



## **Prosser Community Involvement and Action**

Mission: To build and sustain a healthy community through substance abuse prevention and education.

### PRESS RELEASE FOR JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup> EVENT

#### Prosser CIA Coalition Lock Box Event

The Prosser CIA (Community Involvement and Action) Coalition with its partners have teamed up to provide a bi-county event to reduce prescription drug access to our community's youth. They will be giving away 500 in-home lock boxes to families across Benton and Franklin Counties to help reduce use and access rates locally. The event will be on January 9<sup>th</sup> at Kadlec Healthplex (1268 Lee Blvd, Richland WA 99352) and will be from 8am-2pm.

Over 60% of youth who abuse prescription drugs get access to those drugs through friends and family. Prescription drug abuse causes the largest percentage of deaths from drug overdosing in the US, more than all other street drug combined. Approximately one in ten of Benton and Franklin Counties 10<sup>th</sup> graders reported using prescription medication that was not theirs in the past 30 days according to the 2014 HYS. The Prosser CIA Coalition and the Pasco Discovery Coalition have made it a priority to reduce those rates for the 2016 survey cycle.

Who should attend this event: any residents that have youth frequenting their home; if residents have unused meds in the home that are not monitored regularly; anyone wanting information about prescription drug abuse; or if residents want to impact youth and adult prescription drug abuse in their community they are encouraged to attend.

During this event Prosser CIA will also rollout to the public a partnership that has been developed with the local Police Departments as well as PMH Medical Center to support long term, permanent prescription take-back boxes at their locations. Prosser CIA Coalition received a grant through SAMHSA (Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Administration) and DSHS which made it possible to fund several permanent boxes locally and support and expand existing efforts!! The following locations have long term programs that are now available to the public: Kennewick PD, Pasco PD, West Richland PD and PMH Medical Center. An additional Richland location will be coming soon.

As part of the event on January 9<sup>th</sup> information will be available regarding medication monitoring, disposal information, prevention efforts already happening for youth in our area schools (through ESD123 Prevention Department) and information about where to go locally for assistance with addiction. Donations will be accepted and go towards purchasing more boxes which will remain on hand to give away throughout the year. There will also be a limited amount of boxes available for sale.

This event is brought to you by Benton and Franklin Counties two Substance Abuse Coalitions (Prosser CIA Coalition and Pasco Discovery Coalition). Each Coalition is funded by the Department of Social and Health Services through their Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative (CPWI). Additional partners and sponsors include Coordinated Care, Kadlec and SAMHSA through Prosser CIA's recent Drug Free Communities Grant awarded in October of 2015. For additional information or to see how you can get involved with prevention locally please contact Prosser CIA Coalition Program Director, Jennifer Dorsett at [Jennifer.dorsett.sac@gmail.com](mailto:Jennifer.dorsett.sac@gmail.com) or visit their website at [www.prossercia.com](http://www.prossercia.com).

Thank you for your support~  
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