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Be a Piece of the Puzzle ~ Prevention is About Saying YES



By DeAnna Pearl

In 1982, Nancy Reagan announced a new drug prevention program, "Just Say NO." Since then prevention folk have found that effective and environmental changing prevention work is about Shouting YES! It is about making informed decisions based on up-to-date information that has a positive impact on your future. The vast majority of us want what is best for our community. In that, citizens have charged various governing bodies to create and approve ordinances, policies and procedures to help protect the majority.

At various times, rules are written, published and distributed with due diligence. Unfortunately, much like the children's game, Telephone, over time the interpretation is blurred; the applica-

tion in sketchy and finally deemed not important. The party of accountability, to knowing the rules, is each and every one of us. On the bright side, these rules can be challenged and changed if deemed outdated or not comprehensive enough. This can be done by anyone at any time in due process.

Fortunately, some rules are always in the fore front of our minds. Background checks for volunteers and staff are one of those. The VSD 47J is an awesome example of that proactive practice. According to volunteer policy, [VSD 47J GCDA/GDDA], it requires back ground screening for volunteers before, during and after school. This should also include programs that are under the school programming umbrellas. This policy and practice is one way to help ensure the prevention of abuse of our children. While this is a widely acceptable practice in the educa-

tion world, it is often overlooked in the private sectors that provide community programming.

There are many City of Vernonia (COV) Ordinances that impact prevention of injury, limit liability and help ensure safe space for community gathering. They also have a great impact on community program planning. For example, planning a large event that gathers more than 100 people? Refer to COV Ord. 767 on crowd control measures and additional sanitary facilities. How about evening programs, refer to COV 313 for curfews and COV Ord. 761 outlining COV park rules and use of the parks for public events. All these ordinances can have impact on the sustainability of programs and events.

Oregon Administrative Rules, (OAR) that are realized by the citizens of Oregon is important to the health and welfare of us all. OAR 581-021-0110, Tobacco Free Schools, was established in 2004 to not allow the use of tobacco in any form at any time on school property. Public Law 107-110, Safe and Drug Free School Act, is to support schools and communities in creating safe, disciplined, and drug-free environments that support student academic achievement. This federal law speaks to not allowing ATOD [Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug] on school campus at any time regardless of school hours, day or sessions.

Whether you agree or not, policies, OAR's and ordinance are ways for governing bodies to show their due dili-

gence for the greater good. These help ensure school, community partners and resources to foster a safe and drug-free learning and living environment. Mentors whom are deemed safe by a background check can help build confidence in our children. City streets that are safe for our children to walk help connect them to their community. Parks that are clean and safe allow our children to partake in positive physical activity without the threat of harm. ATOD Free events allow families to gather together and bond with a shared experience. All these ordinances, policies and administrative laws have one thing in common, to protect the most vulnerable citizens of our community: our children and our future.

So, prevention IS about saying YES. Yes, our streets are safe. Yes, our schools are safe. Yes, you can volunteer in a Drug Free workplace. Yes, our children have lots of opportunities to connect with valuable experiences both in and out of school.

Why is this important? When a child lives in an environment that affords him or her opportunities to positively engage, they will more likely become productive citizens of society. Yes, Prevention is about say YES.

The Vernonia Prevention Coalition is about saying YES too. Yes, you can be a member. Yes, we will support you in your efforts to make a difference. For further questions or comments, contact DeAnna Pearl @ 503 369-7370 or DeAnna@vernonia-or.gov.

National Child Passenger Safety Week Sept 15-21, 2013

In Oregon

Children over 40 pounds remain riding in a booster seat until age 8, or they are 4 ft. 9 inches in height.

Infants remain riding rear-facing until they are 20 pounds and are 1 year of age.

Children who are age 8 or over 4 ft. 9 inches tall must be properly secured with the safety belt system.

Oregon law continues to require that children over 1 year old and between 20 and 40 pounds be restrained with a forward-facing child safety seat up to a minimum of 40 pounds or the weight limit of the seat.



IS YOUR CHILD IN THE RIGHT CAR SEAT?

Summer Meal Program

"Follow the Pin Wheels to Free Summer Meals!"



**Over
3000 Lunches
Served**

We couldn't have done it
without our volunteers
whom gave over

300 Hours

Our Thanks to the:

**Vernonia School District 47J
for being this our sponsor!**

**Vernonia Community Church
for being our site host!**

**Vernonia Food Bank for keep-
ing us in bread and pastries!**

**OSU Extension Service for pro-
viding nutrition activities!**

**Turning Point Community Ser-
vices Center providing fresh
fruits and veggies for our awe-
some salad bar!**

**THOSE
WHO HOST
LOSE
THE MOST**



Don't be a
party to
teenage
drinking.

Its against
the law.

Prom and graduation season is upon us. Of those teens whom choose to drink, they are more likely to drink 5x's more per incident than adults.

Unfortunately, 1500 teens are killed every year due to underage drinking during prom and graduation season combined.

We need never to lose another youth to Underage Drinking

**NATIONAL
SUICIDE
PREVENTION
LIFELINE**
1-800-273-TALK (8255)
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

**OREGON PARTNERSHIP
lines for life**
Preventing Substance Abuse & Suicide

SUICIDE LIFELINE 800-273-8255
ALCOHOL & SUBSTANCE HELPLINE 800-923-4357
MILITARY HELPLINE 888-457-4838

youthline

**1-877-968-8491
oregonyouthline.org**

**Columbia Community
Mental Health
Oregon and Washington**
(503) 397-5211 or (800) 294-5211
After Hours
(866) 866-1426