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# Pacific County Public Health and Human Services and Willapa Children's Services Washington State Incentive Grant 1<sup>st</sup> Year Community-Level Evaluation 1999-2000

# **Executive Summary**

Pacific County Public Health and Human Services and Willapa Children's Services are one of eighteen Washington State Incentive Grant (SIG) community grantees. Eighty-five percent of State Incentive Grant funds are allocated to communities to prevent the use, misuse, and abuse of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and other drugs by Washington State youth.

This document is a baseline community-level evaluation report, examining the history of community's partnership efforts in Pacific County within the last decade and their initial challenges and successes in providing substance abuse prevention services for youth. Reports are provided as feedback on Pacific County Kid Care's efforts to date and as a record of those efforts for state and federal funding sponsors.

### Challenges

Pacific County is a sparsely populated rural county dominated by Willapa Bay, on the Pacific Coast of southwest Washington State. The county has experienced a constant downward turn in its economy, as the timber and shellfish industries have declined over the last twenty years. Although large numbers of young adults leave the county to find work, the population grows slightly each year, due to numbers of retirees and people over 30 years of age moving into the county. Community opinion and various indices agree that community attitudes are generally more favorable to drug and alcohol use in Pacific County than they are in other counties in the state. Adult and youth use and misuse of alcohol and tobacco far exceed state averages. By eighth grade, 40% of students are using alcohol, 20% smoking cigarettes, 26% using chewing tobacco, and 23% using marijuana (Beck, Shults, 1999).<sup>1</sup> Juveniles are arrested for alcohol-related violations at a rate nearly two and a quarter times that of the state rate.

# **Prevention History**

Prior to the State Incentive Grant, prevention services were primarily provided through mini grants to the school districts, with other prevention projects being tried periodically. The Washington State University (WSU) Cooperative

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Data based on 1998 Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behaviors.

Extension provided the BABES puppet project for first and second graders in 1995 and 1996. Most Pacific County schools have the DARE program.

Following changes in health care, and the first results of the Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behaviors (WSSAHB), extensive community networking to study and address health issues in Pacific County identified substance abuse as a major concern, and found that high numbers of Pacific County children were unsupervised after school. Therefore, the After School Activities Program (ASAP) was started at a single site. Over three years, the program expanded to three schools, with substance abuse prevention funding, public health funding, grant money, and funding from local non-profit organizations, including funding from the Weyerhaeuser Foundation, and by getting school districts to support the project, providing building space and custodial services free of charge.

Pacific County Kid Care was formed to provide a comprehensive prevention plan for the county, including research-based programming, and worked with community partners to identify risk factors in Pacific County. Risk factors of highest priority in Pacific County include the following:

- Community laws and norms favorable toward use
- Early initiation of the problem behavior
- Favorable attitudes toward the problem behavior
- Parental attitudes and behavior favorable toward the problem behavior

Protective factors help reduce the effects of risk factors. Following are the protective factors found to be of highest priority in Pacific County:

- Opportunities for youth to interact with pro-social adults and peers
- Learn new skills in a safe supportive environment
- Provision of opportunities for experience
- Involving parents in setting up clear structures and reinforcements for appropriate behavior
- Define and communicate a family position on drug use
- Opportunity for parents and youth to learn and practice effective communication and problem solving skills

Four prevention programs have been implemented in Year 1 to address these factors. Programs are categorized by a rigor scale, created by the federal Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. Rigor is the extent to which the program has been shown, through scientific research methods, to be effective in different locales and with multiple populations. The highest rating is rigor 5; the lowest, rigor 1. Pacific County's prevention programs are listed here.

- 1. The After School Activities Program (ASAP), rigor level 1 to 2, was expanded to include four school districts in the county, and features the I'm Special curriculum. ASAP was designed to provide a safe environment for atrisk children after school, with mentoring by pro-social adults, homework help, activities, and social time with other children.
- 2. I'm Special, rigor level 5, is designed to build children's esteem of self and others.
- 3. Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS), rigor level 5, promotes positive communication skills and anger management strategies.
- 4. Preparing for the Drug Free Years, rigor level 5, consists of substance abuse prevention and parenting education for parents of middle school aged children.

#### Successes

The After School Activities Program operated every school day this year, and served 83 children from first grade through sixth grade in four school districts. Satisfaction surveys indicated that children enjoyed the program and parents found it invaluable for their children's safety and well being. The ASAP program will be expanded to serve more children during the second year.

All fifth graders, in four participating school districts received PATHS instruction. Classroom teachers reported that children responded well to the provider and applied the skills they learned through PATHS, particularly complimenting others and managing anger, to their other classroom interactions.

Five parents attended Preparing for the Drug Free Years workshops. For Year Two, an emphasis on personal outreach and referrals is planned to boost parent recruitment. In addition to the existing north county location for Preparing for the Drug Free Years, workshops will be presented at a south county location, to more effectively serve the entire county.

Pacific County Kid Care applied for and received additional SIG funding to provide Youth Adventures, an experiential outdoor educational program that promotes self-esteem, cooperation, problem-solving, and critical thinking in atrisk youth, while they encounter the natural world around them. Parents responded positively to the program's benefits for their children and the opportunity to interact with other families, spontaneously planning a family barbecue to celebrate the completion of the program. Pacific County Kid Care partners hope to serve 30 children with this program in the second year of SIG.

# Pacific County Public Health and Human Services and Willapa Children's Services Baseline Community-Level Evaluation

# Introduction

### The Washington State Incentive Grant

Pacific County Public Health and Human Services and Willapa Children's Services are one of eighteen Washington State Incentive Grant community grantees. Eighty-five percent of State Incentive Grant (SIG) funds are allocated to communities to prevent the use, misuse, and abuse, of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and other drugs by Washington State youth. The grant consists of a three year, \$8.9 million award from the federal Center for Substance Abuse Prevention to Washington State through a cooperative agreement with Governor Gary Locke's office. State agencies participating in the State Incentive Grant (SIG) have goals of coordinating resources and reducing duplication of effort. Communities will reduce key risk factors and promote protective factors in their efforts to reduce youth substance use, misuse, and abuse. Specific goals and objectives for state agencies and communities are stated in the Washington State Incentive Grant Substance Abuse Plan, pages 4 and 5, published in March 1999, by the Governor's Substance Abuse Prevention Advisory Committee. Appendix A contains a detailed list of those objectives. Here is a summary of them:

#### Goals:

- 1. Prevent alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and other drug use, misuse, and abuse by the state's youth.
- 2. Make the community-level system more effective.

