

## MEDIA RELEASE

### VAPING GONE VIRAL

#### South Whittier Community Learns About the Dangers of E-Cigarette Use by Youth



South Whittier, August 29, 2019 – The Community Resource Center (CRC) collaborated with Breathe LA to host *The Vaping Trend: Clearing the Air*, an educational workshop designed for local parents, educators, and community-based organizations working with local pre-teen/teens. A second workshop entitled, *Vaping Gone Viral – Teen Usage* focused on awareness of nicotine addiction, health

risks, and prompting discussion between parents, educators, and youth on the dangers of e-cigarettes and vaping. With more than three million youth in middle school and high school using e-cigarettes, the workshops delivered powerful messages regarding the need for education and action to stop a growing epidemic in our communities.

Nearly 30 participants joined the workshops to learn how to protect their families from this growing epidemic. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health recently announced that more than 30% of Los Angeles County high school students have reported ever using e-cigarette products and 10% of high school students regularly use e-cigarette products according to the latest data from the 2017-18 California Student Tobacco Survey and the California Healthy Kids Survey. This is up from 6.4% last year.

Janice Hahn, Chair of the Board and Los Angeles County Fourth District Supervisor, who supports the CRC, stated, “The lack of awareness of the dangers of vaping and e-cigarettes is an increasing concern in our communities. While these products are often marketed as a safer alternative to smoking, they involve the ingestion of nicotine and other harmful chemicals and metals into our children’s developing lungs and brains. We have to make sure our communities are more educated about the harm these products can do – especially when speaking to our children and young adults.”

The CRC, a project of the Los Angeles County Development Authority, is located at 10750 Laurel Avenue in South Whittier. For information on services provided by the CRC, please call (562) 946-2425, or visit the website at [www.swcrc.org](http://www.swcrc.org). All media may contact Elisa Vásquez, LACDA Public Information Officer, at (626) 586-1762.

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