

Community Prevention & Wellness Initiative

Partners for Healthy Communities

Coalition Mission

Through advocacy, awareness, and action, we will foster an inclusive community culture that strengthens families, reduces substance abuse, and promotes physical, mental and emotional wellness.

Coalition Vision

Healthy, resilient youth, empowered by community.

Coalition Coordinator

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Ms. Aws has been the Oak Harbor Youth Coalition Coordinator since March of 2020. Previously, she served as an OHYC member and chair. She has a background in public service and was a librarian in both public and prison libraries before working in Prevention. She is employed by the Northwest Educational Service District 189.

Oak Harbor Youth Coalition

Oak Harbor, 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 Oak Harbor Youth Coalition was founded in 2011, and is a group of dedicated community volunteers with a vested interest in the healthy development and general well-being of our upcoming generation. Our primary focus is substance abuse prevention and mental health promotion among youth in our community.

Coalition members represent a wide variety of community sectors:

- * Schools * Parents * Youth * Civic/Volunteer Organizations * Military *
- * Law Enforcement * Healthcare Professionals * Local Government *
- * Youth-Serving Organizations * Media *

The range of sectors represented on the Coalition gives us a broad scope of support and partnership opportunities throughout North Whidbey. We work closely with the School District, community youth organizations, City of Oak Harbor, Island County, U.S. Navy and the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery.



About Our Community

Oak Harbor is located on the northern part of Whidbey Island, one of two islands that make up Island County. One bridge and two ferries provide the only access on/off the island. Whidbey Island is the ancestral home of the Coast Salish people, past and present. The first Europeans to settle in Oak Harbor were largely of Dutch heritage and many community members still identify with this ancestry. We are also home to Naval Air Station Whidbey Island—a large Naval installation which gives us a strong veteran population in addition to drawing a large, diverse population of young families from across the U.S and its territories. Over 50% of Oak Harbor School District students come from active duty and retired families.

- Oak Harbor City Limits population: 22,300
- “Greater” Oak Harbor (total North Whidbey) pop: 40,500
- Median age: 33yrs
- Median household income: \$55,647
- Median home value: \$451,000

About Prevention Programs in our Community

Our focus is prevention, and we collaborate with schools, community members, students, and youth organization to identify local risk factors and replace them with protective factors wherever possible. We want to give the next generation the tools they need to make healthy choices and lead successful lives.

Community assessments and trend data led the Coalition to target our efforts toward six main areas:

- Community disorganization and low neighborhood attachment
- Youth access to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
- Healthy beliefs and clear standards in school
- Early and persistent antisocial behavior
- Early initiation of problem behavior
- Family bonding opportunity, skills, and recognition

Based on these identified priorities, the Coalition will work to

- Support Project SUCCESS curriculum at Oak Harbor High School
- Partner with law enforcement to encourage and educate about the importance of securing and safely disposing of prescription drugs
- Partner with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Island County to support community mentoring
- Facilitate community education about substance abuse prevention and mental health promotion
- Provide parenting programs such as Strengthening Families 10-14

Other Contacts

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CPWI is funded by

Washington State
Health Care Authority

For more information
about CPWI visit

www.TheAthenaForum.org