



Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services

Strategic Plan

2008- 2011

Mission

Our mission is: **Caring & Working Toward A Healthier Community**

Values

We value:

- **Prevention and promotion.** Strategies that prevent disease and promote healthy living in healthy environments lead to long term benefits for everyone.
- **Collaboration.** Community partnerships produce well-supported and cost-effective health outcomes by bringing people, resources, and organizations together.
- **Data-driven, science-based services.** Effective public health, mental health, and chemical dependency interventions depend on the best and most up-to-date research and information possible resulting in well-run programs that meet client needs
- **Social justice and diversity.** A healthy community recognizes that everyone's health matters equally, and that services and solutions must be accessible, affordable, and appropriate for all.
- **Skilled and innovative employees.** A well-trained, dedicated, and creative workforce is the foundation of our ability to assess and address the needs of our community.

Vision

“Caring for the community and the individual through exceptional service”

Strategic Initiative 1- Strengthening Health & Human Services Infrastructure

Improve the accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness of Health & Human Services through critical infrastructure enhancement.

Objectives:

- Achieve sustainable, flexible funding that supports ongoing core Health & Human Services functions and emerging issues
- Implement innovative media and computing technologies to improve internal and external communications, client service, and data management
- Create and sustain an organizational environment and workforce with a commitment to learning, cultural competency, healthy behaviors, ethical decision-making, and innovation
- Increase accountability through ongoing program evaluation and reporting to achieve greater compliance with state public health and human services standards
- Develop and update program policies and procedures that support efficient systems and manage risk
- Provide adequate facilities and equipment for continuous learning

Strategic Initiative 2- Responding to Health Threats

Ensure internal readiness to anticipate, recognize, and respond to infectious diseases and other public health threats, and fully engage other partners in their appropriate roles.

Objectives:

- Develop and update communicable disease reporting procedures including disease investigation protocols for all categories of disease
- Increase ability to respond to communicable disease outbreaks
- Integrate All-Hazards approach into routine laboratory notification protocol
- Update emergency response plan and conduct exercises
- Coordinate and assure communication resources

Strategic Initiative 3- Promoting Healthy Environments

Objectives:

- Protect the quality and quantity of our drinking water sources
- Increase availability of resources to assist property owners in meeting environmental public health standards
- Reduce exposure to food, air, and water-borne contaminants through prevention and education

Strategic Initiative 4- Improving Health Care Access

Collaborate with community partners and stakeholders to improve health care access and quality for all

Objectives:

- Increase health care access for those who are uninsured, under-insured, or underserved

- Support systems that allow primary care providers to continue services in Wahkiakum County

Strategic Initiative 5- Supporting Good Health

Launch and lead community-based health promotion initiatives that address every stage of life

Objectives:

- Promote community, home, and school environments that increase physical activity and healthy nutrition and reduce disease risk factors.
- Reduce spread of vaccine-preventable illnesses

Strategic Initiative 6- Supporting Healthy Lifestyles

Continue to launch and lead community-based promotion of healthy lifestyles for individuals and families

Objectives:

- Strengthen coalition collaboration to prevent and reduce substance abuse and violence in Wahkiakum County
- Implement a social norms initiative for youth and families at risk for substance abuse and violence
- Create prevention education for youth, parent/family education for prevention and direct service support for youth and families at risk for substance abuse and violence
- Reduce barriers to healthy lifestyles by providing transportation services to medical appointments, and other health-related services

Strategic Initiative 7- Community Outreach

Providing individuals and families with information regarding available services and programs

Objectives:

- Provide outreach to community members to assure they have adequate information about and access to health, housing, food, clothing and other relevant resources
- Decrease homelessness by 50% by 2015 through collaborative work with local, state, and federal funding sources
- Increase local low income affordable housing options by creatively utilizing state-mandated funding sources such as 2060 and 2163 funds

Strategic Initiative 8- Supporting Those with Special Needs (Developmental Disabilities)

Provide resources and support to those community residents with developmental disabilities

Objectives:

- Continue to implement the “Working Age Adult” policy as outlined by WA State DDD

- Build collaborative relations with schools and families to smoothly transition youth from school to work by age 21
- Broaden employment opportunities for differently-abled individuals through public/private projects such as the Elochoman Valley Partners, LLC

Strategic Initiative 9- Improving Mental Health

Help people with newly-diagnosed and long- term mental health problems adjust and maintain living in the community at their optimal level. Promote mental health through community prevention activities.

- Provide effective recovery-based support to individuals and families in their efforts to actively participate in their communities
- Increase opportunities for clients to provide voice or direction in service development or provision
- Increase efforts to decrease stigmatization by promoting efforts such as NAMI, Wahkiakum Clubhouse, and community education around mental health issues
- Broaden efforts to promote community inclusion through better employment , housing, healthcare, and transportation resources for clients
- Integrate prevention services with treatment

Approved by the Wahkiakum County Board of Health on this 24th day of June, 2008.

George Trott, Commissioner

Blair Brady, Commissioner

Dan Cothren, Commissioner

Judy Bright, ARNP, MPA
Director Health & Human Services