# Forks Community Coalition

#### Coalition Coordinator

Micaela Villicana

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Micaela is new to the position and just started in March of 2023. She was involved with the coalition in her previous position as the Title VI Native Support Program Coordinator for QVSD.

She is very involved in the Forks community and has built strong partnerships with agencies in the past 6 years working with the school district.

#### Coalition Mission

The mission of the Forks Community Coalition is to foster positive, healthy choice-making among the youth of Forks. Our goal is to accomplish this by partnering with families and the broader community to implement best-practice/science based prevention strategies.

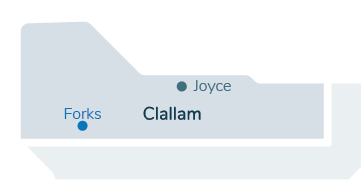
## C:\Users\Jolene.Price\Pictures\Forks.jpgForks, WA

### 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

The Forks community has been a part of the CPWI community since October of 2012. The coalition coordinator is an employee of the Quillayute Valley School District and partners with the Readiness to Learn Consortium which is also a part of the school district. The coalition is made up of community partners from 12 different sectors. Those sectors include school, youth, local law enforcement, parents, heath care, youth serving organizations, faith based organizations, local government, media, OESD, mental health and tribal organizations. One of our greatest strengths is that we have strong ties to both our two tribal partners and two of our local law enforcement agencies. Our greatest challenge has been getting community members involved. We have had great success with local agencies but are still struggling with non-agency partners.



### About Our Community

#### Other Contacts

##### **Quillayute Valley School District (Dist 402)**

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Forks Washington is located in the West End of Clallam County and is a rural community with a strong link to the Quileute and Hoh Tribes. The geographical area to be served is Forks (pop. 3,747) and the surrounding areas, including members of the Hoh Tribe (25 miles South of Forks, pop. 256) and the Quileute Tribe (15 miles Northwest of Forks, pop. 371).

Forks is primarily known for its tourism of the Hoh Rain Forest and beautiful beaches as well as our logging industry. Our tourism increased in 2005 however, due to the popular fiction series ‘Twilight’, which was published that year (Forks is the town the book is set in).

We have one High School, one middle school, and one Elementary school. The schools serve Forks and the surrounding areas including the Hoh Tribal students and several Quileute Tribal students.

Economically Forks primarily employs people at one of the two prisons located 30 miles North (Clallam Bay Correction Center) and 25 miles South (Olympic Corrections Center), the Community Hospital, the school district and several logging companies that are locally owned and operated.

**About Prevention Programs in our Community**

Using local data from several sources the Coalition has come up with the following goals and strategies that we will be addressing:

**Goal One:** To change community laws and norms as well as parental attitudes that favor substance use. Strategies will include training for coalition members and key leaders, information meetings such as town hall meetings, and a positive community social norms campaign.

**Goal Two:** To help increase communication between parent and youth and reduce poor family management. Strategies will include Guiding Good Choices classes.

**Goal Three:** To educate youth on the perception of harm and change favorable norms towards substance use. Strategies will include Life Skills programs at the 6th, 7th and 8th grade levels, youth coalition activities, work with the SAP and the prevention club, educating school staff and students about positive norms and perception as well as the effects of substance use and partnering with school staff to address youth safety concerns.

To ensure the effectiveness of our plan, each plan of action will be reviewed periodically. For each program we implement there will be a pre and post-test. These will be given to the participants of each program when appropriate and then recorded in Minerva, the state reporting system. In addition, the coalition will conduct an annual Community survey and participate in the bi-annual Healthy Youth Survey as well as conduct other participant surveys when appropriate. These results will help us each year decide what strategies to implement for the following year.