

Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative

Partners for Healthy Communities



Lakewood's CHOICE is a community coalition focused on reducing youth substance use by increasing awareness, reducing access, and building pathways to healthy options for youth and families.

Coalition Coordinator

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I have been working with Pierce County communities for 15 years.

I am excited to be involved with the Lakewood's CHOICE coalition because of the people, the partnerships, and the passion that exists in the community!



About the Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative (CPWI):

CPWI is a partnership of state agencies, counties, schools and local prevention coalitions supporting communities in preventing alcohol and other drug abuse and its negative consequences. Our highest priority is to reduce underage drinking among 8th and 10th grade students. By providing evidence-based practices and promoting the positive changes in communities, we can build healthier communities.

About the Coalition: Communities and Schools Working Together

Lakewood's CHOICE stands for Choosing Healthy Options and Igniting Community Engagement. CHOICE was established in 2013 with key partnerships that include the Clover Park School District, the City of Lakewood, the Boys and Girls Club, Greater Lakes Mental Healthcare and Franciscan St. Clare Hospital, to name a few.

One of the biggest challenges that CHOICE faced was determining how to narrow down an area of focus because the City is so large. After completing a community needs assessment, which included looking at data and conducting multiple interviews, CHOICE decided to narrow its focus to the Springbrook Neighborhood, which sits outside the main gate to Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM).

Some of the successes noted to date:

- Adding an ATOD chapter to the Hip Hop Club at Clover Park High School. The Hip Hop Club connected with the Boys and Girls Club to bring dance instruction and prevention messages to youth.
- Hiring a Community Outreach Specialist to specifically connect with the Springbrook community, residents and apartment managers.
- Collaborating with Tye Park Elementary (where 95% of the student body resides in Springbrook) to bring prevention messages to kids, parenting education to adults, and connection to Clover Park High School Prevention Club.

Other Contacts

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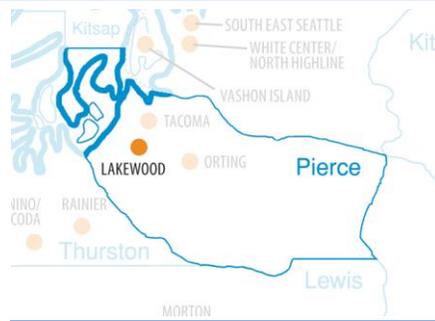
Pierce County

CPWI is funded by:



Transforming lives

For more information about
CPWI visit
[http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dbhr/
dapreventionservices.shtml](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dbhr/dapreventionservices.shtml)



About Our Community

The Springbrook community is one of the most economically disadvantaged areas of Lakewood. The median household income for Springbrook is \$26,960 per year, which is \$15,500 lower than that of the City as a whole. Springbrook has approximately 49 high density multifamily housing units and is relatively cut off from the larger Lakewood community. Springbrook is one of Lakewood's most ethnically diverse neighborhoods. Additionally, this is a highly transient area, with few military residents, despite bordering JBLM.

CHOICE is focusing on Tye Park Elementary because it is the only school in the district that houses mostly Springbrook children. Tye Park has a free and reduced lunch rate of 96%.

A significant challenge in working with the Springbrook community is that there is no sense of community within the immediate area or to the City as a whole. There are relatively no services that exist in Springbrook and access to the urban center of Lakewood is not easily accessible for most families. Residents have limited access to youth activities, social service programs, food options, or community activities.

CHOICE's fiscal agent, Centerforce, is a large agency that sits in the heart of Springbrook and is an upcoming strength to the community. Centerforce is in the midst of remodeling their facility to bring community resources and programs directly into the community for residents to access. This includes, but is not limited to, the CHOICE Outreach Specialist and services provided by the CHOICE Coalition.

About Prevention Programs in our Community

Lakewood's CHOICE has the following goals in the Springbrook Community:

- Develop and promote opportunities that build stronger community connections and engagement.
- Increase the amount of opportunities that promote healthy family functioning.
- Decrease substance abuse and anti-social behaviors among local youth.
- Increase the availability of positive opportunities for children and youth at school and in the community.

CHOICE will reach these goals by working closely with the community and offering evidenced based programs such as Project SUCCESS and Guiding Good Choices, both of which will be measured by pre and post surveys. CHOICE will work on community level change through positive community norming and decreasing access to alcohol and other substances. CHOICE will measure community level changes through an annual community survey and on-going community assessments.