

Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative

Partners for Healthy Communities

The **Mission** of the Panther Country Coalition is to strengthen the community and **Reduce Youth Substance Abuse** by promoting health and safety through education, wellness activities, events and programs



Community Coordinator

Carrie McKinley



509-447-6419

cmckinley@pendoreille.org

Pend Oreille County
Counseling Services

Panther Country Coalition



Cusick, WA

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 among 8th and 10th 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

Panther Country Coalition (PCC) is a grassroots volunteer organization formed in August of 2013 to mobilize the Cusick community. Our goal is to prevent and reduce youth substance abuse. We work in partnership with youth, law enforcement, local government, healthcare, faith-based organizations, volunteer groups, youth organizations, parents, businesses and community members to support our youth living substance free lives. PCC is governed by citizen volunteers and representatives from local agencies. We work in collaboration with the Cusick School District, Northeast WA Educational Service District, The Kalispel Tribe, The Town of Cusick and Pend Oreille County.

Cusick and Usk have a rich history. The earliest inhabitants were Indian tribes. Archaeological evidence shows Native American presence as early as 11,000 years ago. In 1809 the North West Company explorer David Thompson (1770-1857) made his first trip down the Pend Oreille River. The Indians he found were the Kalispels, which means "camas people," after a root that was their staple food, and the Pend Oreilles. The Kalispels have a reservation near Usk and are still a prominent part of the community. By the 1850's timber was the major extractive industry. Today the main employers are the Kalispel Tribe, Ponderay Newsprint Co., and the Cusick School District.

**Student Assistance
Program Specialist
Chris Evers, Chair**



509-445-1125

cevers@esd101.net

Jenni Jones, Co-Chair



509-447-7109

jjones@kalispeltribe.com

Cusick School District



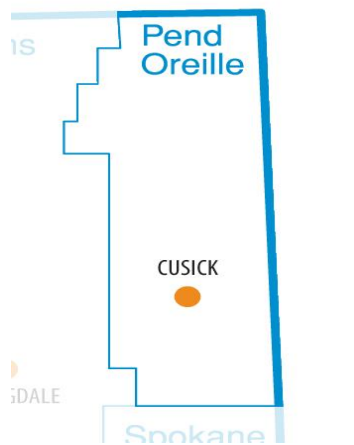
CPWI is funded by:



Transforming lives

For more information about
CPWI visit

[http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dbhr/
dapreventionservices.shtml](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dbhr/dapreventionservices.shtml)



Teepee and Canoe - Pend Oreille River, 1860

About Our Community

The Panther Country Coalition serves the communities of the Cusick School District which includes a population of approximately 1,300. The School District serves 273 students in grades K-12 including those from the nearby Kalispel Indian Reservation. We are located in beautiful Pend Oreille County in the northeast corner of Washington State, 50 miles north of Spokane and 20 miles from Newport.

Zoning – Rural

Cusick median household income (2012) - \$22,750

Student demographics for 2013-2014 (K-12)

May 2014 Student Count	273
Male	164 60.1%
Female	109 39.9%

Race/Ethnicity

American Indian/Alaska Native	91	33.3%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2	.8%
Black/African American	2	.7%
Hispanic/Latino	7	2.6%
White	140	51.3%
Two or more races	32	11.7%

Free or Reduced Meals 168 61.5%

About Prevention Programs in our Community

Some of our goals and strategies include decreasing favorable attitudes among youth towards drinking and marijuana use, increasing their perception of harm and increasing knowledge of the risks associated with alcohol and marijuana use. We are implementing anti-drug messages and programs that bring awareness to our community about underage drinking and drug use.

Another goal is to increase effective communication between parents and youth. We are offering free parenting programs to include *Strengthening Families* and *Guiding Good Choices*. Collaborating with our partners to better understand our unique local conditions remains a high priority.