

# Community Prevention & Wellness Initiative

Partners for Healthy Communities

## Coalition Mission

To support community wellness in South Pacific County through active collaborations



## Coalition Coordinator

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Bio: Carole Chase holds two Bachelor's Degrees from Oregon State University in both English and liberal studies and has received extensive training in prevention science, including the SAPST training, plus additional training in tobacco and marijuana vaping prevention, opioid use, mental health intervention, and education for divorced parents. She is experienced in coordinating multi-faceted and cross-functional teams, program development, and volunteer management. In her position as the WellSpring Coordinator, (and as a parent) Carole has used her position as a coastal native to better assess community capacity and to recruit and sustain local members.

## WellSpring Community Network

### Long Beach Peninsula



### About the Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative (CPWI)

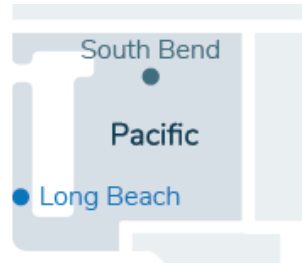
CPWI is a partnership of state agencies, counties, schools and local prevention coalitions supporting communities in preventing alcohol and other drug abuse and its negative consequences. CPWI priorities include reducing underage drinking, marijuana use and opioid misuse/abuse among middle and high school 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

Established in 2006, WellSpring is a grassroots coalition dedicated to creating community wellness by strengthening collaborative relationships between and among all 12 sectors in the community. A few of our partners are: Pacific County Health Department, Ocean Beach School District, ESD 113, Pacific County Juvenile Services, Peninsula Poverty Response, Peninsula Pharmacies, Willapa Behavioral Health, Long Beach Police Department, Pacific County Sheriff's Office, The Chinook Observer, City of Long Beach, and more.

Each month, WellSpring names monthly "Asset Builders" to individuals and businesses that have gone above and beyond helping youth in our community build healthy assets. This has allowed our coalition to continue fostering and strengthening relationships within each of the 12 sectors.

To ensure continuation of our efforts, WellSpring has applied for and been awarded several federal and state grants since 2013: (1) Drug-Free Communities Grant (DFC) in 2018, (2) Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act grant (an extension of the DFC grant) in 2015, (3) Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery Act grant in 2018, and (4) the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act (an extension of the DFC grant), in 2019. In addition, WellSpring is currently serving as a 501c3 organization.



## About Our Community

The Long Beach Peninsula is surrounded by water on three sides: The Pacific Ocean, Columbia River, and Willapa Bay. Renowned for its magnificent 28-miles of beaches and rich local history, the peninsula is a popular tourist destination for people all over the United States and the world. Camping, fishing, and annual events like the International Kite Festival, The Rod Run, and the Razor Clam Festival are also popular tourist draws.

With a population of nearly 5,000, the area's economy is based on tourism, fishing, crabbing, oyster farming, and cranberry farming. Due to the majority of jobs being seasonal, the unemployment rate (6.9%) is greater than the state average (4.3%), and the median hourly wage (\$15.82) is far below the state average (\$23.15), excluding King County. Given the lack of non-seasonal jobs and low wages, it is not surprising that 35.69% of the Long Beach Peninsula's population lives below the federal poverty level, as compared to the state average of 10.3%.

According to the US Census Bureau, Long Beach's median household income is \$22,983, far behind the state (\$74,073) and national (\$63,179) medians. The population is predominantly white (89.7%), with Hispanics making up 9.7% and Native Indian / Alaskan Native making up 2.9%.

## About Prevention Programs in our Community

WellSpring Community Network's main goals include increasing community collaboration and reducing youth substance use.

We accomplish these goals by providing information to the community to increase awareness, by increasing volunteer participation, building new partnerships, supporting team members, reducing barriers to participation, strengthening substance use prevention laws, reducing availability, increasing pro-social involvement, and increasing perception of risk among youth.

Focusing on students in Ocean Beach School district, WellSpring supports the youth arm of the coalition, Youth Action Klub (YAK), a high school and community-based prevention club. Results are measured and reported in the Washington State Healthy Youth Survey.



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For more information  
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