

Pomeroy Advocates for Community Empowerment (PACE) Strategic Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION

Overview of Plan

Mission of PACE

The mission of the PACE coalition is to positively impact our youth, reduce substance use, and increase awareness, through community collaboration.

The Pomeroy Advocates for Community Empowerment (PACE) coalition began in April, 2013. Garfield County received funding for the formally known Prevention Redesign Initiative and now Community Wellness and Prevention Initiative, to implement a community based coalition that would allocate funding for prevention activities in this county. Prevention services were historically provided by Garfield County Human Services (GCHS) who contracted services with Quality Behavioral Health Services (QBHS) to local schools and to the community. Prevention programs that were previously provided through GCHS were placed on hold and the funding was used for implementation of a community coalition that would be responsible for implementing data driven prevention programs related to the reduction of underage drinking and substance use of youth in Pomeroy. Pomeroy is located in Garfield County and is the only town in the entire county. This creates a unique relationship of the community members to the entirety of the county. Pomeroy is considered a rural area that is mostly comprised of land used for farming in the South Eastern region of Washington State. Youth in the entire county generally attend Pomeroy Elementary school or Pomeroy Jr. & Senior High School or are homeschooled. Essentially the Pomeroy School District serves all families and youth. Data for Pomeroy is mainly characterized by county wide data, although Pomeroy is where almost all of the community businesses and programs are located which serve residents of the county.

Pomeroy is located off of highway 12 in eastern Washington. The community is 1.87 square miles and is located in Garfield County which is the total of 7.8 square miles. The school district is located in Pomeroy and serves 321 students from K-12 grade. The Elementary Schools serves 169 students and the Jr./High school serves 152 students total. The Elementary School has 54.8% of the students are eligible for free and reduced lunch. The Jr./Sr. High School's students are 47.4% are eligible for free and reduced lunch.

PACE was first implemented with the assistance of a new community coordinator, Carrie Burris, the county coordinator (Gayle Fleming), the local Community Health Advisory and Prevention Board (CHAPAB) and GCHS. A new coordinator, Lucilla Mendoza, was hired, and she began in July, 2013 following the resignation of Ms. Burris and she continued to implement the initiation of the new substance abuse prevention coalition in Pomeroy. PACE is currently comprised of about 30 current coalition members. Due to additional funding, our coalition has 2 staff members that serve as the coalition coordinators. There are currently 13 community sectors represented by the coalition. PACE has completed bylaws, logo, and has developed 7 committees that will strategize the implementation of the community based process and the Strategic planning Framework.

Alcohol use is historically a community norm in Garfield County and in the catchment area of Pomeroy. The Community Health Assessment report is generated by the Garfield County Health District to compile county health and community data for others that are concerned with the health needs of Pomeroy and county members. According to the Garfield County Health District-Community Health Assessment, 72% of adults use

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alcohol and 22.6% report that they binge drink. Over 25% of adults use tobacco products. According to the Community Health Assessment (2013), 1 out of 3 youth have reported using alcohol in 8th, 10th and 12th grade. Priorities identified by the coalition are to focus on underage drinking by Pomeroy youth. Other priorities include community disorganization on prevention related issues, social access of alcohol use to youth, favorable attitudes towards use, friends that use substances, and family management concerns.

Our strategies will be to increase prevention leadership in Garfield County. We will also work on decreasing social access of alcohol to youth in Pomeroy. We will strive to increase the perception of harm to youth and parents regarding underage drinking, decrease friends that are using, and increase family management skills. Through our efforts our long term goal is to decrease alcohol use, increase community awareness of the dangers of alcohol use through the collaborative efforts of all sectors in the community.

The activities that our coalition will use are multipronged to include environmental strategies that consist of policy review and revision and a community wide media campaign. We will implement three evidence based direct service strategies that include the Life Skills Program, Media Ready Literacy Program and the Guiding Good Choices family program and an innovative program, the Summer Youth Program. With the partnership of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Pomeroy School District has employed a Prevention/Intervention Specialist who works in the Jr. & Sr. High school to implement the Project SUCCESS program. We will most importantly, continue to develop our coalition through the community based process and the Strategic Planning Framework (SPF). We will implement these strategies and activities by using partners in the community to organize prevention programming for Pomeroy. Our coalition committees will each take part in the implementation in prevention programming. Our activities will be evaluated using pre-posttests, youth and community surveys, and local data regarding youth substance use.

Included in this plan is information on how our coalition has accomplished processes of the Strategic Planning Framework. The narrative includes the process for the development of the coalition's organizational structure and the group's activities while working through the SPF. Also included, is our process to increase the capacity of the coalition. Described in this plan is how the coalition assessed the community and created an action plan based on needs, resource and gaps assessment. Cultural competency and sustainability at each level of strategic planning is included in the strategic plan as a process that our coalition will focus on at every development of the SPF. Furthermore, our plan for implementation and reporting and evaluation are included in this document. Detailed information regarding our Logic Model, Needs Assessment, Resource Assessment, Action Plan, Membership, and Budget are included in the Appendix of this Strategic Plan.