



The Coalition for Children & Families Of North Central Washington

Community Choice Board Retreat

March 8, 2013

Our History

In May 2006, representatives from 22 local organizations in Washington State's Chelan and Douglas Counties met with the intention of enhancing existing resources and developing needed community services while creating new partnerships.

Since then the group has mobilized with a growing volunteer membership of social service agencies and organizations and is now called *The Coalition for Children and Families*.

Our Purpose

The Coalition is improving communication methods between coalition member agencies, meeting with lawmakers, and actively sharing resources and information to assist in seeking funds in order to build a healthy community of strong families.

Our Mission

We are a collaborative of community partners that develops, implements and enhances a network of services that will support all of our children and families.

Our Vision

The Vision of The Coalition is a community of strong, empowered, healthy and stable families.

Coalition Structure

The Coalition is currently structured with a Board of Directors and four Standing Committees. These committees focus on specific areas of interest and work to develop inventories of, and solutions to, unmet needs within the Chelan and Douglas counties.

Coalition Committees

Early Learning ~ Children Enjoying Learning for Life

Communications ~ Informing Partners, Informing Communities
Facilitate Transitions Across Services

Public Policy ~ Winning Political Support, Advocacy

Prevention & Families ~ Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities

Developing a Strategic Approach

Community Needs Assessment

June 2010



Community Needs Assessment Goals:

- The Coalition for Children & Families along with CC Consulting completed a community needs assessment in June of 2010
- It is the hope of The Coalition & CC Consulting that these results be used by the Board and committees to assess the region's current needs and impact areas for framing its community improvement efforts.
- **The broader goal is to inspire partner members to develop new strategies and partnerships to make our region an even stronger place to live, learn and retire!**



Community Needs Assessment Data:

Data gathered through several methods:

Two Surveys (540+ Community Members & Leaders)

Focus Groups, Interviews & Presentations (1,500+ participants)

Review of other community reports, planning documents and an analysis of socio-economic indicator data



Highly Rated Issues & Major Findings

1) Successful Children & Youth Educational Issues

Early Childhood Learning

Educational Attainment

Promoting Healthy Successful Youth



Suggested Areas of Focus Successful Children & Youth

- Mentoring youth to promote successful children
- Work with area pediatricians to identify behavioral concerns and to make parents aware of resources within the community
- Increase children's readiness to achieve in school
- Improve academic achievement through early childhood learning
- Promote positive youth development through high-quality out-of-school time opportunities
- Increase youth involvement to prevent child abuse and identify neglect
- Support efforts to discuss and educate on gang-related activities and gang prevention



Highly Rated Issues & Major Findings

2) Providing for Basic Needs

Food Security

Housing Stability

Housing Crisis and Homelessness



Suggested Areas of Focus

Basic Needs

- Ensure a strong network of basic human services
- Address the cause of food insecurity
- Ensure families utilizing food assistance services also get referrals to other assistance to increase and maintain long-term financial stability and security
- Meet the emergency and transitional need for food, shelter, housing, safety and clothing
- Promote job training, micro-enterprise development and advancement opportunities for unemployed, under-employed and low-income workers.



Highly Rated Issues & Major Findings

3) Strengthening Parental Supports

Parenting Classes

Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect

Adult Literacy for Foreign Born



Suggested Areas of Focus

Parental Supports

- Promote programs to help children succeed in all elements of their lives
- Provide opportunities for child-parent attachments
- Provide services for children that involve the entire family
- Promote collaborations between various ethnic groups and domestic violence providers
- Strengthen Family Support and Parenting Classes that focus on individual and family strengths and capacities
- Provide culturally specific services to a variety of cultures and language groups



Highly Rated Issues & Major Findings

5) Strengthening Environments for People's Health

Health & Dental Care

Behavioral Health & Mental Health Care

Substance Addiction Disorders

Elderly Care & Support



Suggested Areas of Focus

People's Health

- Promote and support community-based health services
- Support community-based mental health services, which are more effective and less expensive than institutional care
- Help elderly access services that provide protection for isolation, depression, abuse, financial exploitation and neglect
- Assist elderly individuals to become independent and maintain their independence

Current **Membership** in The Coalition for Children & Families of NCW ~ 32 Agencies/orgs.

- Catholic Family & Child Service – Wen.
- Center For Alcohol and Drug
- Chelan Co. Housing Authority
- Chelan County Juvenile Court
- C/D Child Services Assoc.
- C/D Community Action Council
- C/D Developmental Disabilities
- C/D Health District
- C/D Regional Support Network
- C/D TOGETHER! For Drug Free Youth
- Children's Home Society of WA
- Columbia Valley Community Health
- Community Choice Healthcare Network
- Division of Children & Family Services (DSHS)
- Eastmont School District
- Entiat School District
- Entiat Valley Community Services - Food Bank
- EPIC - Child Development
- Family Planning Assoc. Of C/D Co.
- Montessori Children's School
- North Central Educational Service Dist.
- North Central Regional Library
- Orondo School District
- SAGE (DSV) Crisis Center of C/D
- Recovery Innovations
- Skill Source
- United Way of C/D Counties
- WSU Chelan-Douglas County Extension
- Wenatchee CSO (DSHS)
- Wenatchee School District
- Wenatchee Valley College
- Women's Resource Center of NCW

<http://www.partnershipforchildrenandfamilies.org>

Coalition for Children & Families Board of Directors:

Renee Hunter, Together for Drug Free Youth
Chair

Kim Ferguson, Catholic Family & Child Service
Vice Chair

Shelley Seslar, NCESD
Treasurer

Jesus Hernandez, Community Choice
Member

Jessica Johnson, SAGE
Member

Nancy Spurgeon, Wenatchee Valley College
Member

Anita Tuason, Family Planning
Member