



Those are examples of norms that have changed. In our community we have some positive norms, such as our desire and efforts to rebuild our culture. Our desire to build a close knit family and tribal identity. Another is our value we place on sports.

However, we have some other norms that could be viewed as unhealthy or destructive. An example of that is our long time tradition of Friday and Saturday night in-house partying. Sometimes these in-house party's spill over into the street and also have a tendency to continue on through to Monday.

One community norm we have is a high tolerance for violence. As I indicated earlier, this norm has changed somewhat, but is still allowed to a wide degree.

A close knit community is a true asset, but one of the unhealthy community norms that could possibly be generated from being so close is malicious gossip. This is one of the hardest activities to confront, because when confronted, the person gossiping can claim that they were just concerned about the person they were gossiping about.

A community norm that is in the process of changing is allowing young adults and teenagers to hang around downtown Siletz late at night. As a consequence, there was some trouble. Now there is a group of citizens acting as watchmen and watchwomen.



WHY DO WE WANT TO EXAMINE AND POSSIBLY CHANGE THESE NORMS?

The biggest reason for myself, is my children. As a parent, I am concerned about what my children are learning from us, and the surrounding community. What is done or not done, affects not only them, but all the other young people in this area.

What hurtful or destructive NORMS would you like changed? Why would you like them changed, and how would you go about changing them?

The answers to these questions only you can provide. However, one of the Community Norms that has changed these last 30 years is citizen involvement. Not only in our community but in our tribal community also. One of the things I see not being talked about or taught at home or in school, is Civic's or even the idea that we have a social responsibility to our home, community or Nation.

The Tribe, through its Social Service, Alcohol and Drug, and other agencies have been attempting to provide positive, healthy norms for the past 17 years. Now, the surrounding communities are beginning to look at and address these problems also. So there are plenty of opportunities for involvement.

HOW CAN THEY BE CHANGED?

Individual involvement in Siletz Valley, East, South or North County Partnerships would be a start. They need your involvement and assistance. Becoming concerned and aware. There are many agencies and groups out there to become involved with.

Next month I will supply a directory of organizations and groups that you can contact, or you can call the Lincoln County Partnership at 265-6905.

P R E V E N T I O N

