

PREVENTION:**What is it? - What Services Will It Provide & Why?**

First, What Is Prevention? The best way to understand what prevention does is for you to imagine a cliff. This cliff can represent Alcoholism, Drugs, Gangs, Teen Pregnancy, Family Violence, and other problems.

Our people have been falling off these cliffs and ending up at the bottom. If they are not dead, they are requiring some of type treatment. However, there has been limited success in stopping people from falling over the cliff in the first place.

Prevention is designed to build a guardrail on top of the cliff to prevent people from falling off. The guardrail is made up of various organizations such as schools, law enforcement agencies, churches, businesses, Tribal, State, and County agencies. Individuals and families in the community also contribute their time, energy and money to reduce the risk factors in our community and in so doing, ensure a more protective and safe environment for our youth.

What Services will it Provide?

The Prevention Coordinator, Ray Blacketer, will be working with Denise Wilson, the Youth Services Coordinator, providing recreational, educational, individual and group activities designed to help our young people make wiser choices. A Youth Recreational Facility is in the implementation phase, along with other projects. We will be generating questionnaires and asking for suggestions.

Why is a Prevention Program Needed? The University of Washington conducted an assessment for the State of Oregon and rated all 36 counties in Oregon. They identified 36 risk factors common to all the counties and used data generated by the State to evaluate each county. Listed below are the counties and how they rated in this assessment.

Counties Ranked

Where do the counties rank? In the statewide study of risk factors related to rearing teen-agers, these were the overall rankings. No. 1 is best, No. 36 is riskiest.

1. Washington	13. Morrow	25. Crook
2. Wheeler	14. Deschutes	26. Linn
3. Clackamas	15. Harney	27. Klamath
4. Gilliam	16. Yamhill	28. Malheur
5. Benton	17. Tillamook	29. Multnomah
6. Sherman	18. Jackson	30. Umatilla
7. Wallowa	19. Polk	31. Josephine
8. Grant	20. Baker	32. Wasco
9. Columbia	21. Curry	33. Clatsop
10. Lake	22. Marion	34. Coos
11. Union	23. Douglas	35. Lincoln
12. Lane	24. Hood River	36. Jefferson

Human Resources offices wishing copies may write the Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs, 500 Summer St., N.E., Salem, OR 97310-1016.

Lincoln County ranked as the 2nd riskiest county in which to raise children. In some areas of this survey, we ranked #1. However, in Siletz we are faced with higher risk factors than in other parts of Lincoln County.

**Prevention Coordinator**

Ray Blacketer

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or 1-800-648-0449

What is Risk Focused Prevention?

Risk Focused Prevention is based on a simple idea; to prevent a problem from happening, we need to identify the factors that increase the risk of that problem developing and then create a plan that reduces those risk factors and strengthens other protective factors.

What are Risk Factors?

Risk factors are basically either behaviors or attitudes in the home, school, community, peer groups, or within individuals themselves, that greatly increase the possibility of our youth engaging in activities such as delinquency, substance abuse, school drop out, teen pregnancy and gang activity.

Examples of Family Risk Factors:

- ..A Family history of High Risk Problem Behavior.
- ..Family Management Problems.
- ..Parental Attitudes Enable Substance Abuse-Criminal Activity.
- ..Parental Involvement with Substance abuse and Family members who consistently violate the Law.

Examples of Community Risk Factors:

- ..Community Laws and Norms favorable toward drug use and crime.
- ..Availability of Alcohol or Drugs.
- ..Economic and Social Deprivation.

Example's of School Risk Factors:

- ..Early Antisocial Behavior.
- ..Academic Failure in Elementary School.
- ..Lack of Commitment to School.

Examples of Peer-Individual Risk Factors:

- ..Alienation-rebelliousness and lack of bonding with society.
- ..Antisocial behavior in early adolescence.
- ..Friends who engage in the problem behavior.
- ..Friends have enabling attitudes toward problem behavior.

This is not a complete list, yet it does give you an idea of what is considered a risk factor.

How are we going to begin to solve these problems?

Our first goal is to design a Prevention Program that not only meets our needs, but can also be recognized by the State of Oregon. When we do this we will be eligible to receive a Letter of Approval from the State.

Why?

We would seek this because the requirements set forth by the State concerning the Prevention Program are basically the same requirements we would use. However, by obtaining this Letter of Approval, we would be eligible for funding and assistance from the State.

Examples of these requirements:

- ..A Community Needs Assessment.
- ..Population identified needing Service.
- ..Written Plan.
- ..Evaluation guidelines.

Each of these requirements has about 10 other sub-requirements. However, by meeting these criteria, we will be ensuring that this Program is going to be a Model Program which not only meets the needs of our community but will be credible and accountable.

If you have any questions or suggestions, call Ray or Denise at 444-1030.

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