

# Community Prevention & Wellness Initiative

Partners for Healthy Communities

## Coalition Mission

Linking and empowering the communities of Airway Heights and Cheney to reduce substance abuse primarily among youth through action, education, and collaboration.



## Coalition Coordinator



### Jessica Deutsch

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Jessica has been with TALK 2 Healthy Choices since January of 2019. Prior to coalition work Jessica worked for Communities In School of Spokane County and the Cheney School District for 6 years providing support for school dropout prevention.

## TALK 2 Healthy Choices Coalition

(Take Action and Link Kids to Healthy Choices)

### Cheney and Airway Heights



## 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

Take Action and Link Kids to Healthy Choices Coalition (TALK 2 Healthy Choices) was established in January of 2019 with service to families in Cheney and Airway Heights to bring positive change and to create a protective network of prevention services for youth and families.

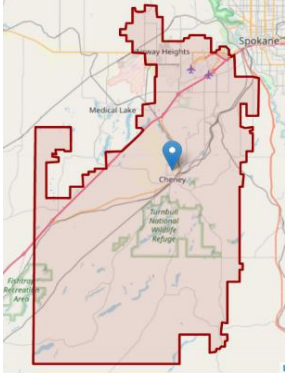
TALK 2 Healthy Choices Coalition members are actively involved in meetings and events, and represent 12 sectors of our community. These sectors include the local school district, youth leadership, parents, local government, health care, youth serving organizations, faith-based organizations, local business, volunteer and civic organizations, other substance abuse serving organizations and law enforcement.

Coalition members are concerned about the following risk factors that exist in the community:

- School performance, youth delinquency (substance use and driving under the influence of substances) and mental health/depression.
- Any underage drinking, current tobacco use, and current e-cigarette (any 'Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems' also known as vaping devices) use, current marijuana use, and current prescription drug use to see consumption patterns and/or trends.

· Community disorganization and community connectedness, availability, youth perceptions: lack of enforcement and risk, early initiation of use, low commitment to school and lack of prosocial skills, parent attitudes tolerant of substance use, and poor family management.

## About Our Community



The boundaries of TALK 2 Healthy Choices Coalition as defined by CPWI are coterminous with the boundaries of serving youth within the Cheney School District catchment area. It is bordered from the East by District 81 (Spokane) and to the West by the Medical Lake School District and/or the Reardan School District. To the North is Great Northern and/or the Reardan School District and the South encompasses the Liberty or Sprague School

Districts. The Cheney School District is 378 square miles and has one of the largest bussing districts in the state. Many students live “in town” while many live rurally as well. The school district serves over 4,800 students as of enrollment in January of 2021.

The Cheney School District has 5 elementary schools (Betz, Salnave, Snowdon, Sunset and Windsor), 2 middle schools (Cheney and Westwood), 1 high school (Cheney), 1 alternative high school (Three Springs) and 1 parent partnership home school program (Home Works!)

## About Prevention Programs in our Community

Strategies selected by the coalition to combat these risks include parent education sessions and information nights, youth education like Project success taught in ninth grade health class, positive social norms campaigning, and drug take back events. The Coalition has an active youth coalition in the high school and additional evidence based programming for youth and families is provided community wide through a multitude of education campaigns and programs. The effectiveness of prevention programs in a community are measured by the Healthy Youth Survey, the annual community survey, decreases in legal issues related to substance use and increases in healthy habits among community members.

## Other Contacts

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TALK 2 Healthy Choices  
Chair

Unfilled at this time.

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## CPWI is funded by

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For more information  
about CPWI visit

[www.TheAthenaForum.org](http://www.TheAthenaForum.org)