

Community Prevention & Wellness Initiative

Partners for Healthy Communities

Coalition Mission

Increase the health and well-being of youth, parents and the community of the Stevenson-Carson School District, by reducing and preventing drug and alcohol use through education, intervention and outreach.



Coalition Coordinator

Susie Strom, BS, CPP

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Bio: Susie Strom has worked as a public servant since 1983. Most of this time has been in the field of Law Enforcement. Susie says, "Law enforcement and drug and alcohol prevention coordination is a natural and complimentary emergence of service fields. This partnership has served our community well."

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One Prevention Alliance

Skamania County | Stevenson, 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

One Prevention Alliance Community Coalition began as a Community Mobilization Against Substance Abuse (CMASA) advisory board in 1996. The coalition works to support a vision of healthy youth, successful families & a supportive community. OPA serves the Stevenson-Carson School District, located in the South-Central area of Skamania County.

OPA sponsors the Stand Up 4 Teens (SU4T) Healthy Youth Summit, an annual event that brings more than 200 Middle and High School youth together from throughout the Columbia River Gorge, to participate in a day-long event focusing on healthy living. This event has gained great support from many local businesses and individual sponsors. Without the support of our wonderful community, the SU4T Healthy Youth Summit would not be possible. We believe our prevention efforts are working! According to the 2016 Healthy Youth Survey, a statewide multiagency partnership (OSPI, DBHR/DSHS, DOH, LCCB, Looking Glass Analytics, Inc.), reported tobacco, alcohol and marijuana use among local youth has declined since 2012 (HYS 2016). While we are seeing success in our prevention efforts, there are still challenges we must address.

According to the 2016 HYS, Stevenson-Carson School District youth have a low perception of harm associated with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of marijuana and/or being a passenger in a motor vehicle driven by someone who is under the influence of marijuana. OPA will focus our prevention efforts in 2017-2019, to address this issue along with other identified issues. OPA membership is made up of 12 sectors; Law Enforcement, Local Government, Health Care, Treatment, Faith Based Community, Education, Volunteer Groups, Youth Organizations, Parents, Youth, Business & Media.



About Our Community

Skamania County is in southwest Washington, about 40 miles east of the Portland, OR /Vancouver, WA metropolitan area, in the beautiful Columbia River Gorge. 90% of the county is timberland, mostly within the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Much of the non-timber land is concentrated in the southern strip along the Columbia River.

The first Americans to visit Skamania County were the explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, who mapped the river in 1805. One Prevention Alliance defines its community as the Stevenson-Carson School District. The school district serves a total population of 906. 78% of the county population is located within three major population areas: The City of Stevenson (pop. 1465), the City of North Bonneville (pop. 971), and the Carson River Valley urban area (pop. 2279). Skamania County has a total population of 11,339 (2015 Census) with 88.6% being White, 5.6 % being Hispanic or Latino, 0.5 % being Black, 1.3% American Indian and Alaska Native & 1.1% Asian. Persons 18 or younger make up 20.1% of the population and persons 65 and over make up 18%. The population density is 6.82 per square mile. In 2014, Skamania County per capita income was \$36,999.

About Prevention Programs in our Community

The goals of One Prevention Alliance Community Coalition are to decrease youth access to alcohol and marijuana, increase perception of harm of drugs and alcohol, decrease youth reported contemplated and attempted suicides, and increase community connectedness.

We will do this by working together to promote a vision of healthy youth, successful families & a supportive community through supporting programs such as:

- **All Stars** - a school-based prevention curriculum provided for 5th grade students
- **Second Step** - a school-based prevention curriculum provided for 6th grade students
- **LifeSkills Training**- a school based prevention curriculum provided for 7th, 8th & 9th grade students
- **SPORT PPW** - a school-based prevention curriculum provided for 4th grade students
- **Stand Up 4 Teens Prevention Club** – a school-based club provided for High School students

Yearly, OPA evaluates our efforts using an annual coalition assessment survey, an annual community survey, the bi-annual Healthy Youth Survey, relevant data from our partner agencies, and program specific evaluation tools.

We will continue our outreach efforts to ensure all people and groups in our community are represented and welcomed with an emphasis on cultural inclusion.

Other Contacts

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For more information
about CPWI visit

www.TheAthenaForum.org