# Wahkiakum Community Network Coalition



#### Coalition Coordinator

Minette Smith, BA, CPC

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Minette is working on earning a Prevention Specialist Certification. Minette has prior experience at Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services as an Advisory Board member, Certified Peer Counselor, Recovery Coach, Mobile Crisis Team member and WISe Youth Peer Partner. Minette has also served as a Liaison for the Benzodiazepine Information Coalition, a grassroots organization working to educate providers about the potential adverse effects of benzodiazepines, including physiological dependence when taken as prescribed.

#### Coalition Mission

Wahkiakum Community Network Coalition's mission is to help youth and families stay healthy and free from the   
harms of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and vaping.

## Wahkiakum County

![A person wearing glasses

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### 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, cannabis use and opioid misuse/abuse among middle and high school aged youth. Together we work toward building healthier communities by utilizing evidence-based practices to promote positive change, build up community strengths and reduce risk factors.

### About the Coalition: Communities & Schools Working Together

Community Public Health and Safety Networks were established by State Legislature in 1994 to reform the way youth and family services are planned and delivered. Local adult members and youth within our community comprise the Wahkiakum Community Network. Our members play a valuable role in guiding, developing, and delivering services to youth in partnership with the local school district, as well as mentoring and being role models for youth within the community. Members of the Network help provide programs and services that facilitate the reduction of barriers to a healthy and safe community for our youth and families. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Wahkiakum Community Network Coalition, please feel free to contact us and attend one of our board meetings.  
  
Board meetings are currently the second Tuesday of each month from 2:30 to 4 PM. Meetings are open to the public.  
  
  
  
[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0CAcQjRw&url=http://www.cathlametchamber.com/&ei=77fjVP25CZDtoATEpoGIDw&bvm=bv.85970519,d.cGU&psig=AFQjCNHjBQX0gItrGbkInBP3PmnszlN5Og&ust=1424296144280040)



### About Our Community

#### Other Contacts

##### **Wahkiakum Health and Human Services**

Julie Johnston

Community Services Manager

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##### **Student Assistance Program Specialist**

ESD 112

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The Wahkiakum Community Network Coalition serves Wahkiakum County, the 3rd smallest county in Washington State, with San Juan and Island counties having less land area. Wahkiakum County’s 287 square miles lie between Cowlitz and Pacific County in rural SW Washington. Wahkiakum’s southern border runs along the tidal region of Columbia River.

Wahkiakum County was once home to one of the most numerous and richest indigenous populations north of Mexico. Their inhabitants spoke a variety of languages known as Chinookan. “Wahkiakum” is said to mean tall timber.

Cathlamet became the Wahkiakum County Seat in 1854 and was officially incorporated in 1907. The community flourished, relying on fishing and farming.

Wahkiakum County has one school district, which is comprised of three schools: Julius A Wendt Elementary School, John C Thomas Middle School and Wahkiakum High School. Current enrolment is just over 400 students. Students living west of KM Mountain attend Naselle School District.

**Project Success**

Project Success is a school-based program that focuses on refusal skills, dangers of using drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. It is designed to help youth with the pressures of being teenagers with family health. The program maintains a positive outlook and reminds us to always come from a place of love. The principle of “Kids First” is the guiding principle in the Project Success program.

**Community Based Strategies**

Our goals include increasing capacity within Wahkiakum County to address alcohol, drug, tobacco and vaping issues, in part by decreasing family conflict and increasing positive family interactions. Coalition members, both youth and adults, can attend trainings throughout the year, including local and national trainings. Any youth who has completed a prevention project throughout that year can receive a scholarship to attend the Spring Youth Forum held historically at the Great Wolf Lodge. The Wahkiakum Community Survey is given out once each year, starting the middle of August and going through December. The survey is one way to gain an understanding of prevention issues within Wahkiakum County. The data is used to secure grants for Wahkiakum County. Wahkiakum Community Network Coalition has chosen the programs listed below to accomplish our goals.



**Guiding Good Choices** is a program that promotes healthy parent-child interactions and addresses children’s risk for early substance use. The program is designed for families with children in grades 4 through 8. Children are required to attend one session, which concentrates on peer pressure.

**Mentoring** is a program in which any youth beginning in grade school though middle school can be partnered with an approved adult community member. The vision is that every young person in Washington state has the supportive relationships they need to thrive and lead happy and successful lives.

Photo by Heather Odom

**Environmental Strategy**

We evaluate our efforts using an annual coalition assessment survey, an annual community survey, the bi-annual Healthy Youth Survey, relevant data from our partner agencies, and program specific evaluation tools.

The coalition is bringing awareness to the community about the dangers of smoking and vaping around youth in public areas, such as play areas in the parks.

**Public Awareness Strategy**

We use social media and local media to educate the public on issues relating to alcohol, tobacco and other drug issues specific to Wahkiakum County.