



SPECIAL LOW PRICES
on efficient LED light bulbs!

LOOK FOR OUR LOGO!

SNYHOMISH COUNTY
PUD
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
> Click for details!

- HOME
- NEWS
- SPORTS
- OPINION
- COMMUNITY
- LIFESTYLE
- CONTACT
- LEGAL

Monroe Community Coalition begins second year, seeks community input via survey

By: Chris Hendrickson | November 25, 2014 | Monroe News News | 1168 Views



The Monroe Community Coalition celebrated its first birthday this summer and is ramping up for a productive year two.

The coalition is a grassroots volunteer organization that was formed to help reduce the negative effects of drug and alcohol abuse, especially among the youth of Monroe. The group works to comprehensively identify and mitigate community risk factors often associated with underage drinking and substance abuse.

The coalition utilizes an empirical approach to analyze data, and tries to focus on proven methodologies to promote positive and healthy changes in communities.

The coalition meets on the second Thursday of each month from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Monroe School District's Administrative Building on East Fremont Street in Monroe. "Anybody is welcome to come and see what we're doing and see if they're interested in joining our efforts," said Monroe resident Cherie Matyas. Matyas currently has four children enrolled in the Monroe School District.

The group consists of parent volunteers, along with representatives from the faith community, the Monroe School District, the Monroe Police Department, the YMCA, Compass Health, Cocoon House and others.

The coalition is funded via the Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative (CPWI), and must achieve adherence to a specific set of criteria in order to maintain its funding. The CPWI utilizes monies obtained through a federal substance abuse grant, which is purposed to help establish coalitions across the state. Thus far, research indicates that prevention strategy can be an effective model for reducing underage drug and alcohol use.

The CPWI reports that 11,000 fewer students statewide used alcohol in 2012 compared to 2010, along with several other similar findings.

Currently, the Monroe Community Coalition is actively seeking participants to take a Community Prevention Wellness Initiative community survey, which is an anonymous survey designed for adults age 18 and over.

"We had the survey last year, as well, so we'll keep doing it every year to hopefully see that the work we're doing is changing things in a positive way," said Matyas. "Our first year we were trying to figure out what needed to be done and we created a strategic plan, which you can actually see online if you go to our website."

Last year, 182 people participated in the survey. This year, the coalition is hoping for at least double that number. The survey provides invaluable insight and also helps to further guide the coalition's efforts as they seek to better understand how the Monroe community perceives underage drug and alcohol use and abuse.

"If there are a lot of adults and parents in the community who don't think it's a big deal, then we need to educate them that it's not healthy, and about all the problems it could lead to down the road," said Matyas.

When developing their strategic plan, the coalition also used data from the healthy youth survey given by the

WEATHER

Monroe, WA

Today	Thursday
 Partly Cloudy 63°/38°	 Clear 65°/42°

GRAND OPENING
WILDWOOD TRAILS IN SULTAN
New one- and two-level homes from the mid \$200s

Click for Info

RM HOMES

WASHINGTON STATE
EVERGREEN RV SHOW
EVERGREEN STATE FAIRGROUNDS
MONROE WA
APRIL 10, 11, 12

more than just money
RV Show

© RV Tracker

- RECENT
- POPULAR
- COMMENTS

Bond seeks to improve school security

April 6, 2015 | 495 Views

Sultan honors Elizabeth Emmons

April 6, 2015 | 389 Views

Monroe School District, zeroing in on the answers given by both 8th and 10th grade students.

Thus far, the coalition is working to implement programs meant to facilitate awareness and prevention, including programs like Healthy Alternatives for Little Ones, also known as HALO. The HALO program provides a curriculum to teach young children how to become more health-minded.

The Strengthening Multi-Ethnic Families and Communities program provides a strategy to help parents in culturally-diverse families reduce substance use and violence within their families. The program encourages parents to commit to raising their children in a violence-free and health-conscious atmosphere.

The coalition has also been able to fund Student Assistance Program Specialist Sandra Olson's position at Park Place Middle School. She will be working to coordinate additional intervention strategies at the middle school.

They've also implemented the "Talk. They Hear You" campaign, which has been made possible through a collaborative partnership with Galaxy Theatre in Monroe. To help accomplish a broader level of community awareness about drug and alcohol prevention, the theatre plays advertisements which advocate for increased communication between parents and children.

Initially, Matyas attended the coalition meetings because she was asked to represent her church. But once she got involved, she recognized the importance of the work and quickly understood the value of a group like the coalition.

"I want my community to be better and safer for my children and to know that we're working together for the same cause," said Matyas. "That we have an interest in their health and well-being."

For more information on the Monroe Community Coalition, please visit the website at: <http://monroecommunitycoalition.com/>. To take the survey in English, please visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MONXON>. To take the survey in Spanish, please visit: <https://es.surveymonkey.com/s/MONXSP>.

The coalition is hoping to receive responses to the survey by December 15.

The Monroe School District's Administration building is located at 200 E. Fremont St. in Monroe.

Like 1 Tweet 0

1

← Previous Post

Next Post →

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Chris Hendrickson

Chris Hendrickson is Chief Reporter for the Monroe Monitor and Valley News.

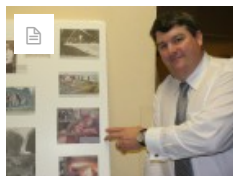


All Posts by : Chris Hendrickson

RELATED ARTICLES



School would renovate middle schools
March 31, 2015



Monitor photographer undergoes medical hardship
March 31, 2015



Third downtown parking option considered
March 31, 2015



Community Coalition hosts event on youth suicide
March 31, 2015

Council decides on parallel, angle parking combo

April 6, 2015 387 Views

Police Blotter | April 7, 2015

April 6, 2015 199 Views

Letter | Bond covers needed renovations

April 6, 2015 185 Views

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 9, 2015 10:00 am

Tabitha House - Clothing Drive

April 14, 2015 7:00 pm

Monroe City Council

April 16, 2015 6:30 pm

Evergreen Republican Women's Club

April 17, 2015 7:00 pm

The Slaughterhouse Lounge presents
psychic/medium Ankhasha Amenti

MAGAZINES