#### **Objectives:**

- 1. Establish local prevention partnerships.
- 2. Use a risk and protective factor framework for the community prevention plan.
- 3. Participate in joint community risk and protective factor and resource assessment.
- 4. Select and implement effective prevention actions.
- 5. Use common reporting tools.

The SIG evaluation, of which this report is a part of, is a research evaluation intended to provide feedback to state agencies and communities on their progress toward the goals and objectives stated in the Washington State Incentive Grant Substance Abuse Plan. Interim reports are provided as an integral part of that feedback. Research methods are described in Appendix B.

This document is a baseline community-level evaluation report, examining the history of the area, relevant social indicators, and details about program implementation. Reports are provided as feedback on Pacific County Kid Care's efforts to date and as a record of those efforts for state and federal funding agencies. Future reports will include discussions of program effectiveness, community partnerships, and plans for continued funding beyond SIG.

#### Background

Pacific County Kid Care is a collaborative effort between Pacific County Public Health and Human Services Department (PCPHHS), Willapa Family Services, Providence Addictions Recovery Center, Ocean Beach School District, Raymond School District, South Bend School District, and Willapa Valley School District<sup>2</sup> to provide the following substance abuse prevention services:

- The After School Activities Program (ASAP) is offered at all elementary schools in the Raymond School District, South Bend School District, and Willapa Valley Schools.<sup>3</sup> The After School Activities Program, locally designed, is intended to provide opportunities for students in fourth through sixth grades to interact with pro-social adults, gain learning skills, and to develop an appreciation for their community, including its natural resources, in a safe, supportive environment. This program includes the I'm Special curriculum.
- I'm Special, a Best Practice,<sup>4</sup> is designed to teach children to value themselves and others as unique individuals, to learn to recognize their own and others' personal priorities, communication and group interaction skills, and to apply these skills and awareness to the issues of drug use and healthy choices. I'm Special is included in the After School Activities Program and is also included in Ocean Beach School District's after school programming.
- Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS), also a Best Practice, is taught to all fifth grade students at Ocean Beach, Raymond, South Bend, and Willapa Valley elementary schools in their classrooms for 20 one-hour sessions. PATHS is designed to teach children about feelings and relationships, to teach self-control and awareness, along with communication and problem-solving skills.

In addition to these substance abuse prevention services for elementary school youth, the Best Practice Preparing for the Drug Free Years is offered to parents of middle school youth from all county middle schools in five two-hour workshops in South Bend.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Naselle Grays River School District has chosen not to be included in the Pacific County SIG project.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ocean Beach School District provides after school care through its 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The Best Practices designation indicates that programs have been shown "through substantial research and evaluation to be effective at preventing or delaying substance abuse." (Western Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies (WestCAPT), 1999).

Preparing for the Drug Free Years is designed to teach parents the importance of establishing meaningful roles in the family for adolescents, to help parents establish a family policy on drug use and teach their children resistance skills. Parents also learn techniques for self-control to reduce family conflicts.

#### **The Communities**

Pacific County, with a population of 21,500, lies along the south part of Washington's Pacific Coast. Pacific County towns, Ilwaco (population 860), Long Beach (population 1,440), Raymond (population 2,950), and South Bend (population 1,650),<sup>5</sup> are separated by large undeveloped spaces, with the exception of Raymond and South Bend, which are within walking distance of each other. Only one-third of Pacific County's residents live in a town (Spoor, 1997).<sup>6</sup> While Pacific County's population has traditionally included a few Asian families, in recent years, there has been an increase in Asian and Hispanic families, primarily linked to employment in the oyster harvest.

Pacific County's communities have diverse economies. Located on the Willapa River in north Pacific County, Raymond and South Bend have long depended primarily on the timber and fishing industries. South Bend calls itself "The Oyster Capitol of the World." The central part of the county, Willapa Valley, is predominantly agricultural and consists mostly of dairy farms. The Long Beach Peninsula, in south Pacific County, has an economy based primarily on tourism, with some cranberry farming. The peninsula, due to its isolation from any population center in Washington State—it takes over an hour to get to the county seat, South Bend—is dependent for most goods and services on Astoria and Portland, Oregon, which, while still distant, are considerably closer than their Washington counterparts. North and central Pacific County residents are more likely to travel to Aberdeen (30 minutes away) or Olympia (90 minutes away), for goods, services, and entertainment not available locally.

The last 20 years have seen severe declines in the timber and fishing industries. Pacific County's unemployment rate peaked in 1982, at 17%, and currently averages nearly 10%.<sup>7</sup> Attempts to create a tourist economy to replace lost revenues have been fairly successful in the Long Beach area with its long, sandy ocean beaches, but this has not worked in the north part of the county, where towns are located along the Willapa River, far from the coast.

<sup>5</sup> Population estimates from *State of Washington 1999 Data Book* (Office of Financial

Management, 1999), also available online at: http://www.ofm.wa.gov/databook/index.htm. <sup>6</sup> Spoor, K., Beck, K., Hing, F., and the Board of Health (1997) *Pacific County Health Profile: a public health report, 1997*, Pacific County Public Health and Human Services Department.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> This rate was averaged over the last five years, as small changes in areas with few people can translate into dramatic variations in rates. The raw rates are from the Washington State Employment Security Department, http://www.wa.gov/esd/lmea/labrmrkt/sed/pacised.htm, accessed June 2000.

The average annual wage in Pacific County is \$20,519 compared to \$33,062 for the state, a disparity of \$12,543. While there is some migration into Pacific County, especially retirees, as the cost of living is less than in urban areas, respondents unanimously reported a large outmigration of young adults, due to the lack of employment opportunities in their area.

