

Community Prevention & Wellness Initiative

Partners for Healthy Communities

Coalition Mission

“Strengthen collaboration among North Mason Prevention Coalition members and other community members and organizations in supporting efforts to reduce substance abuse and related problem behaviors and to increase healthy behaviors among youth by developing and implementing strategies in a culturally competent manner.”



Coalition Coordinator

Ben Johnson

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Bio: I have been with Mason County Public Health for the past 18 years. I have worked in many different capacities throughout my career. Including HIV Case Management, Community health education, Emergency management and ABCD Dental. My prior employment includes working for the Skokomish Indian Tribe for 11 years. My background includes 17 years as a substance abuse counselor.

North Mason Prevention Education Partners

Belfair, 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. 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

The North Mason Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition began in April 2018. It came together to address the high risks and needs in Belfair, Washington. The community youth have high incidence of risk factors across the family, community, peer, and school domains. Youth substance use is high in Belfair; because of this, the coalition works to reduce local risk factors, while increasing protective factors across the community through targeted prevention strategies and programming. The coalition reviewed risk and protective factors public health model developed by the University of Washington for the prevention of substance abuse. They identified risk factors that predict youth substance use—factors that if reduced would lead to lower rates of youth substance use, and protective factors—those that can protect an individual from the effect of risk factors. Prevention strategies that increase protective factors reduce the likelihood of substance use and the consequences of substance use. Specifically, we feel privileged to have the opportunity to address youth underage drinking, marijuana use, prescription drug abuse, and other local youth substance use/abuse.

About Our Community

Catchment/target area: We will serve students enrolled in the North Mason School District in Mason County, Washington, and may include nearby feeder schools within the Grapeview School Districts based on severity of need. The North Mason School District encompasses the community of Belfair, the largest unincorporated community in Mason County with a population of 9,983 and serves the broader area of North Mason County. North Mason County's catchment area includes the smaller rural communities of Allyn, Dewatto and Tahuya, with a general population of approximately 20,000. All schools are located within a 10-mile radius.

Many families have lived in the area for generations and have stayed after employers have closed shop. Because of this, most wage earners work out of town. The North Mason population includes approximately 85% White, 10% Hispanic, 5% two or more races and 3% Native American.

About Prevention Programs in our Community

Goals and Strategies Belfair will apply prevention interventions and strategies by matching evidence-based prevention programming and interventions to local risk factors. Risk and protective factors predictive of adolescent problem behaviors, such as substance abuse and delinquency, are local targets for the North Mason community preventive intervention. North Mason will continually assess and target risk and protective factors when designing prevention programs.

- Program Names/Who Will Be Served
 1. Incredible Years Families Program Parenting Program- Positive teacher-parent child relationship and assist in preventing problems and promoting social, emotional and academic competence before a child becomes an adult.
 2. Strengthening Families Program 10-14- helps parents/caregivers learn nurturing skills that support their children,
 3. Guiding Good Choices Families program- Help parents set clear family guidelines on drugs and alcohol. Improve skills to strengthen family bonds and increase involvement.
 4. PEER2PEER- Work on local and Statewide youth advocacy programs or projects that brings youth voice to public policy and empowers a youth ages 14-18 to make differences in their lives.
 5. Project Success Hawkins Middle School-4. Provide prevention education in the schools in collaboration with classroom teachers.

The North Mason community has the opportunity to specifically address youth underage drinking, marijuana and Rx drug abuse through the North Mason Prevention Coalition strategic prevention initiatives. Dedicated folks show up monthly to take on the work. Each month members talk strategy, and plan for the next activity.

Other Contacts

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For more information
about CPWI visit

www.TheAthenaForum.org