

State Prevention Enhancement (SPE) Policy Consortium and Statewide Prevention Strategic Plan

Overview

The State Prevention Enhancement (SPE) Policy Consortium was developed by a collaborative of state partners in 2011. The SPE Policy Consortium designs and implements the five-year Washington State Prevention Strategic Plan. The Consortium is working to strengthen and support an integrated statewide system of community-driven substance use disorder prevention, mental health promotion, and related behavioral health issues. Over 20 state agencies, organizations and tribal partners represent the Consortium with more than 45 active members.

The State's Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Prevention and Mental Health (MH) Promotion Plan is implemented by six workgroups that meet on a regular basis and in cooperation with statewide agencies that have some focus on SUD prevention and MH promotion.

The following workgroups oversee the implementation of action plans to accomplish the goals and mission of the plan:

- The Washington Healthy Youth Coalition: Underage drinking and marijuana misuse/abuse prevention
- Opioid Prevention Workgroup
- Young Adults Alcohol and Cannabis Misuse Prevention Workgroup
- Washington Breathes: Commercial Tobacco and Vapor Products Workgroup
- Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention Workgroup
- Problem Gambling Prevention and Early Intervention Workgroup

In 2011, the Consortium initiated the strategic planning process to develop the first Five-Year
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Strategic Plan for 2012-2017. The Consortium used the Prevention Planning Framework, based on the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF), as the overall planning framework for this process. The SPF was originally developed by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). SAMSHA's SPF is a comprehensive planning process designed to help states and communities build the infrastructure necessary for effective and sustainable prevention. The Consortium updates the Strategic Plan every five years, with biennial needs assessments conducted in between.

The SPE Consortium has started their full update process with the support of SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drug grant (SPF-Rx) and unveiled their new statewide plan for 2022-2027 at the Prevention Summit in the Fall of 2023.

The most recent version can be found on the [Athena Forum webpage](#).

Authority

SAMHSA, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), FY2011 SPF-SIG grant, and the five-year Partnerships for Success (PFS) 2013 and 2018 grants. HCA continues to provide resources and staff to support the implementation of the SPE Consortium and Plan in partnership with other state agencies.

Budget

The Consortium serves as the advisory council for the five-year PFS 2018 grant. With the newly awarded SPF-Rx grant to HCA, a portion of the funding will support some of the data and needs assessment activities to the strategic plan. In addition, HCA was awarded a \$35,000 supplement to the PFS 2018 grant to focus on addressing disparities in Washington State for which a portion of this funding will be utilized during the strategic plan process.

Accomplishments

The 2023 Plan lists accomplishments for each of the workgroups. Highlights from workgroups include:

- **WHY Coalition:** Created new assets for public information around parental involvement, regulation of delta variants of THC in cannabis, and research into alcohol

sales allowances made during the pandemic.

- **Opioid misuse prevention:** Applied for and received new funding in the form of the SPF-Rx grant from SAMHSA to help address the opioid crisis. Developed partnerships critical to success of their plan.
- **Washington Breathes - Tobacco and vapor product issues:** Moved into a broader coalition model with renewed resources from the CDC, bringing in more stakeholders and partners than ever before. Published a new website and formed a strategic plan.
- **Young adults cannabis misuse prevention workgroup:** Formed partnerships with colleges and other key stakeholders to develop and strengthen priorities for this vulnerable population.
- **Mental health promotion:** Continues to support suicide prevention training for adults and healthy coping skills for everyone affected by the COVID pandemic, as well as exploring new opportunities to promote mental health in all communities.
- **Problem Gambling Prevention:** With additional funding being dedicated to problem gambling through DBHR, a workgroup has formed to begin the process of building a plan for primary prevention of the issue. The focus will be to decrease risk factors for those at highest risk and will include strategies for all appropriate ages and cultures.

Partners

This work continues through ongoing partnerships with the following agency representatives:

- American Indian Health Commission (AIHC)
- Attorney General Office (AGO)
- Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA)
- College Coalition for Substance misuse, Advocacy, and Prevention (CCSAP)

- Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF)
- Department of Health (DOH)
- Health Care Authority (HCA) and HCA/Division of Behavioral Health & Recovery (DBHR)
- HCA/Office of Tribal Affairs (OTA)
- Indian Policy Advisory Committee (IPAC)
- Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)
- Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB)
- Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
- Prevention Specialist Certification Board of Washington (PSCBW)
- State Board of Health (SBOH)
- State Epidemiological Outcome Workgroup (SEOW)
- Washington Association for Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention (WASAVP)
- Washington Healthy Youth Coalition (WHY)
- Washington Poison Center
- Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs (CHA)
- Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP)
- Washington State Patrol (WSP)
- Washington State Prevention Research Sub-Committee (PRSC)
- Washington State University (WSU)
- Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC)
- University of Washington (UW)

Oversight

Internal: Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery

External: SAMHSA/Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (PFS)

For more information

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