

Oak Harbor Youth Commission Strategic Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview of Plan

Mission

The Oak Harbor Youth Commission (OHYC) is a group of volunteers who reside and/or work in the Oak Harbor community who are dedicated to improving the quality of life of youth. The mission of OHYC is to advocate for and implement coordinated strategic services, in both the public and private sectors, to meet the needs of Oak Harbor youth.

Service Area

Oak Harbor is a relatively small community located in Island County, WA. There are approximately 22,000 residents who reside in the Oak Harbor community, with a large portion of the population serving in the Navy or Air Force. OHYC seeks to serve all youth residing within Oak Harbor School District boundaries.



Selected Priorities

OHYC spent the majority of 2012 and beginning of 2013 developing the coordinated strategic plan that follows in the next pages. The plan is based on extensive research conducted by OHYC members to determine the needs of youth in the community. Research led OHYC to prioritize improving academic achievement and mental health and reducing youth delinquency, underage drinking, suicidal thoughts, and bullying. The Commission identified five risk factors that contribute to these long-term outcomes. Therefore, strategies outlined in the plan aim to reduce these risk factors that are specific to Oak Harbor. The risk factors are listed below:

- Community disorganization and lack of community connectedness.
- Low enforcement of alcohol laws.
- Favorable attitudes towards antisocial/problem behaviors and drug use.
- Lack of perception of harm of substance abuse.
- Academic challenges.

Strategies and Activities

After OHYC identified risk factors associated with the long-term outcomes, the Commission determined local conditions unique to Oak Harbor that contribute to the presence of these risk factors. Identification of the local conditions helped OHYC select strategies and activities that meet the needs of the community. In general, strategies selected by OHYC include:

- Serving as a coordinated body of knowledge for all youth and family services available in the community.
- Partnering with law enforcement to enhance enforcement of underage drinking laws.
- Promoting law enforcement efforts within the larger Oak Harbor community.
- Supporting implementation of the evidence-based program *Project SUCCESS* in Oak Harbor High School.
- Supporting implementation of the evidence-based curriculum *Alcohol: True Stories* in Oak Harbor middle schools.

Implementation and Evaluation

OHYC plans to implement the selected strategies beginning in July 2013 through collaboration with multiple partners, including the Oak Harbor School District and Oak Harbor Police Department. Strategies will be evaluated as they are completed to assess effectiveness. This process evaluation will allow OHYC to make adaptations to the plan as needed to ensure the Commission is having the desired impact on the community.