



## Prevention First Network

For years, substance abuse prevention programs throughout our nation have gained increasing support. However, when looking at the full continuum of care, prevention is often given a backseat.

PREVENTION FIRST is a paradigm, a mindset, a new vision! It's a proactive, comprehensive stance to showcase the importance of substance abuse prevention throughout West Virginia.

This statewide, universal approach provides a clear, consistent, and incredibly strong message to community members, lawmakers, and other key stakeholders that "prevention" is an integral part of the continuum of care. And, prevention is a critical component of any thriving community.

The goal of prevention is to prevent the onset of mental, emotional, behavioral, and substance use related problems. Services types include information dissemination, education, alternatives, problem ID and referral, community-based processes, and environmental strategies.

Two websites have been developed to promote the resources, services, events and trainings in our state related to substance abuse prevention. **Help & Hope WV** connects people to information, tools, directory of services, calendar of trainings, and events across the state. The **StigmaFree WV** site provides information about the types of stigma experienced by individuals with substance use disorder, stories of recovery, and how people can get involved.





## West Virginia Prevention First Regions

### REGION 1

*Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, Wetzel*

Contact: Lori Bumba

Youth Services System, Inc.

(304) 233-9627

[lori.impactov@gmail.com](mailto:lori.impactov@gmail.com)



In the northern panhandle of West Virginia, Youth Services System, Inc. serves as the WV Department of Health and Human Resources Bureau for Behavioral Health & Health Facilities Region 1 Substance Abuse Prevention Services Lead Organization. Youth Services System supports the efforts of the Northern Panhandle Prevention Consortium and the Partnerships for Success project as well as leads the way for the Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs throughout the region. The Northern Panhandle Prevention Consortium unites community substance abuse prevention coalitions in the five counties of the northern panhandle to collectively strengthen local efforts. Consortium membership consists of Brooke and Hancock Advocates for Substance Abuse Prevention, the Community Impact Coalition which serves Ohio County, Marshall County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition and the Wetzel County Coalition Against Drug Abuse. The Partnerships for Success project addresses prescription drug misuse and abuse in Hancock County and underage binge drinking in Brooke County, identified high-need counties in Region 1, by implementation of targeted comprehensive evidence-based prevention strategies in collaboration with the local coalition. In addition to collaborating with the local coalitions, Youth Services System coordinates the Region 1 Data and Planning Team where members assess local conditions, identify behavioral health resources and determine service gaps across the continuum.



## **REGION 2**

*Pendleton, Grant, Hardy, Mineral, Hampshire, Morgan, Jefferson, Berkeley*

Contact: Paige Mathias

Potomac Highlands Guild

304-703-7940

[paigem@potomachighlandsguild.com](mailto:paigem@potomachighlandsguild.com)

The Potomac Highlands Guild in Region 2 supports 7 county-based Substance Abuse Prevention Coalitions in Hampshire, Hardy, Grant, Pendleton, Mineral, Morgan, Jefferson, Berkeley counties under the WV SAPT Block Grant. Under the WV-PFS we provide a more focused approach to Underage Drinking Prevention in Jefferson County and Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention in Berkeley County.

Both programs provide evidence-based curricula implementation and engage our communities through community conversations, town hall events, social marketing material, trainings and alternative activities, such as, prescription drug take back days and parent support events.

## **REGION 3**

*Tyler, Pleasants, Wood, Ritchie, Jackson, Wirt, Roane, Calhoun*

Contact: Shelly Mize

Westbrook Health Services

304-485-1721

[smize@westbrookhealth.com](mailto:smize@westbrookhealth.com)

Westbrook Health Services, Region 3 in West Virginia is committed to improving the quality of life for youth in Calhoun, Jackson, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Tyler, Wirt, and Wood Counties. Prevention Coordinator Shelly Mize works daily to educate children and adults about substance abuse prevention and advocates for healthy lifestyle choices and opportunities in their community. For over a decade, she has educated children in Region 3 by bringing community members together to uplift and guide them. Westbrook Health Services provides a vast array of services and supports designed to better the lives of those we serve. Working with individuals, schools, and other non-profit organizations, Westbrook strives daily to empower people to reach their greatest potential.



#### **REGION 4**

*Monongalia, Preston, Marion, Doddridge, Harrison, Taylor, Barbour, Tucker, Gilmer, Lewis, Upshur, Randolph, Braxton*

Contact: Elizabeth Shahan

Harrison Co. FRN

304-423-5049

[harrisoncountyfrn@gmail.com](mailto:harrisoncountyfrn@gmail.com)

Region 4 Project SUCCESS stands for Strategically Uniting Community Coalitions & Empowering Substance-free Societies. It is a grassroots movement to empower citizens of West Virginia to combat the issue of substance abuse in their communities with awareness, education, and environmental changes.

#### **REGION 5**

*Mason, Putnam, Kanawha, Clay, Cabell, Wayne, Mingo, Logan, Lincoln, Boone*

Contact: Tim White

Pretera Center

304-525-7851

[Timothy.white@pretera.org](mailto:Timothy.white@pretera.org)

Tim White, Region 5 Prevention Coordinator, with the Pretera Center coordinates Prevention efforts in a ten county region which encompasses Boone, Cabell, Clay, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo, Putnam and Wayne Counties. Each of these counties have established, strong, grassroots coalitions that are engaged in providing resources a evidenced based resources to schools, churches and programs.

Each of the prevention coalitions also provide resources to educate and empower children, youth and young adults and senior adults about proper storage and disposal of unwanted, unused or expired prescription drugs.

Region 5 has established strong collaborative partnerships with schools, churches, universities, local, state and federal partners committed to establishing drug free communities throughout Region 5 and all of West Virginia.



## **REGION 6**

*Webster, Pocahontas, Nicholas, Fayette, Greenbrier, Raleigh, Summers, Monroe, Wyoming, Mercer, McDowell*

Contact: Kathrn Kandas

Community Connections

304-913-4956

[kathrn@strongcommunities.org](mailto:kathrn@strongcommunities.org)

Community Connections, Inc. (CCI), Region 6 in West Virginia, is dedicated to improving the lives of children and families in Fayette, Greenbrier, McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Raleigh, Summers, Webster, and Wyoming Counties. Founded in 1990 as an outgrowth of the Governor's Cabinet on Children and Families, the agency has continued to expand its mission for the development of community-driven initiatives that promote strong, healthy lifestyles. Since its inception, CCI has reached across invisible borders and boundaries and effectively leveraged its resources to fill the gaps in services where needed. CCI has initiated creative programming including: Camp Mariposa (a national prevention and mentoring program for youth who have been impacted by substance abuse in their families); Project Renew (to educate and provide proper protocol for first responders to administer Narcan); and multi-county regional education and awareness programming, as well as the support of vibrant WV-SADD Chapters. Additionally, CCI facilitates the Partnerships for Success Program in McDowell and Wyoming Counties, which decrease underage drinking and youth substance abuse and increase positive community norms.