

# Community Prevention & Wellness Initiative

Partners for Healthy Communities

## Lakewood's CHOICE

### Lakewood, WA



#### Coalition Mission

Lakewood's CHOICE is a community coalition focused on reducing youth substance use by increasing awareness, reducing access, and building pathways to healthy options for youth and families.



[www.lakewoodschoice.com](http://www.lakewoodschoice.com)

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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, 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

Our vision for Lakewood is to see a drug free community of healthy families and resilient youth. Lakewood's CHOICE stands for Choosing Healthy Options and Igniting Community Engagement. Our community coalition was established in 2013 with key partnerships that include The Boys & Girls Club, Consejo counseling, Clover Park School District, the City of Lakewood, Pierce County Library, Tacoma Community House, Lakewood Police, and Greater Lakes Mental Healthcare to name a few.

Since inception and subsequent impact in the Springbrook neighborhood, Lakewood's CHOICE has expanded the area of focus to include all students of the Clover Park School District.

Some of the successes noted to date:

- Spearheaded Incredible Years Parenting Series in Spanish for Clover Park Early Learning Families and Springbrook families.
- Increased sense of connection to the community in the isolated community of Springbrook through community conversations, block parties/community resource fairs, monthly movies, community dinners/family nights, and coffee talks.
- Reduction in 10th grade marijuana use from 22% in 2015 to 15% in 2017.
- Successful implementation of Curriculum Based Support Groups, impacting middle school youth throughout Lakewood.



## About Our Community

According to 2016 census data, the city of Lakewood has an estimated population of 60,665 people. Among youth, there are 12,604 students in the Clover Park School District. Students in Lakewood are 33.5% Caucasian, 33% Hispanic, 12.5% African American, and 4% Asian American/Pacific Islander. Within this diverse community there's a strong sense of partnership, collaboration, and a focus on youth.

Lakewood's CHOICE is focusing our efforts in the community and in the school to strengthen families and provide opportunities for resilient youth. Within Lakewood the neighborhoods of Springbrook and Tillicum are at particular risk due to geographic isolation, poverty, high mobility, and a large number of English-Language Learner (ELL) students. We have identified significant challenges in youth mental health, academic performance, and delinquency. In the midst of these challenges, Lakewood's CHOICE is poised to normalize prevention throughout the community through continuing to build trust, implement successful programs, and focus our efforts on youth.

## About Prevention Programs in our Community

Lakewood's CHOICE has the following goals in the community:

- Develop and promote opportunities that build stronger community connections and engagement.
- Increase the amount of opportunities that promote healthy family functioning and improve family management.
- Decrease substance abuse and anti-social behaviors among local youth.
- Increase academic performance for students in Clover Park School District.
- Increase the availability of positive opportunities for children and youth at school and in the community.

CHOICE will reach these goals by working closely with the community and offering evidenced based programs such as the Incredible Years Parenting Series, Project SUCCESS, Curriculum Based Support Groups, Guiding Good Choices which will be measured by pre and post surveys. CHOICE will work on community level change through a public awareness campaign empowering parents. CHOICE will measure community level changes through an annual community survey and on-going community assessments. Our coalition has strong leadership, strong partnerships, and a wide network of collaborators.

## Other Contacts



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For more information  
about CPWI visit

[www.TheAthenaForum.org](http://www.TheAthenaForum.org)