One of the risk factors concerning SIG planners in Pacific County is early initiation of problem behavior. An example of this is thirty-day use of alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana among eighth graders as reported on the Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behaviors (WSSAHB). By eighth grade, 40% of students were using alcohol, 20% smoking cigarettes, 26% using chewing tobacco, and 23% using marijuana (Beck, Shults, 1999). The other three risk factors prioritized for Pacific County's SIG effort are community laws and norms favorable toward (substance) use, favorable attitudes toward the problem behavior. In Pacific County, this refers primarily to community norms favorable to alcohol use, as, according to respondents, even juvenile alcohol use is generally accepted, especially around events and special occasions.

The adult alcohol-related arrest rate for Pacific County, in the years 1990-1997, averaged twenty per thousand individuals,<sup>8</sup> compared to 13:1000 for counties with similar characteristics—Counties Like Us,<sup>9</sup> and a state average rate of 14:1000 for the same period. Juvenile alcohol-related arrests for Pacific County follow a pattern parallel to that of adults, and, averaged across the years 1990 to 1997, those rates were 20:1000 for Pacific County, 14:1000 for Counties Like Us, and 9:1000 for the state. The adult drug-related arrest rate was 7:1000, 166% of the state rate in 1990, but averages 5:1000, compared to similar counties at 4:1000, and the state average of 5:1000 for the years 1990-1997. Information about juvenile drug law arrests is only available for 1993, 1996, and 1997; in 1997 the Pacific County rate was 3:1000, compared to 5:1000 for similar counties, and 6:1000 for the state. This may indicate a reluctance to arrest youth, as the WSSAHB responses indicate higher levels of use, and are similar to state rates. County residents responding to this evaluation mentioned Pacific County's extreme isolation and lack of alternative activities as one reason for substance abuse and misuse in their area.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Rates, from *1999 County Profile on Risk and Protection for Substance Abuse Planning in Pacific County*, (Becker, 1999) were averaged, since the Pacific County rate fluctuated greatly between 1990 and 1997, as might be expected in a sparsely populated county, where actual numbers of events are small. Two years, 1991 and 1992, were unreported.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Counties Like Us, in the case of Pacific County, include other rural counties with similar characteristics: Clallam, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, Lewis, Mason, San Juan, Skagit, and Wahkiakum. For information about how this county grouping was created, see the 1996 County Profile. Data utilized here are the data from the most recent years for which they are available (Becker, 1999).

While domestic violence seems to be declining in Pacific County, family conditions for children have not similarly improved. The domestic violence arrest rate, which, at 6:1000 at the outset of the 1990s, exceeded state and Counties Like Us rates of 5:1000, has since declined to an average rate of 4:1000 for the past five years, while the rate for Counties Like Us and the state climbed to 7:1000 for the same period. The numbers of children in foster care or who are victims in accepted child abuse referrals, however, is consistently higher in Pacific County than either the state rate, or the rate for similar counties. The five-year rate of children in foster care for Pacific County is 6:1000, while it is 5:1000 for Counties Like Us, and 4:1000 statewide. The averaged five-year rate for victims in accepted child abuse referrals in Pacific County is 62:1000, compared to 54:1000 for counties with similar characteristics, and 40:1000 statewide.

#### **Pacific County Schools**

While geographic isolation from other large population centers and distances between north and south county towns are challenges for Pacific County residents, another challenge is the unique administrative division of Pacific County's schools. In a twenty-mile radius, there are three school districts in north Pacific County: Raymond School District, South Bend School District, and Willapa Valley School District. Ocean Beach School District serves the Long Beach Peninsula and south Pacific County, while Naselle Grays River School District serves the southeast corner of Pacific County and part of Wahkiakum County. The three school districts in the north part of the county belong to Educational Service District (ESD) 113, while Ocean Beach and Naselle Grays River school districts belong to ESD 112, centered in Vancouver. These administrative divisions, along with distance, often present barriers to coordinating projects between the county's school districts.

All elementary schools in Pacific County serve students from Kindergarten through sixth grade. All high schools serve students from seventh through twelfth grades in one building, except Ocean Beach School District, which has a separate junior high school. In most cases, high schools and elementary schools are adjacent to each other. Respondents reported that, in their small communities, schools are the social hub. Community members, young and old, utilize playgrounds and sports fields during school off-hours. School events, especially football, baseball, and basketball games, are especially well attended. When a Pacific County high school team makes the playoffs, large numbers of local residents characteristically travel great distances to watch the games.

#### History

In 1994, the Washington State Department of Health sponsored a regional health planning initiative, the Public Health Improvement Plan: an intensive, one-year study of regional health needs of five rural counties, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, and Wahkiakum. This initiative required the five counties' health departments to work together to perform a regional health assessment.

Pacific County's current substance abuse prevention efforts stem from a partnership—based primarily in the South Bend/Raymond area—which began in 1995. The idea of providing an after school program for elementary school students started with health planning by the Partnership for Improved Community Health. PCPHHS came into that partnership with experience gained from its work on the Public Health Improvement Plan.

In 1995, with health care reform taking place, local health care providers, including Willapa Harbor Hospital, Harbors Home Health and Hospice, and Pacific County Public Health and Human Services met to discuss strategies for sustainability in a changing health care environment. The group became aware of funding opportunities for health care planning and assessment. Accordingly, they applied for and were awarded a technical assistance grant from the Washington Health Foundation to do a community needs assessment and resource assessment. For the needs assessment, a survey was administered to a sampling of 1,656 Pacific County residents.<sup>10</sup> The survey results showed that the community members' two highest concerns were unemployment and substance abuse. Pacific County had begun to participate in the Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behaviors (WSSAHB) in 1992, with the result that more detailed information about substance abuse among youth had become available for the county's five school districts.<sup>11</sup>

The Partnership for Improved Community Health continued to grow, adding more individuals and more agencies:

- Tri-District Family Services—the local ECEAP (Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program) provider
- Providence Addictions and Recovery Center
- Pacific County Health and Safety Network
- Washington State University (WSU) Cooperative Extension
- Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)—both the local CSO (Community Services Office) Administrator, and a representative of the Division of Children and Family Services
- Willapa Counseling
- Pacific Psychological Associates
- Pacific County Superior Court
- The Mayor of South Bend

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> The *Pacific County Community Health Survey* was designed with the help of Felix and Burdine Associates, who analyzed survey results for the partnership, as part of the technical assistance grant. For further information about the survey see, *Pacific County Health Profile, A Public Health Report, 1997:* Appendix, Data Sources.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Since that time, the Naselle Grays River School District has decided not to continue its participation in the WSSAHB.

