

Youth Marijuana Prevention & Education

February 2017 Regional Meeting

February 15th, 2017

Participants

Ramona Leber, Mary Ann O'Garro, Ben Johnson, Mary Goelz, Stacy Mueller, Matt Shellhart, Laura Spoor

Regional Updates

Mason County

Lock boxes were distributed at a community event a few weeks ago. On April 7, there will be a Teen Night for 8th through 12th Graders. A block party to promote prevention activities is being planned for May, which will feature the #Listen2YourSelfie backdrop. Staff are waiting for the state House Bill to pass, which would allow marijuana retailers to distribute lock boxes and educational materials.

Pacific County

The first Strengthening Families session took place two weeks ago, and five families attended. Another session is being planned for the spring. Mary is hoping that they can find someone to facilitate the Spanish version of the Strengthening Families Program, because there is a large Hispanic community in Pacific County.

CR-ESD 113

The first Strengthening Families session took place last night (February 14, 2017). Ten families for a total of 28 participants had registered. Since there were many on a waitlist, Stacy would like to schedule another session. Plans are underway to work with Miss Washington to present the PowerPoint to youth in the area, possibly at the Olympia Timberland Library. The Life Skills curriculum is taking place at Olympic Elementary, and will hopefully begin soon in Elma.

Cowlitz County

A Town Hall meeting will take place on February 16 in South Kelso, which will also feature the #Listen2YourSelfie backdrop. The "What If Cowlitz County" Coalition is hosting a Youth Leadership Summit on May 12, and they are expecting 200–300 6th graders to attend. Miss Washington will be speaking at this event. Ramona will be hosting a session on marijuana and vaping using the PowerPoint presentation and the backdrop. A few Strengthening Families classes have taken place, where marijuana prevention materials were distributed to parents and youth.

Thurston County

A Substance Use press release will be released on March 15. There will be a presentation about marijuana use at the March Board of Health meeting.

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Updates: Year Three and Needs Assessment

Matt informed the group that Year Three funding may be split 70/30, with 70 percent going to Policy, Systems and Environmental Strategies and 30 percent to innovative or evidence-based practices. He asked everyone to consider if this is the best direction to go in Year Three. The group will continue to discuss this later. It is also likely that the program will receive the same amount of funding as Year Two. Matt then asked the group to begin considering if a needs assessment should be conducted, and if so, what that would look like. Since the Healthy Youth Survey data is coming out soon, the group should consider if an assessment is still needed.

Review Challenges

Matt emphasized the importance of sharing success stories on the monthly reports. They underscore the importance of this program by conveying its positive impact on the region, and help make the case to the Department of Health to continue supporting the program. He shared a success story that TOGETHER! reported from last month, and urged the other attendees to start thinking about their own.

Next Steps

March 15th, 2017, 2:00pm - 4:00pm: YMPEP monthly meeting at Lewis County Public Health & Social Services