

# Community Prevention & Wellness Initiative

## Partners for Healthy Communities

### Coalition Mission

The mission of the Okanogan County Community Coalition is to effectively address the problems of youth substance abuse and violence in our community by promoting: collaboration, cooperation, communication, commitment, and cultural competency.



O K A N O G A N

COUNTY COMMUNITY  
COALITION

PO Box 1688  
Omak, WA 98841

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

### Coalition Coordinator

Stacey Okland BS, CPP  
Executive Director  
509-322-8431  
[occstacey@yahoo.com](mailto:occstacey@yahoo.com)

## Okanogan County Community Coalition Omak, 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. Providing evidence-based practices and promoting the positive changes in communities, we can build healthier communities.

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

Originally formed as part of Community Mobilization, the Okanogan County Community Coalition began as a Meth Action Team. Over time, the Coalition evolved and began to target other substances, such as tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drugs. In 2010, the Coalition was awarded the Drug Free Communities grant – and at the same time was selected to participate in Cohort 1 of DBHR's Prevention Redesign Initiative. This began the Coalition's process of embracing not only the traditional evidence-based direct service programs, but also environmental strategies to begin to shift the overall community climate that made youth vulnerable to substance abuse. Since 2010, the Coalition has contributed to over a 60% reduction in 10th grade prescription drug abuse, over a 50% decrease in high school underage drinking, and 40% decrease in high school marijuana use.

Coalition partnership encompasses multiple sectors of our community including: Washington State Patrol, Okanogan County Sheriff, Washington Fish & Wildlife Police, North Cascades Broadcasting, Okanogan Public Health, Omak School District, Colville Confederated Tribes, Mid Valley Hospital, Parents, Omak Police Department, Omak City Council, Okanogan

Behavioral Healthcare, Dispute Resolution Center, Juvenile Detention Administration, Family Health Center, and DUI Crash Survivors.



## About Our Community

With just over 40,000 people, Okanogan County is the largest geographic county in Washington and includes the western portion of the Colville Indian Reservation. The County is larger than several states, and covers 5,281 square miles, making it the geographically largest county in Washington.

According to the most recent American Community Survey, Omak is roughly 70% white, 17% American Indian, 12% Latino, and 1% falling into other racial groups. Our county is not only rural; it is remote, which reduces access to services, extended out-of-school time activities for students, and increases opportunities for identified risk factors.

Despite this challenge, shine a light on Omak, and you will find a strong, independent, and resilient community. With a small community, dollars can stretch further, professional partnerships are more personal, and the tipping point for change can be palpable. Stakeholders and community leaders understand that working in a silo isn't just ineffective, but impossible in a small community with very limited resources; therefore, creating lasting and meaningful partnerships is simply a way business is done in Omak.

## About Prevention Programs in our Community

**Goal:** Reduce and prevent underage drinking, marijuana, and prescription/Over-The-Counter (OTC) medicine abuse, as well as prevent and/or foster resiliency related to trauma with the following strategies:

- Enforcement of underage drinking and marijuana laws.
- Rx Drug Take-back program for unwanted Rx and Over-the-Counter (OTC) medicine
- Parents: Parenting the Love & Logic Way
- Students: PAX/Good Behavior Game, Project Success, Student Assistant Professional, support for student youth groups
- Community Education: Positive social norms using MOOV (Most of Okanogan Valley) brand.
- Monitor and comment on alcohol, marijuana, Rx Drug, and tobacco policies that impact youth

**Outcomes** are measured using a variety of qualitative and quantitative data sources including: Healthy Youth Survey, monthly student surveys at Omak High School, environmental scans, law enforcement data, and health department data.

## Other Contacts

Student Assistance  
Professional

Lesa Eiffert, LMHC  
NCESD  
Omak Middle/High  
School  
leiffert@omaksd.org

Shelley Sessler  
NCESD  
509-665-2626  
shelleys@ncesd.org

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For more information  
about CPWI visit  
[www.TheAthenaForum.org](http://www.TheAthenaForum.org)