- Various health professionals—local physicians, including a doctor who was a member of the nearby Shoalwater Tribe, a Nurse Practitioner, a pharmacist, a school nurse, and emergency medical personnel
- The Pacific County Sheriff
- A county commissioner, who attended coalition meetings, even after his term of office expired
- Other concerned community members

# **Partnership Accomplishments**

A striking accomplishment, in terms of assessment, is the Pacific County Health Profile 1997 (Spoor, Beck, Hing, et al; 1997), a 113-page document looking at health issues and risk factors in Pacific County. In addition to the regional health assessment and Pacific County's local survey results, this profile incorporated social and demographic information from a wide variety of sources, including the 1995 WSSAHB, and the County Profile on Risk and Protection for Substance Abuse Planning in Pacific County (Kabel, Kohlenberg, and Flewelling, 1996). Issues explored included the following:

- Environmental health: waste disposal, food inspection, and shellfish safety; and general health issues: major causes of death were linked to ATOD use, physical inactivity, and obesity.
- Health care access: less than one doctor or nurse practitioner was available for every 1200 county residents.
- Maternal and child health: finding that teen birthrates were going up, while overall birthrates were decreasing for the county, that over one-third of pregnant moms were smoking, and some 30% were not getting prenatal care.
- Unintentional injury: with alcohol-related traffic accidents accounting for 57% of the total traffic fatalities, and accidental drowning being the second highest causes of unintentional death.
- Social health: finding domestic violence to be the most common unreported cause of injury to women, and that large numbers of Pacific County children were victims of child abuse and neglect.
- Substance abuse: learning that 80% of children had tried alcohol by twelfth grade, two-thirds had smoked cigarettes, and nearly half had tried marijuana.
- Infectious disease: nearly 40% of the county's two-year-olds were not adequately immunized.
- Chronic diseases: finding heart disease to be the leading cause of death in the county, with lung cancer and diabetes deaths increasing.

An additional finding of the county profile was the lack of affordable housing in Pacific County. As one Ocean Beach respondent noted, for example, by federal standards, many children on the Long Beach Peninsula are homeless or living in substandard housing.

Respondents reported that the county profile had proved to be extremely useful for planning and grant writing.

As the Partnership for Improved Community Health expanded, the scope of its goals widened to encompass a broad definition of community health. The following essential health issues for action were identified in their community:

- 1. Access/Safety
- 2. Emergency services
- 3. Bicycle safety (also part of child health)
- 4. Child health
- 5. Teen pregnancy, family planning
- 6. ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs)
- 7. Immunizations
- 8. Tracking

- 9. Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behaviors (WSSAHB)
- 10. Dental Screening for ECEAP children
- 11. Chronic diseases—including cardiovascular screenings, breast and cervical health
- 12. Community Education and Assessment
- 13. Nutrition

The partnership strove for a comprehensive approach to identifying and meeting health care needs in their communities. A variety of groups attended meetings to discuss issues that they considered vital. The Willapa Lions took on shoreline issues, including fisheries and ovstering. Parent to Parent, a support group for families of children with special needs was formed. Camp Victory was started to serve girls who had been victims of sexual abuse. The National Guard provided dental screenings for ECEAP children, as there were no dentists in the area who accepted Medicaid patients. Willapa Harbor Hospital stepped in to provide low rent office space for dentistry, and hired one of the dentists from the National Guard program to stay and work with low-income families. The Willapa Alliance, an environmental group, helped with assessment of social indicators related to development, their area of concern. The Boy Scouts posted the number for emergency services (there is no 911 in Pacific County) on all public telephones. A community garden was started-with donated space and materials-to provide better nutritional opportunities for area residents, as well as to serve as a community gathering place, and a media campaign on nutrition was mounted throughout the county.<sup>12</sup> The partnership also conducted a resource assessment and published a community resource directory.

A work group dedicated to addressing substance abuse prevention included members of Pacific County Public Health and Human Services, Harbors Home Health and Hospice, and Tri-District Family Services. They did extensive study into prevention research, including the Communities That Care risk and protective factor prevention model (Hawkins and Catalano, 1992) and worked to develop a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Unfortunately, the community garden no longer exists. The land loaned to the project by Weyerhaeuser became unavailable, and the community garden was not able to find another location. The dentist hired by Willapa Harbor Hospital has left the area, as well.

Prevention Action Plan. What they found was that the earlier in a child's life substance abuse prevention was provided, and the more dosage the targeted individuals received, the more successful the outcomes would be. The results of the WSSAHB from 1992 and 1995<sup>13</sup> indicated that children and adults in Pacific County communities had favorable attitudes toward ATOD use. In addition to this, the Pacific County Community Health Survey had indicated that a high number of children in the county were unsupervised after school. Prevention research supported the idea that these children would be at greatest risk for future involvement with drugs.

Willapa Children's Services was formed, and the After School Activities Program was launched, to address the absence of qualified licensed daycare in Pacific County. While Tri-District Family Services tackled the problem of providing daycare for younger children in the county, through their Even Start grant from ECEAP, the After School Activities Program was designed to address the needs of unsupervised at-risk elementary school-aged children. The aim of ASAP was to provide pro-social time with positive adult role models, homework help, and supervised activities, including some substance abuse prevention education. The program began with a single site in one room at Washington State University's distance learning facility, and was funded by the Pacific County Health and Safety Network and Community Mobilization Against Substance Abuse (CMASA).

The WSU Cooperative Extension also provided ATOD prevention education, BABES (Beginning Alcohol and Addiction Basic Education Studies) at all Pacific County schools in 1995 and 1996. Using a puppet approach, similar to that of Sesame Street, the seven-week curriculum included self-image and feelings; coping skills; decision making; peer pressure; getting help; alcohol and other drug information; and included elements intended to help children from chemically dependent homes. Six high school student volunteers were trained to use puppets to communicate the BABES curriculum to first and second graders. BABES was presented to 449 children in the two years that it was offered. Several respondents reported that this had been a successful approach and was popular in the community.<sup>14</sup> One cautionary note is that research of other prevention programs suggests that children who receive substance abuse prevention education only at very young ages tend to forget as they get older, so that the effectiveness of these programs may decrease with age (Western Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies, 1999).

