



## Coalition Report – October 2011

### **Overview**

This is a dynamic and expanding time for our prevention work. We continue to build on the evolving strategy of linking youth to their passions through Amy's work with Community to Community Development youth, school prevention groups, Sterling Meadows youth, and Shuksan afterschool programs. We are continuing to organize parent and youth leadership groups at schools, mostly now in Bellingham, but beginning to work more in Ferndale. These groups will be supported to identify and develop their own school and community change strategies.

Amy has attended a number of trainings in the past two months, pushing her learning curve to the max. She is doing an outstanding job generating enthusiasm, identifying new opportunities, and building partnerships for the Coalition and WFCN.

### **Healthy Youth Survey (HYS)**

We are working closely with Jay Jordan, the new Shuksan principal, on an adapted survey combining school "climate" questions, HYS questions, and adverse childhood experience questions to implement this fall. It is an exciting opportunity to gather the first local data able to compile and correlate this information for middle school students. Amy is working on this as part of her Master's thesis from Univ. of Alaska. We are increasing our skills and developing survey instruments and analysis systems for data that can be useful in the future to possibly expand this work for the community.

### **Planning for the Coming Year**

- We are supporting strength-based organizing and Strengthening Families programs in Bellingham, Ferndale, and Nooksack/Mt. Baker this year.
- We continue to contract with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Communities in Schools, the Dispute Resolution Center, and the Lummi CEDAR Project for their mentoring, youth leadership, and conflict resolution skills.
- There is some interest in partnering on marijuana dispensary policy development.
- We will be working with subcommittees at Ferndale High School and Shuksan Middle School and focus much of our work there.
- We will be applying for additional funding to expand the work with ACEs
- We are hosing training in World Café, Asset Based Community Development, and gang prevention.



## Coordinator's Report – October 2011

### **Supporting Community Members & School Staff:**

- Squalicum High School: Prevention Club & Kathie Peterson
- Sehome High School: Leadership Class, making connections to assist in their awareness week.
- Bellingham High School: Building connecting with the IAM Group, and working with Jeff Mckenna in building prevention efforts.
- Sterling Meadows Housing Complex – assisting with homework club
- Latino Action Committee – supporting their efforts in afterschool programs, and service learning projects.

### **Working with Youth:**

- Community to Community, Raices Culturales Youth Empowerment Program – Facilitating team building initiatives and leading a day hike. Hosting a cross cultural day with Lummi CEDAR Project, there will be a sharing of traditional foods, and team building initiatives
- Lummi CEDAR Project: Training Youth Facilitators on basic hiking skills, map reading & navigation with leading a day hike.
- Assisting Shuksan Middle School afterschool programs: Youth For Real & ALTO, providing adult mentorship and portable challenge team building initiatives.

### **Trainings:**

- Portable Challenge/Low Ropes Course Training
- Dispute Resolution Center: Professional Mediation Training

### **Upcoming Events:**

- Prevention Summit: 20 youth attending
- Conversations That Matter

