

Shelton Drug Prevention Coalition Strategic Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION

Overview of Plan

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Coalition Description:

Shelton Drug Prevention Coalition began in January 2014. It came together to address the high risks and needs in Shelton, Washington. The community youth have high incidence of risk factors across the family, community, peer, and school domains. Youth substance use is high in Shelton; because of this, the coalition works to reduce local risk factors, while increasing protective factors across the community through targeted prevention strategies and programming. We feel privileged to have the opportunity to specially address youth underage drinking, marijuana use, prescription drug abuse, and other local youth substance use/abuse.

Need in the community of Shelton is great. By evidenced by DBHR who identified Shelton as community at risk. Risks include academic failure, crime, prevalence of alcohol and substance abuse, mental health needs, and extreme economic deprivation.

The 2012 Healthy Youth survey showed eighth grade use alcohol use to be 1% above the state rate and the Marijuana use to be 2% above the state rate. There were not enough responses in the tenth grade to get results.

Mission of the Shelton Drug Prevention Coalition:

“Strengthen collaboration among Shelton Drug Prevention Coalition members and other community members and organizations in supporting efforts to reduce substance abuse and related problem behaviors and to increase healthy behaviors among youth by developing and implementing strategies in a culturally competent manner.”

GENERAL GEOGRAPHIC AREA TARGET POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS:

Catchment/target area: is the area served by the Shelton School District in Mason County, Washington State. Shelton, the target area population is the only incorporated city in Mason County It is also the largest. Located at the foothills of the Olympic Mountains to the North and the Southern Puget Sound and Oakland Bay.

We are serving the Shelton School Dist. All schools are located within a ten mile radius. The Shelton population (9,800) is small, yet the school district serves a large area of Mason County with a general population of approx 60,000 Feeder

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school districts include Pioneer and Hood Canal Schools. Hood Canal has a large student population from the Skokomish Indian tribe. Shelton School Dist serves both communities and the larger unincorporated areas, each community's residents do not like to be lumped with the others and proudly assert their independence. Many families have lived in the area for generations and many have stayed even after employers have closed up shop. Because of this, most wage earners work out of town.

The unemployment rate is 9.4 and is one of the highest in WA State.. This may influence a youth's perception that there are limited opportunities. Like in many communities, families and youth who need services and education are often the hardest to reach. Efforts to involve those who would benefit most from services (for example, parenting classes) will be a priority. Targeted, personal invitations from school counselors will be one recruitment method and general invitations through the newspaper, school newsletters, and local posters are other recruitment methods that will be used prior to the start of services.

INTRODUCTION/PRIORITIES: This strategic plan addresses obvious needs like lack of opportunities for youth, but also the social norms, root causes of problem behaviors, and behavioral health concerns of the community. We actively recruit members of all ages and social backgrounds and work diligently to encourage dialog between members and groups of differing beliefs and experiences. Coalition staff regularly attends community gatherings and actively nurture trusting relationships with other community members. Members are encouraged to attend prevention training opportunities, including those that emphasize cultural competence. The Shelton community has the opportunity to specifically address youth underage drinking, marijuana and Rx drug abuse through the Shelton Drug Prevention Coalition strategic prevention initiatives.

Dedicated folks show up monthly to take on the work. Each month members talk strategy, and plan for the next activity. The DBHR Prevention Redesign Initiative required counties to address the needs in the highest ranking community within each county. Shelton met that threshold and we are well on our way to creating positive sustainable change.

RESEARCH FRAMEWORK: The Coalition will use SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention *Framework (SPF)* to address the risk factors in the Shelton community. The Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative (CPWI) uses the (SPF) for planning and implementing appropriate prevention efforts. This framework includes sustainability, capacity building, and cultural competence in every step:

- Assessment
- Planning
- Implementation
- Evaluation