In addition to identifying community health needs and resources to meet those needs, the Partnership for Improved Community Health also cemented relationships between providers in the county's various public and private agencies to bring services to county residents more efficiently. Providers have

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Distributed and analyzed by RMC Research Group.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> The current Washington State University Cooperative Extension coordinator for Pacific County is new to her post. She reported an interest in possibly providing BABES in the future.

gained access to mutually beneficial relationships that had not existed before. Partners work together to apply for funding opportunities that they would not be able to qualify for, or have the time to pursue, by themselves. Among the valuable associations established through the partnership was the connection between Pacific County community members and members of the Shoalwater Tribe, as relations had previously been tense between these two groups. Some respondents felt that having had one of the partnership meetings at the Shoalwater Tribal Center had been vital to creating this link between communities.

While the partnership no longer meets formally, the connections forged are still active. Pacific County lacks sufficient numbers of qualified people to fill social and health services requirements. The number of non-professionals in Pacific County who are willing to get involved is also very limited. Therefore, those who do work in public service must fill multiple roles in their communities, including serving on numerous committees and boards. Once the partnership had identified community health needs and made plans to address those needs, they became busy implementing those plans. Respondents noted that they felt that the number of meetings they were each involved with, at that time, was beginning to interfere with their ability to provide services. In addition to this, several important players moved out of the area, which put additional stress on those few remaining. Consequently, the partnership has not held regular meetings for the last two years.

Currently, some partner agencies have been undergoing major changes. The hospital recently hired a new administrator who has been busy overseeing a major remodel of the hospital. Tri-District Family Services, which currently operates two daycare centers, serving some 80 children, has been remodeling its headquarters to provide more childcare services for the community. PCPHHS and Willapa Children's Services have been busy applying for and implementing their countywide SIG project. Lately there has been talk among agency leaders about the possibility of reviving the partnership. Some respondents suggested that, as the remodeling projects are completed, and things settle down to regular routines, the partnership might become active again. In the meantime, community providers keep in close contact by e-mail, telephone, and frequently encountering each other at the grocery store, local sports events, etc., where they discuss current business. For this reason, regular partnership meetings may not be as critical to collaboration in this community as they would be in larger communities.

Respondents noted that, other than school grounds, Pacific County lacks places for kids to hang out. The Ministerial Association is currently working to create a teen center. A group of teens, from Raymond High School and South Bend High School, has been working for several years trying to organize area youth around building a skate park. Recently they connected with HUGS, a new foundation started by two north county women to provide activities for kids and to support youth efforts in the community. The administrator of PCPHHS has joined HUGS, adding her administrative experience and partnership connections to the foundation's assets. HUGS is providing technical support and assistance in developing a business plan, with a realistic budget, for the skate park. Currently HUGS is helping the teen group to create a presentation of their skate park plan for the Raymond City Council.

Other local accomplishments include Raymond's recent enhancements: the sculpture project, which has lined the roads entering Raymond, and Raymond's main street, with life-sized metal sculptures of people and local wildlife; Waterfront Park, with a trail, built to accommodate foot or bicycle traffic, connecting Raymond and South Bend; and the Farmer's Market, with its own fully enclosed building near the Raymond waterfront.

South county accomplishments include Long Beach tourist enhancements, a beachfront park with a boardwalk, recent inclusion in the upcoming Lewis and Clark bicentennial celebration, which the community achieved by cooperating with their Oregon counterpart, and the award of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center grant to the Ocean Beach School District.

With its limited professional resources, Pacific County partners have difficulty seeking funding and administering grants for substance abuse prevention projects from multiple funding agencies. Pacific County partners would like state prevention funding agencies to coordinate their funding. They have suggested that counties should be able to access DASA (Department of Social and Health Services, Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse), DOH (Department of Health), OSPI (Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction), and CTED (Community Trade and Economic Development) funds from a single state source. Accordingly, DASA helped Pacific County host a meeting of those state agencies to discuss this possibility. Some of monies the agencies administer on the state level are from federal sources and come with different requirements for implementation, evaluation, and reporting. The group concluded that streamlining prevention funding would require cooperation and coordination on the federal level, as well as at the state level.

#### **Pacific County Kid Care**

Pacific County Kid Care is designed to provide a comprehensive approach to substance abuse prevention in Pacific County. The project intends to build children's protective factors by doing the following:

- 1. Providing Best Practices prevention programming to all fifth graders in participating school districts.
- 2. Providing higher dosages of best and promising practices to at-risk children in participating districts
- 3. Educating parents of middle school youth about the dangers associated with drug abuse and methods to strengthen their children against risky behaviors.

#### **Pacific County Kid Care Partners**

Pacific County Public Health and Human Services provides one of the codirectors for the project, helps with planning and administration of the grant, and is the fiscal agent for the project.

Willapa Children's Services provides the other co-director of the project, who is responsible for the implementation of the SIG grant, including the hiring and supervising of all contractors and staff.

Providence Addictions Recovery Center provides the mental health professional who teaches the "I'm Special" curriculum in the county's four participating school districts.

Ocean Beach School District, Raymond School District, South Bend School District, and Willapa Valley School District provide facilities and will cooperate in the administration of the WSSAHB every two years until 2006.

WSU Cooperative Extension provides cooking classes as part of ASAP.

Timberland Regional Library provides a visiting librarian.

Based on previous research, the Prevention Action Plan, and results of the 1998 WSSAHB, the planning team of PCPHHS and Willapa Children's Services, working with DASA SIG staff and school district partners, identified risk factors to address and protective factors they wanted to develop with their State Incentive Grant prevention project:

#### **Prioritized Risk Factors**

- Community laws and norms favorable toward use
- Early initiation of the problem behavior
- Favorable attitudes toward the problem behavior
- Parental attitudes and behavior favorable toward the problem behavior

#### **Prioritized Protective Factors**

- Opportunities for youth to interact with pro-social adults and peers
- Learn new skills in a safe supportive environment
- Provision of opportunities for experience
- Involving parents in setting up clear structures and reinforcements for appropriate behavior
- Define and communicate a family position on drug use
- Opportunity for parents and youth to learn and practice effective communication and problem solving skills

Respondents cited favorable community attitudes toward Alcohol, Tobacco, and other drug use, and attitudes favorable to antisocial behavior as a major concerns. They felt that a primary contributor to youth substance abuse is the positive or indifferent attitudes toward drugs held by a large segment of their communities.

