

# Klickitat-Lyle Community Coalition Strategic Plan

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION

### Overview of Plan

#### The Coalition

The Klickitat-Lyle coalition includes active members from the small towns of Klickitat and Lyle who have combined their efforts to address the shared problem of increased alcohol and illegal drug use by youth and adults in their communities. Once a thriving timber community, they now experience poverty, addiction and behavioral health issues since the Campion Mill closed its door in 1994. The negative impact became generational. Community members ranked behavioral health and addiction recovery services as their first step to overall community wellness and growth.

There are vibrant, engaged groups within the community who come together to build hiking and biking trails, kayak, promote running events and community fundraising activities. They have built a museum, food bank and youth Center. These members are ready to learn about and address the risks associated with youth substance abuse and community erosion. The schools are the heart of these small communities. School staff and administration are committed to the development and well-being of their students and have a history of active participation in extra-curricular activities and community efforts on behalf of students and their families.

The coalition includes school superintendents, youth leaders from both Klickitat and Lyle high schools, the Head Start Director, the PTO President, business owner of the Canyon Market, local newsletter editors, a medical doctor, school counselor/special projects director and youth advocate, a prevention-intervention specialist, high school athletic director, teachers, a county commissioner and youth leaders. Since neither Klickitat nor Lyle have local law-enforcement, chemical dependency or mental health treatment centers the county sheriff serves on the coalition as well as the chemical dependency treatment director from Behavioral Health Services and the Mental Health director from Central Washington Comprehensive Mental Health. All members are concerned about the invasion of alcohol and drug use into their community and schools. They remember better times when their communities were safe, healthy rural American towns. These communities have successfully collaborated in the past to build 10.1 miles of the beautiful Klickitat mountain trail winding down from the banks of the Klickitat River to Lyle and the Columbia River. They are committed to creating environmental policies, increasing law enforcement, providing education and services to youth and families and promote community bonding to reduce the risks associated with underage drinking, youth marijuana use and tobacco use. The coalition is dedicated to inclusion of youth, Native American, Hispanic, elderly and impoverished citizens.

#### Mission

Community leaders and concerned citizens of Klickitat and Lyle have joined together **to build a healthy community with opportunities for youth, families and all citizens to thrive in an alcohol and drug-free environment.**