening. For a detailed account of the politics behind Universal Mental Health Screening see the web site [www.teenscreentruth.com](http://www.teenscreentruth.com).

**URGENT WARNING TO PARENTS**  
**TEEN SCREEN**  
**COMING SOON TO YOUR SCHOOL**

In the early 1990's Columbia University Psychiatric Institute created "The Violence Initiative," a publicly funded biomedical social control program inflicted upon poor families and their children in New York City, supported by the pharmaceutical industry. Because of its racist overtones and the aggressive stance against it taken by Peter Breggin, M.D. and the International Center For The Study Of Psychiatry & Psychology, the "Violence Initiative" was de-funded by the federal government. Now, a new initiative has arisen from the bowels of Columbia University's Child Psychiatry Research Center called "Teen Screen." Again, this program is being heavily supported by the pharmaceutical industry and all the key players from its creator, David Shaffer, M.D., on down the list, are financially heavily attached to pharmaceutical companies. The United States Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), is providing \$25.7 million in grants to states and colleges to pursue this initiative. "Teen Screen" is a computer questionnaire with no validity, reliability or standardization that asks students rather transparent questions about suicide and depression and then seeks to refer those deemed "at risk" for psychiatric medication as a "preventative" measure. Unfortunately for the children and parents involved, the intended treatment is mind and mood-altering drugs such as antidepressants and neuroleptics which, on their own, can trigger suicidal thoughts, not to mention heart problems, diabetes, tardive dyskinesia and medication induced psychoses. The test utilizes the "passive consent" discussed above to get around parental permission. The primary target of "Teen Screen" is every 13 to 16 year old in our schools as well as all children in the juvenile justice system and group homes. In 2004, the U.S. Preventive Service Task Force said they found "no evidence that screening for suicide reduces suicide mortality." To make matters worse, the Teen Screen test produces an 82% chance of false positive results in predicting suicidal ideation. That means that we would get more accurate results by using a table of random numbers or a weegie board to predict suicidal potential.

You can opt your child out of the Teen Screen program by filling out the form titled PARENTAL INFORMED CONSENT NOTIFICATION which you can download from this website. Send it to your child's Superintendent of Schools with a copy to your state Commissioner of Education, your child's School Principal, and your attorney. Make sure that the first three are sent certified mail so that you have a signature. Other versions of the "opt out" form are available from [www.psychrights.org](http://www.psychrights.org), and from [www.edwatch.org](http://www.edwatch.org).