

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Morton was selected to participate in cohort three of the Division of Behavioral Health & Recovery (DBHR) Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative (CPWI). The Morton Coalition for Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention (CASAP) was formed through this initiative. CASAP is a grassroots volunteer organization established in 2013 to prevent and reduce underage drinking and other youth substance abuse in Morton. Our mission is to create a community invested in providing positive role models, diverse educational opportunities, and pro-social activities that prevent youth substance use, promote confidence, self-esteem, integrity, and respect in youth, resulting in healthy adults. We plan to achieve those results by addressing risk factors associated with poor school performance and youth delinquency.



The Coalition serves the small community of Morton, Washington. Morton is located in the center of Lewis County, in Southwest Washington. A little over 1100 residents occupy less than one square mile of land situated in the valley of tree-covered hills. Historically a logging and mining town, the largest employers presently are two lumber mills and a rural hospital. Morton has one elementary school, one junior/senior high school, and is home to Centralia College East.

Using the Strategic Prevention Framework, CASAP has prioritized the following risk and protective factors:

1. **Community Connectedness**
Historically, this community gathered in great numbers at school sporting events. Over the past 10 years, enrollment in Morton school district has steadily decreased and the district was forced to combine athletic programs with a neighboring district. Most of the games are played at the neighboring school's facilities, 18 miles away. This has impacted community connectedness.
2. **Social Availability of Alcohol, Enforcement of Alcohol Laws**
This community has hosted an annual Loggers Jubilee for more than 70 years. A beer garden is very prominent during this event; law enforcement issues more youth alcohol citations at this time than at any other point in the year.
3. **Low Commitment to School, Favorable Attitudes/Perception of Harm**
The substance use habits of teens were gathered through the Healthy Youth Survey and through community member interviews.
4. **Poor Family Management**
Through community and Coalition member interviews, we learned of several families where grandparents are raising grandchildren and that there are many children living in low-income homes and a high incidence of children living in homes with substance-abusing adults.

To influence these predictors, the Coalition will support community awareness campaigns, environmental strategies, and direct services that will increase community readiness, youth bonding, family management skills, and decrease the risks associated with substance use. We

will evaluate the impact of our strategies through an annual community survey and bi-annual Healthy Youth Survey.

This document contains details on our organizational development, capacity building activities, assessment process, plans to address the identified risk and protective factors, proposed implementation activities, and evaluation plan.