

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview of Plan

Mission

“The mission of the Coalition is to promote and support healthy, safe, and an economically viable community, free from alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse, violence, and related social issues affecting our youth and families”.

Brief explanation of priorities identified

The overall goal of CYF is to reduce alcohol and substance abuse of Dayton's youth. Following a collection and analysis of data and community dynamics, it was clear that there were some immediate needs as a result of changes in community circumstances. Foremost was that budget cuts were impacting resources available to provide support to families and students in the school environment. A large sector of Dayton consists of economically challenged families who are not very involved with the community, often have issues communicating effectively with children, and are largely unaware of the risks of alcohol and substance abuse on the developing minds of youth. CYF has determined that our target population is these under educated families with fewer financial resources.

There has been inconsistency between school, law enforcement, juvenile justice, and the prosecuting responses to instances of underage drinking between these agencies, as data has revealed. The school policy has been vague and presented enforcement problems for the administration. Law enforcement has not always had community support to respond to underage drinking laws and many parents do not feel like they are free to turn other parents in for providing alcohol to minors.

Area to be served

The City of Dayton is a rural community with a population of 2526 people. While the city of Dayton is only 1.5 sq. miles, Columbia County encompasses an area of 868.63 sq. miles. Many of the county's approximately 4,050 residents call the city of Dayton home. The area is 87.8% white and English-speaking, Its racial minorities include 7.1% Hispanic, 2.0% two or more races, 1.4% American Indian alone, .6% Asian alone, .6% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, .4% Black alone, .1% other race alone.

Brief description of the strategies and activities

We will continue to increase the effectiveness of coalition leadership through coalition recruitment, coalition development strategies and activities, evaluation of the success of these strategies, planning and continuous improvement. We will use social media approaches to increase the community's knowledge of the harm and consequences of underage drinking. Teaching parents, teachers, students and the community about ACE risk factors will create knowledge of the harm alcohol and substance abuse inflicts as well as underlying conditions that contribute to these issues.

We will work with law enforcement, juvenile justice and the schools to develop, implement, and enforce consistent policies related to underage drinking. Working with the Dayton School District Prevention Intervention Specialist regarding a new school policy and creating streamlined and consistent communications between law enforcement, juvenile justice and Dayton schools is essential to reach this goal. As more effective school

policies related to alcohol and other drug use are set in place and enforced, and better communications take place between agencies that work with at risk youth a safety net will naturally occur to recognize and help at risk youth.

The comprehensive Student Assistance Program in the middle and high school provided by the Prevention/Intervention Specialist will provide comprehensive prevention and intervention services for students. Parenting education programs will increase positive family management practices in the community.

The implementation section of this plan outlines in detail the plan to implement these strategies, anticipated to meet the current highest needs of the community related to underage drinking. The Coalition's plan is to reduce alcohol abuse among Dayton's youth. Involving the community in CYF activities and improving the effectiveness of coalition operations will increase prevention leadership. Ultimately our coalition's influence will demonstrate that the majority of Dayton's community does not have a favorable view of parents and adults who do supply youth with alcohol and that supplying youth is not the norm. An important step towards reducing access to alcohol is to provide better education as a foundational step. This education includes educating adult community members using the Adverse Childhood Experience program. The Prevention Intervention Specialist's direct work with students is a critical part of our plan to reduce alcohol use among youth. Updating the school policy and improving implementation, communications across agencies and enforcement will reinforce the attitude in the community that adults care and alcohol use among youth will not be tolerated. Improving family management skills and increasing positive communications will also reduce practices that relate to drinking in the home. Educating parents using the Parenting Wisely program and forming supportive parent connections will also be implemented as part of the action plan.

The plan will be implemented by a combination of staff and involved coalition members as described later in the plan, organized into committees with ongoing oversight by the complete coalition. Implementation is organized through committee meetings and reported on during monthly coalition meetings.

CYF's anticipated major outcome is that underage drinking will decrease. Students will cease coming to school intoxicated. Students will become more responsible in their decision making regarding alcohol and substance abuse. Parents and other adults in the community will understand the risks of alcohol abuse among teens. Youth access to alcohol will become more difficult. The evidence to support this theory will be seen in results of the annual community survey and the biannual Healthy Youth Survey. Law enforcement and juvenile justice officers, members of CYF, will be able to report to CYF that the amount of youth coming through the system has decreased. The Dayton School District Prevention Intervention Specialist will be able to report that students being sent to the office for alcohol and substance abuse decreases.

The evaluation plan will be implemented throughout the year and is overseen by the Needs Assessment/Evaluation workgroup. Measures will be collected according to the evaluation schedule indicated on the action plan templates with the tools described for each strategy and activity. The CYF evaluator provides consultation. Process evaluation, to measure the ongoing effectiveness of a particular strategy or program, is continual so that adjustments can be made as needed. Outcome evaluation, to measure whether the intended outcome has been achieved, takes place according to the developed schedule.