

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION

Community Public Health and Safety Networks were established statewide by the State Legislature in 1994. The intention was to reform the way in which youth and family services are planned and administered, in that local communities, as opposed to state agencies, will take a larger role in planning and carrying out activities that will lead to reduction and prevention of local social behavior problems. Community Public Health and Safety Networks (Community Networks) are comprised of at least twenty-three board members, controlled by a majority of citizens who do not depend on public agency funding for their jobs. Community Networks were charged with developing a local comprehensive plan and reducing local behavior problems chosen by each Community Network and based on local data.

### **Mission Statement and Key Values**

Established as a Community Public Health and Safety Network under state law in 1994, the Wahkiakum Community Network has established the following purpose, focus and vision:

- Our Purpose: The purpose of Wahkiakum Community Network is to improve the lives of our youth and families.
- Our Focus: Wahkiakum Community Network focuses on building community mobilization and reducing substance abuse.
- Our Vision: The Vision of Wahkiakum Community Network is to facilitate an effective reduction of challenges that present barriers to a safe and healthy community for our youth and families.

### **Geographic Area to be Served**

The Wahkiakum Community Network serves Wahkiakum County, the 3<sup>rd</sup> smallest county in Washington State, with its southern border running along the Columbia River from just west of Longview, Washington towards the west, where it connects with Pacific County. The County is 287 square miles in size. The only incorporated town is the county seat, Cathlamet, but other communities include among others Altoona, Skamokawa, Elochoman, and Rosburg. Population density is low, with 14 people per square mile at the 2000 census. Historically, the county has had a fishing and lumber economic base, both of which have suffered in the past 50 years.

### **Priorities Identified**

**The Coalition has identified three overarching goals for its work:**

1. Increase knowledge & skills related to prevention science for Coalition staff and members.
2. Delay or eliminate the use of drugs and alcohol by Wahkiakum County youth.
3. Reinforce positive community norms

### **Objectives for each goal are:**

1. Goal 1: Increase knowledge & skills related to prevention science for Coalition staff and members.
  - 1.1. Objective 1: Increase prevention knowledge of Coalition staff.
  - 1.2. Objective 2: Increase prevention knowledge of Coalition members to increase their ability to lead prevention efforts in the community.
  - 1.3. Objective 3: Increase prevention knowledge of Coalition members in light of substantial membership changes in long established Community Network.