An ongoing challenge faced by Pacific County has been a lack of childcare services and recreational programs for children. There is no countywide recreational program, nor are there city or county parks and recreation departments, to provide leisure activities for children and their families. While the Partnership for Improved Community Health attempted to address some of these issues with the After School Activities Program and Tri-District Family Services' childcare program, there are still large unmet childcare needs in the county, and funding has not previously been available to implement programs on a large scale.

D.A.R.E. (Drug Awareness and Resistance Education) is available at South Bend schools and Raymond schools, provided by the city police departments. Intervention specialists and counseling are available at all county schools. Other prevention projects have been primarily composed of mini-grants awarded to individual school districts by PCPHHS. One of the most popular and lasting of these was an outdoor education camp. Respondents reported that past efforts, while sometimes successful, were not research-based, nor were they coordinated enough or of sufficient dosage or duration to yield reliable outcomes.

#### Pacific County Kid Care, Year 1 and Beyond

Four prevention programs were expanded or provided through SIG during Year 1. Prevention programs are categorized by a rigor scale, created by the federal Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. Rigor is the extent to which the program has been shown, through scientific research methods, to be effective in different locales and with multiple populations. The highest rating is rigor 5; the lowest, rigor 1. Below are Pacific County's SIG-funded prevention programs during Year 1:

- 1. After School Activities Program, rigor level 1-2
- 2. I'm Special, rigor level 5
- 3. Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies, rigor level 5
- 4. Preparing for the Drug Free Years, rigor level 5

Through SIG, Pacific County has been able to expand the After School Activities Program (ASAP), rigor level 1 to 2, to serve identified at-risk fourth through sixth graders in Raymond, South Bend, and Willapa Valley schools. SIG has also allowed the provision of research-based, or rigor level 5, substance abuse prevention programs: I'm Special, for students in ASAP and students in the Ocean Beach School District, Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies for all fifth graders in the four participating school districts, and Preparing for the Drug Free Years for all interested parents of middle-school aged youth in the county. A mental health professional from Providence Addictions Recovery Center visits all ASAP sites and the Ocean Beach School District's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center to teach the I'm Special, self-esteem building curriculum. I'm Special is generally provided in 45-50 minute sessions, once per week, over a period of nine weeks. Here is a description of the program's contents and purposes:

...sessions focus on self-worth, the worth of others, feelings, decisionmaking, cooperation, trust and teamwork. The final session, dealing with health, drugs, and decisions, enables students to apply the skills they have learned to drugs through role-play. The aims of instruction are to aid awareness of personal uniqueness and the uniqueness of others, as well as improving communication and group skills. The program seeks to strengthen bonds to school and family to decrease the likelihood of future involvement with drugs (Western Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies (hereafter, WestCAPT), 1999).<sup>15</sup>

PATHS (Promoting Alternate Thinking Strategies) is provided to all fifth graders in the four school districts by two private contractors, one who serves the Ocean Beach School District, and one who serves all north county elementary schools. In Pacific County, PATHS is presented in one-hour sessions once per week for twenty weeks. The PATHS curriculum is intended to address early anti-social behavior by building emotional and social competence. The focus is on "…emotional literacy, self-control, social competence, positive peer relations, and interpersonal problem-solving skills. A key objective of promoting these developmental skills is to prevent or reduce behavioral and emotional problems." This curriculum has been tested and researched for use in classrooms for all elementary school-aged children, including children with special needs (WestCAPT, 1999).

Preparing for the Drug Free Years is offered to parents in Pacific County in an effort to begin to change favorable community attitudes toward substance abuse. Preparing for the Drug Free Years teaches parents how to reduce critical risk factors during the late elementary and middle school years, by teaching parents about risk factors for substance abuse, strengthening family bonds, fostering family communication,

...establishing a family position on drugs, identifying and establishing positive reinforcements and appropriate negative consequences, reinforcing a child's use of refusal skills, expressing and controlling anger, increasing children's participation in the family, and creating a parent support network (WestCAPT, 1999).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> The I'm Special Program was originally developed by the Drug Education Center, Inc. and the Junior League of Charlotte, North Carolina, and has been in use in North Carolina public and private schools since 1978 (Western Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies (WestCAPT), http://www.open.org/~westcapt/bp87.htm accessed December, 1999).

To recruit parents for the Preparing for the Drug Free Years program, the SIG partners informed parents about the program by sending informational packets home with each child from school. These packets included the following items:

- A letter, including mention of Pacific County youth's higher than the state average use of drugs, from the WSSAHB, and a brief overview of the Prevention Action Plan.
- The brochure "Keeping Your Child Drug-Free," authored by The Bureau for At-Risk Youth (1994).
- A brochure prepared by PCPHHS and Willapa Children's Services: "Pacific County Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Project: Washington State Incentive Grant Recipient," which discussed the scope of the substance abuse problem among youth in Pacific County, and described the four Best Practice programs offered through SIG.
- Another brochure, prepared by Willapa Children's Services, "Preparing for the Drug Free Years: a risk reduction program for families," briefly detailed the contents of the program's five sessions and a schedule of program sessions, noting that a light dinner would be provided.
- And, finally, an invitation to attend the Preparing for the Drug Free Years workshops for free.

In addition to this packet, fliers were distributed throughout the county, and an announcement and advertisement were published in area newspapers. Preparing for the Drug Free Years was offered at the PCPHHS office in South Bend.

Despite all of this outreach, only six participants attended the Preparing for the Drug Free Years program in its first year. SIG community partners discussed this problem and felt that a more individualized approach to outreach might be more successful, as well as providing an additional program site for south county parents. For Year 2, new contractors are being hired who will make personal contacts with parents for recruitment. In addition to this, the social services agencies in Pacific County, both public and private, and schools will be giving "friendly referrals" to parents whose children may be at risk for early initiation of tobacco, drug or alcohol use. It is hoped that this will dramatically increase participation in future sessions of the program.

Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies was well received in the schools. Teachers, in letters to PCPHHS, written after four months of having PATHS in their classrooms, reported positive results from this instruction. Their students had learned to give and receive compliments and to use a stop light image to help them manage anger. Teachers stated that students were using these newly learned skills regularly and applying them to other activities in the classroom, especially to situations in which there were conflicts. One difficulty with the PATHS program this year has been communication with the two providers, one of whom lives in south Pacific County, while the other lives in Oregon and commutes to the central and north county sites. To increase opportunities for trouble shooting, brainstorming, and organizing, the partners at PCPHHS and Willapa Children's Services will meet regularly with the contractors next year.

The After School Activities Program operated every school day this year, serving 83 children from first through sixth grades in Raymond, South Bend, and Willapa Valley schools. In addition to administering the program, the PCPHHS and Willapa Children's Services partners take an active role in ASAP, participating in activities, and sometimes making activity materials themselves-such as birdhouse kits for the children to assemble. The After School Activities Program includes two staff people at each site, plus one high school helper. At the end of the school year, children and their parents were asked to complete satisfaction surveys. Response to the two surveys was overwhelmingly positive. Of the thirty children who responded to the survey, twenty-one rated the program as "Awesome," when asked to rate the program on a scale of one to four, with one being "Awesome" and four being "Awful." They liked the staff, the chance to play, and the activities; they wanted a greater variety of games, more equipment, bigger snacks, and more field trips. Of the twenty-eight parents who responded, all felt that the program met their needs and their children's needs well or very well, with twenty-five giving the program the highest rating and three giving it the next highest rating. Here are some representative remarks:

- It's great to have the site right at the school. The staff seems caring and cheerful. It has proven to be a very handy, safe childcare program for us.
- It helps out 100% for the working family. We would be in big trouble without it!
- ...provided an excellent after school opportunity for my child to interact with others her own age. The worst thing about living in a rural setting is that it is difficult for a child to play without being driven great distances.
- Allows (children) time with others. Helped in a rough time for them.

Some parents suggested upgrading facilities and equipment, providing more structured homework time, and involving more community members in the program to augment activities. Some felt that their child's ASAP site had fewer arts and crafts opportunities than the South Bend site. Willapa Children's Services plans to use comments from the surveys to make improvements to ASAP for next year.

Six of the seven ASAP staff will be returning next year, a possible indicator of the program's success, as in the past new staff have had to be hired each fall. Another indicator of success is that parents have been calling Willapa Children's Services all summer to reserve space for their children in the program next year. As a result, more ASAP slots will be added for Year 2. In addition to SIG funds, ASAP is funded by CMASA, Washington Health Foundation, Pacific County Health and Safety Network, L.V. Raymond Foundation, and in kind donations from the four participating school districts. South Bend School District joined ESD 113 in its application for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center grant, along with eleven other school districts outside of Pacific County. In addition to information gained about risk and protective factors through association with Pacific County Kid Care, district administration cited SIG project prevention efforts in its part of that grant application. South Bend School District plans to use the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center grant to provide after school programming for students at the junior high level. Plans include keeping the library and computer center's doors open after school for students and some evenings to accommodate adult and family use.

New to Pacific County Kid Care for Year 2 is an additional prevention action, already underway: Youth Adventures. DASA/SIG funding of this program began on July 1, 2000. This program will provide experiential outdoor education to refer fifth and sixth grade youth, which are exhibiting problem behaviors in school. The first session included five students from the South Bend School District, and began with an informational meeting for families.

Parents were so enthusiastic about this program, both as an opportunity for their children to grow, and as an opportunity to socialize with the other families involved, that they immediately made plans for a family barbecue at the program's end. This summer's activities included challenge activities at The Evergreen State College ropes course, sea kayaking on Willapa Bay, as well as other activities, and will conclude with a sea kayaking trip to an island where students and adult leaders will backpack and spend the night before returning to the mainland.

Pacific County SIG partners are optimistic about the potential of the Youth Adventures program. The first cohort of youth has already shown vast improvements in their ability to work within a group, for example. The program fits reported community values toward educating youth about the natural resources of their area. It may be an apt replacement for the outdoor educational programs which have been popular in the county in the past, while adding activities that are designed to promote self esteem, cooperation, and critical thinking. Future cohorts will include fifth graders from Raymond, Willapa Valley, and Ocean Beach school districts, with an expected 30 students being served in Year Two.

In addition to carrying out substance abuse prevention services, other expectations are associated with SIG. These involve changes in the system by which local prevention services are planned, delivered, and evaluated. For Pacific County, the largest change has been large-scale implementation of Best Practices prevention actions. In addition to this, working together on SIG has brought increased appreciation for the importance of the WSSAHB data to school district administrators. A greater understanding now exists among the community and those administrators about the connection between identifying risk and protective factors, planning prevention actions, and getting the funding needed to implement

those programs. In addition to this, school district personnel, teachers as well as administrators are finding that Best Practices programming is helping their students make positive changes.

As a way of measuring progress toward the goals for communities of the Washington State Incentive Grant Substance Abuse Prevention Plan, grantees are expected to participate in the SIG community-level evaluation. This evaluation has four components:

**Process evaluation**, which examines organizational capacity and prevention planning.

**Program implementation fidelity,** what was actually done and how it compares to what was planned.

**Program effectiveness**: how effective the program was, measured by participant pre- and post-tests. In addition to using Everest, DRP (Developmental Research Program) will be analyzing the results of I'm Special pre- and post-tests, to meet CMASA funding requirements.

Long-term community-wide changes in substance abuse prevalence and risk and protective factors, which are assumed to result from changes in community organization and planning and the provision of prevention program services to targeted populations, measured by the Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behavior (WSSAHB). For long-term outcomes, the WSSAHB will be administered to sixth, eighth, tenth, and twelfth graders at all participating Pacific County schools every two years through 2006.

#### For Pacific County Kid Care, seven items will be important during Year 2:

- 1. Continued implementation of prevention programs.
- 2. Continued participation in program effectiveness monitoring (Everest database and other agreed upon measurement methods when the Everest database is inappropriate for use with a particular program).
- 3. Participation in program implementation fidelity measures.
- 4. Continued development of a system for community-wide prevention planning, delivery, and evaluation.
- 5. Continued participation in process evaluation, consisting of interviews and document review.
- 6. Ensuring the participation of Ocean Beach School District, Raymond School District, South Bend School District, and Willapa Valley School District in the Autumn 2000 administration of the Washington State Adolescent Health Behavior Survey (WSSAHB).
- 7. Developing specific plans to track progress toward and achieve anticipated immediate changes from the Community-Based Prevention Action Plan Implementation Matrix (column 7) and the community-level goals from the Washington State Incentive Grant Substance Abuse Plan (see Appendix A).

