

Okanogan County Community Coalition

www.okcommunity.org

1007 KOALA DRIVE
OMAK, WA 98841

Executive Summary

Mission Statement: The mission of Okanogan County Community Coalition is to effectively address the problems of youth substance abuse and violence in our community by promoting: Collaboration, Cooperation, Communication, Commitment, and Cultural Competency.

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Explanation of Need: Omak is a small, rural, agricultural community in northernmost region of central Washington State. Our city is not only rural; it is remote, which reduces access to services, reduces extended out-of-school time activities for students, and increases opportunities for identified risk factors. 2010 Washington State Healthy Youth Survey results show that almost 36% of Omak's 6th grade students report already having taken their first drink. In addition, Omak 6th grade binge drinking rates are 67% higher than the state. Nearly 62% of Omak 10th grade students believe they will NOT get caught by their parents if they drink alcohol without permission. Over and over in our most recent survey results (2010 HYS and 2010 ACTUALITY), Omak students report tobacco as more harmful than alcohol and less accepted by the community, their peers, their teachers, and their parents. For example: 70% of Omak Middle School students report that their parents would feel it was wrong for them to consume alcohol regularly, compared with 78% believing their parents would think it was wrong for them to use tobacco. In addition, while 76% of Omak 10th graders believe the "community" thinks it is wrong for kids their age to smoke cigarettes, only 70% of those same students believe the "community" feels the same way about 10th graders drinking alcohol.

Goals and Objectives: The objective of Okanogan County Community Coalition is to facilitate and support collaboration between diverse groups and resources, supporting communities to assess and meet their own needs, and alter community norms that may be favorable to alcohol and substance abuse.

Strategies and Activities: Continue to build upon and strengthen current and future Coalition capacity by providing relevant trainings, staff support, volunteer membership support, and any other culturally competent training the Coalition identifies as necessary to its sustainability.

Follow the SAMHSA developed Strategic Prevention Framework model at all steps through:

Assessment: Collect data to define problems, resources and readiness within our geographic area to address needs and gaps.

Capacity: Mobilize and/or build capacity within our geographic area to address needs.

Planning: Develop a comprehensive strategic plan that includes policies, programs and practices creating a logical, data-driven plan to address problems identified in Assessment.

Implementation: Implement evidence-based prevention programs, policies, and practices, with emphasis on environmental prevention strategies.

Evaluation: Measure the impact of the SPF and its implemented programs, policies and practices.

*Note that Sustainability and Cultural Competence are integrated into all elements of the SPF and our Coalition's work at every level.

Area to be Served: Omak, WA

Expected Outcomes: Decreased favorable attitudes and beliefs towards alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. Increased community and familial bonding, and increased opportunities for pro social community involvement and recognition.

Okanogan Behavioral
HealthCare – Fiscal Agent

