

# Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative

## *Partners for Healthy Communities*

---

---

### Coalition Mission

The mission of the Okanogan County Community Coalition is to effectively address the problems of youth substance abuse and violence in our community by promoting: **collaboration, cooperation, communication, commitment, and Cultural Competency.**



**O K A N O G A N**  
COUNTY COMMUNITY  
COALITION

---

### Coalition Coordinator

**Andi Ervin**

Executive Director

(509) 322-8436

PO Box 1688

Omak, WA 98841

occcandi@yahoo.com

---

## **Okanogan County Community Coalition** **Omak**



### **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. Our highest priority is to reduce underage drinking and marijuana among 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. By providing evidence-based practices and promoting the positive changes in communities, we can build healthier communities.

### **About the Coalition: Communities and Schools Working Together**

The Okanogan County Community Coalition began as a Meth Action Team. Over time the Coalition began to target other substances, such as tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drugs.

In 2010, the Coalition was awarded the Drug Free Communities grant, and at the same time, was selected to participate in Cohort 1 of DBHR's Prevention Redesign Initiative. This began the Coalition's process of embracing not only the traditional evidence-based direct service programs, but also environmental strategies to begin to shift the overall community climate that made youth vulnerable to substance abuse.

Since 2010, the Coalition has contributed to over a 60% reduction in 10<sup>th</sup> grade prescription drug abuse, over a 50% decrease in high school underage drinking, and early data is suggesting a 30% decrease in high school marijuana use.

Our Coalition encompasses all sectors of our community including: Colville Confederated Tribes, law enforcement, court administrators, media, public health and healthcare professionals, educators, parents, youth and prevention and treatment professionals.

## Other Contacts

### Lesa Eiffert, LMHC

NCESD

Student Assistant Specialist

Omak Middle/High School

leiffert@omaksd.wednet.edu

### NCESD

Mike Lynch

(509) 665-2610

mikel@ncesd.org

### County Contact

Skip Rosenthal, CEO

Okanogan Behavioral HealthCare

(509) 826-6191

srosenthal@okbhc.org

### CPWI is funded by:



*Transforming lives*

For more information about

CPWI visit

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dbhr/dapreventionservices.shtml>



### About Our Community

Okanogan County has over 40,000 people, is the largest geographic county in the state, and includes the western portion of the Colville Indian Reservation.

Omak is roughly 70% white, 17% American Indian, 12% Latino, and other racial groups. Our county rural, remote, and has reduced access to services, including extended out-of-school time activities for students. This increases the risk for unhealthy behavior among youth.

Omak is a strong, independent and resilient community. With a small community, dollars can stretch farther, professional partnerships are more personal, and positive change can be more visible. Stakeholders and community leaders understand that creating lasting and meaningful partnerships is simply a way business is done in Omak.

### About Prevention Programs in our Community

Our Goals: Reduce and prevent underage drinking, marijuana, and prescription/OTC medicine abuse, and foster resiliency in youth who have experienced trauma, with the following strategies:

- Highly visible enforcement of underage drinking and marijuana laws.
- Comprehensive storage and take-back programs for Rx and OTC medicine, paired with ongoing training for medical professionals about patients' vulnerability to addiction and overdose.
- Parents: Triple P and Parenting the Love and Logic Way™
- Students: PAX/Good Behavior Game, Project Northland, and Project Success.
- Positive social norms using MOOV (Most of Okanogan Valley) brand.

Our greatest challenge is the legalization of marijuana for adults over 21, and the mixed message and increased access youth will have to this drug.

Our greatest strength is that the Coalition is full of passion, wisdom, and history and has what it takes to accomplish even the most difficult task.

Outcomes will be measured using a variety of qualitative and quantitative data sources including: Healthy Youth Survey, monthly student surveys, environmental scans, law enforcement data, and health department data.