# **Appendix A:**

# **Community-Level Goals and Objectives**<sup>16</sup>

#### Goal:

Communities selected to receive State Incentive Grant funds will work to prevent alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and other drug use, misuse, and abuse by the state's youth in these communities. They will develop and implement prevention plans, which will foster changes in the prevention system at the community level to make the system more effective.

### **Objectives:**

- 1. To *establish partnerships* which include existing agencies and organizations, and families, youth, school, and workplaces to collaborate at the local level to prevent alcohol tobacco, marijuana, and other drug use, misuse, and abuse by youth.
- 2. To *use a risk and protective factor framework* to develop a community prevention action plan which reduces factors which put youth at risk for alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and other drug abuse and increase factors which protect or buffer youth from these risks.
- 3. To *participate in joint community risk and protective factor and resource assessment* by collecting, assessing, and prioritizing community-level information for: a) youth alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and other drug use, misuse, and abuse; b) risk and protective factor indicators; and c) existing resources and service gaps.
- 4. To *select and implement effective prevention actions* that address priority risk and protective factors in the community by filling identified gaps in resources.
- 5. To *use common reporting tools* which provide information on what works and what does not work to reduce youth alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and other drug use, misuse, and abuse.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Governor's Substance Abuse Prevention Advisory Committee. 1999. *Washington State Incentive Grant Substance Abuse Prevention Plan*. Olympia, WA: Department of Social and Health Services, Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, State Incentive Grant Project.

# Appendix B: Methods

## **Information Sources**

#### Interviews

Audiotaped interviews were conducted with lead agency contacts, as well as prevention service providers and community members. Interviewees were informed at the beginning of each interview that the audiotapes were confidential, were for the purpose of ensuring accuracy, and would be erased as soon as notes were taken from them. Questions were based on an interview guide, as well as related topics that arose during the interviews. Interview guides were modified after initial site visits were completed based on the evaluation team's ability to obtain the desired information from the questions asked, and a shift in the evaluation focus toward more background history for this initial baseline report.

#### **Document review**

Community-Based Prevention Action Plan Implementation Matrix: Prevention programs intended to address desired outcomes and associated risk and protective factors are described in detail in matrices created by Pacific County Public Health and Human Services, Willapa Children's Services, and the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA) State Incentive Grant administrative staff. These matrices were used to guide inquiry into the process of achieving anticipated local outcomes.

Beck, K., Shults, P. (1999) Pacific County Kid Care State Incentive Grant proposal, Substance Abuse Prevention Plan, Pacific County, Washington, Pacific County Public Health and Human Services Department with Willapa Children's Services, South Bend, Washington.

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Becker, L., et al (1999): 1999 County Profile on Risk and Protection for Substance Abuse Prevention Planning in Pacific County, DSHS Publication # 4.33-25, Research and Data Analysis Division for the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Department of Social and Health Services, Olympia, Washington.

Haven-Smith, D., Shults, P. (1999): "Preparing for the Drug Free Years: a risk reduction program for families." South Bend, Washington.

Kabel, J., Kohlenberg, E., & Flewelling, et al (1996) Office of Research and Data Analysis for the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Department of Social and Health Services, Olympia, Washington.

Pacific County Historical Society (1994) The Sou'wester, Vol. 29, No. 3; and (1999) The Sou'wester, Vol. 34, No.4.

Spoor, K., Beck, K., Hing, F., and the Board of Health (1997) Pacific County Health Profile: a public health report, 1997, Pacific County Public Health and Human Services Department.

U.S. West (1999) Aberdeen, Hoquiam, Raymond, South Bend (and smaller towns of Pacific and Grays Harbor counties) White and Yellow Pages. Local and area phone books were consulted for listings of social service agencies.

Washington State Employment Security Department (2000): Washington State Labor Market Information, Labor Market Information by Area, Selected Economic Data, <u>http://www.wa.gov/esd/lmea/labrmrkt/sed/pacised.htm</u>

Washington State Office of Financial Management (1999) State of Washington 1999 Data Book. Also available online at: http://www.ofm.wa.gov/databook/index.htm

Western Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies (1999) Best Practices and Promising Practices. Also available online at: <u>http://www.unr.edu/westcapt/</u>

#### **Program Observations**

One session of the after school activities program was observed at Raymond Elementary School.

#### Surveys

Sub-recipient Checklist: COSMOS Corporation designed the Sub-recipient Checklist under contract with the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention to conduct a cross-site evaluation. It is intended to document prevention activities semi-annually. Questions are asked about the sub-recipient's most important prevention program or actions, although more than one form can be completed if the sub-recipient wishes to describe other programs. The "most important" prevention program is defined as that which is most likely to produce measurable outcomes.

#### **Accessing Informants**

Key Informants: Initial informants were identified through the Pacific County Kid Care SIG proposal.

Snowball Sampling Strategy: Key informants were asked for names of community members who could provide insight into Pacific County Kid Care's history of challenges, successes, and substance abuse prevention services.

# Analysis

This report is the first step in a case study. Data analysis occurs throughout the research process in a case study, from the process of formulating the topic through the write-up. During and after interviews, information gathered is weighed in light of previous information. Questions and topics are modified as indicated by the new information. Data verification occurs through cross checking information from informants with that from other informants, documents, observation, and the researcher's journal entries.

Data analysis in a case study occurs by creating categories of information, broad at first, then becoming more specific. As familiarity with the study topic occurs, categories are related to one another and to theory. CSAP and COSMOS Corporation created broad data categories, around which interview questions and inquiry topics were framed. Data were gathered in the process of this evaluation with the intent of answering specific questions about system change in planning, providing, and evaluating prevention services for youth in local communities. Additional categories were added, as it became apparent that they were of importance to the SIG community grantees.



Washington State Incentive Grant – November 2000