

Community Prevention & Wellness Initiative

Partners for Healthy Communities

Coalition Mission

To prevent youth substance abuse by encouraging and supporting responsible student choices, a safe school environment family involvement and community commitment.



Coalition Coordinator

Renee Hunter



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Renee Hunter has served as Executive Director of Chelan-Douglas TOGETHER for Youth since its inception in 1990. In that time she has established eleven community coalitions and mobilized hundreds of volunteers to implement evidenced-based strategies. Renee serves on several state committees and is the recipient of numerous awards including the 2001 Governor's Award for Collaboration.

Wenatchee Substance Abuse Coalition

Wenatchee, WA



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. CPWI priorities include reducing underage drinking, marijuana use and opioid misuse/abuse among middle and high school aged youth. By providing evidence-based practices and promoting the positive changes in communities, we can build healthier communities.

About the Coalition: Communities & Schools Working Together

Wenatchee's substance abuse coalition was first established as Wenatchee TOGETHER coalition in 1990. In 2004 this coalition was awarded the SPF-SIG grant for Orchard Middle School, and they expanded their focus to address underage drinking. Strategies included parenting classes, youth outreach, and intensive social norms campaign. In 2012 the Coalition was selected for state funding under the Prevention Redesign Initiative.

Wenatchee coalition members represent all the sector requirements which include schools, social services agency, parents, students, religious organizations, treatment and youth serving organizations.

One of our major strengths is our youth coalition members. Several have been members on the coalition for six years. In 2013, six of our youth members won the grand prize at the Washington State Spring Youth Forum. These girls went to Washington D.C to represent the Coalition at a national conference sponsored by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA).

A challenge for many of our youth is extreme economic deprivation, an important risk factor. In Wenatchee 55% of our students are eligible for free or reduced lunch, compared to the statewide average of 45%. A challenge for many of our youth is extreme economic deprivation, an important risk factor. In Wenatchee 55% of our students are eligible for free or reduced lunch, compared to the statewide average of 45%.

About Our Community

Economy: Wenatchee is the largest city in the region with a strong economic base from agriculture, manufacturing and tourism. It is known for its apples, pears, cherries and peaches. However, the entire central portion of the state has always been the poorest region in the state, and the latest U.S. economic crisis magnified the problem. High poverty rates contribute to a high risk environment for Wenatchee youth. The medium household income for the area is t\$ 42,000.00. Household income has been steadily decreasing since 2005 and remains below the national average.



Population: About 29,000 people live within city limits. Over 21% of the city's population and 30% of K-12 students are of Hispanic or Latino descent. Geographical limitations and a growing population has led to higher density housing. Wenatchee is currently ranked 12th in people per square mile for Washington State cities

Employment: A large percentage of jobs are related to agriculture. There is a growing tourism/service industry. Because Wenatchee is both the shopping center and medical center for four counties, many are employed in health services and retail. Unemployment is between 9 – 11%; many are employed in low-wage service sector jobs.

About Prevention Programs in our Community

Our plan is to decrease risks associated with community norms, antisocial behavior, family management problems and favorable attitudes toward problems behavior by providing:

- **Life Skills Training** an evidence-based curriculum taught in grades 3-5 with Wenatchee School District.
- **Second Step** an evidence-based curriculum taught in grades K-5 with Wenatchee School District.
- **Strengthening Families** an evidence-based parenting class taught in English and Spanish to Wenatchee are parents.
- **Parenting with Love and Logic** classes, a proven program taught to parents, grandparents, foster parents, and court-ordered parents in English and Spanish.
- **Youth Outreach** program, which partners with all three middle schools and our high school to provide education about the dangers of alcohol and marijuana use among youth.

We evaluate our effectiveness several different ways. The Healthy Youth Survey is administered every two years to students in the Wenatchee School District. Pre and post-surveys are administered to attendees at both Strengthening Family and Love and Logic classes.

Other Contacts

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CPWI is funded by

Washington State
Health Care Authority

For more information
about CPWI visit

www.TheAthenaForum.org