



August 22, 2005

To Whom It May Concern,

As the Director for the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-Orange County's (NCADD-OC) juvenile legal awareness program, DECISIONS and Side by Side: A Partnership in Parenting, I highly recommend Dr. Jerry Weichman as a speaker addressing issues facing adolescents today.

As an educator of children for over 20 years, volunteer with juveniles for the Orange County Probation Department and currently working with first time juvenile offenders, I have a good grasp on the relevance and effectiveness of adults with young adults.

Dr. Weichman's message basically teaches young people how to "manage their lives", something that is often not taught or modeled in the lives of many youth today. He comes simply to tell the young adults what he has learned through his own challenging life, has put into practice and is enjoying the fruits of at a very young age! His approach is relevant to youth that are facing challenges in their own lives as he shares his own personal struggles in his family, school and his significant physical disability that he did not allow to deter him from accomplishing his goals, among them earning his PhD while still in his twenties.

Overarching in his message, Dr. Jerry Weichman's presentation provides his audience with a message of hope. His sincerity in wanting young people to enjoy a more positive and successful life is evidenced by not only the content of his message, but his delivery style and his responses to their questions. Dr. Weichman's approachable style and sincere belief in their ability to accomplish their goals provide the backdrop for the strategies he gives them to improve their lives and achieve their dreams.

In addition to dealing with many issues in their personal lives, young adults are trying to figure out their place in the world of adults. Dr. Weichman gives them a way to do this that is not overwhelming or intimidating. Full of practical strategies that can significantly improve the quality of their lives and help them to achieve their goals, these strategies can be applied independently and implemented immediately. He gives the young adults tools that they can start to use that day to empower themselves to begin the journey towards a more successful and contented life.

I have heard many inspirational speakers, but rarely have I heard of strategies to improve my "today" that does not cost anything, will raise my mood and self esteem and help me to accomplish my goals. Dr. Weichman takes goal setting out of the theoretical and primarily future focused area and into the practical, daily aspects of life. Many adults, including myself, can also benefit from Dr. Weichman's strategies for improving the quality of their life today and help them achieve their goals. As a recent law school graduate, I have integrated his concepts into my life and studies which have helped me stay focused and balanced. I only wished I would have heard this message as a young person in high school!



# NCADD-OC

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM & DRUG DEPENDENCE-ORANGE COUNTY



[www.ncaddoc.org](http://www.ncaddoc.org)

Young adults need to be prepared to face the world and become productive citizens. Dr. Weichman's positive message establishes foundational concepts for youth to help them take control of their lives and accomplish their goals. Youth today need young men like Dr. Jerry Weichman to show them that they can create a meaningful life that they can be proud of and which is within their complete control.

Dr. Jerry Weichman's empowering message can greatly benefit the adults of tomorrow. It is with the highest regard that I recommend him as a speaker to inspire and motivate young adults to be all that they can be.

Sincerely,

Martine Wehr, JD  
Director, DECISIONS &  
Side by Side: A Partnership in Parenting