

Community Prevention & Wellness Initiative

Partners for Healthy Communities

Coalition Mission

The mission of the Mt. Baker Community Coalition is to strategically build a strong community that offers wellbeing to all by focusing on youth and families, through substance use/abuse prevention strategies and mental health promotion. We work together to provide education, resources, eliminate risks, increase protective factors, and leverage community strengths and assets.



Coalition Coordinator

Wa'Lynn Sheridan

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Bio: Wa'Lynn Sheridan has been a member of the Mt. Baker community for over 15 years. She studies leadership at Trinity Western University, and is invested in healthy youth development through volunteer work with Nooksack Valley Youth Dynamics. Whatcom Family & Community Network builds strong families and youth by tapping into the strengths of the leaders in the community. The empowering process of emerging these leaders and creating opportunity for individuals to overcome and build resilience together is a mighty force.

Mt. Baker Community Coalition Eastern Whatcom County



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, marijuana use and opioid misuse/abuse among middle and high school aged youth. By providing evidence-based practices and promoting the positive changes in communities, we can build healthier communities.

About the Coalition: Communities & Schools Working Together

Founded in September 2017, the Mt. Baker Community Coalition has engaged the community through events to increase awareness, successfully completed the 2017 Annual Community Survey to assess the Mt. Baker community's needs, implemented evidence-based programs for youth and families through strategic partnerships, and built strong plans for prevention services in the community.

Sector representatives include community members, the local water board, AmeriCorps Vista, Opportunity Council, Whatcom County Health Department, Whatcom County Sheriff, KAVZ Radio, local prevention organizations, parents, faith communities, Mount Baker School District, Whatcom County Fire District #14, youth, Whatcom County Library, Boys & Girls Club, and the Domestic Violence Commission.

The strength of the Mt. Baker Community Coalition is the people who come together. Each member brings their individual talents and perspectives. This unified vision and collective action makes everything we do strong. Furthermore, collaborations with the Whatcom Prevention Coalition and Ferndale Prevention Coalition allow the Mt. Baker Community Coalition to draw from the well-established community of prevention professionals in Whatcom County.



About Our Community

Mt. Baker Community is known for its industry of logging and farming. It is also popular for its parks and opportunities for recreation, including hiking, camping, and skiing, often resulting in a swelling of non-residents to the area on the weekends.

While there are many families that have lived in the area for multiple generations, there has been an influx of new families, including first and second generation families that immigrated from Eastern Europe, including Russia and Ukraine. The Mt. Baker area is also home to the Nooksack Tribe, which shares students with the neighboring Nooksack Valley School District.

The region's total forecasted population for 2017 is 15,062, according to the Washington State Office of Financial Management. Of this total population, 86% are White Non-Hispanic and 14% are any minority. Between 11-30% of the population is considered to be living in poverty.

The community strengths are rooted in the vast resources of people and land. The Coalition service area covers a total of over 600 square miles, including: Acme, Kendall, Nugents Corner, Glenhaven, Van Zandt, Glacier, parts of East Bellingham and Maple Falls. This large area creates isolation from services and poses a unique difficulty for community connections.

About Prevention Programs in our Community

Goals and Strategies

- Goal 1: Reduce community disorganization
 - Community Engagement/Coalition Development
- Goal 2: Reduce availability of opioid drugs
 - Public Awareness
 - Environmental Strategies/ Information Dissemination
- Goal 3: Reduce favorable attitudes toward ATOD
 - Prevention/ Intervention Services
- Goal 4: Decrease early initiation rate
 - Positive Action
- Goal 5: Increase Family Management Success
 - Strengthening Families 10-14

Programs and who will be served

- Positive Action*
 - 6th-8th grade participants in Boys & Girls Club after school program.
- Strengthening Families*
 - 10-14 families in Mt. Baker service area who choose to participate.

Success measurements

- Pre/Post surveys
- Participation records

Other Contacts



Student Assistance
Program Specialist
ESD 189

Cameron Clay
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Bio: Cameron Clay is Mt. Baker Junior & Senior High School's new Prevention Intervention Specialist, working with students who are affected by drug and alcohol use personally or by those close to them. Cameron has spent most of her life in Whatcom County and graduated from Western Washington University with a Bachelor's Degree in Human Services. She has previous experience working with teens and specialized training in prevention and early intervention strategies.



County Contact

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For more information
about CPWI visit

www.TheAthenaForum.org