

# The Prevention Management Organization of Wyoming Frequently Asked Questions

## **What is the mission of the PMO?**

Through collaboration and partnerships, the Prevention Management Organization of Wyoming is dedicated to strengthening the prevention efforts around alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, suicide and chronic disease.

## **What is the PMO preventing?**

Through research, data and valued partnerships, we empower our communities to steer their own prevention efforts surrounding suicide, chronic disease, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. With a dedicated team of community prevention professionals, we are committed to using effective strategies that are proven to change perceptions and behaviors.

## **How is the PMO organized?**

- A staff of 10 organizational leaders fulfill the communications, marketing and administrative duties from offices in Buffalo and Cheyenne.
- Four Community Prevention Managers (CPMs) – two who oversee alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and two who oversee suicide prevention – provide local strategic planning, community support and capacity building from base offices in Laramie, Buffalo, Casper and Kemmerer. A Director of Statewide Suicide Prevention provides leadership on suicide prevention efforts throughout Wyoming from a base office in Cody.
- The PMO has a total of 38 highly skilled and well-trained Community Prevention Professionals (CPPs) dedicated to work individually or in teams in their respective counties.

## **Who makes the decisions about prevention in each community?**

The PMO is committed to local, community-based decision making through active community coalitions. Community Prevention Professionals in each county are able to give key community stakeholders – law enforcement, health care providers, educators and local policy makers – the resources, tools and support they need to reach their prevention and wellness goals through policies and programs that are proven to work.

## **How do coalitions know what issues to address?**

In 2012, coalitions in every Wyoming county completed one of the most extensive and comprehensive Prevention Needs Assessments assembled in the country. Local coalitions strategically assessed quantitative data provided by local, state and federal agencies, including law enforcement, health care and educational institutions, coroners, the Wyoming Department of Health and the U.S. Census Bureau, among others. CPPs provided leadership to solicit input from community members-at-large, collecting qualitative data through town hall meetings and other community-wide meetings. The Prevention Needs Assessment is a living document that is updated on a yearly basis.

## **What prevention work is being done in each community?**

The PMO staff is committed to utilizing only those prevention strategies that have been proven to work, a commitment called “best practices.” Working with our active community partners and coalitions, each community has embarked on a strategic plan that specifically targets alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, suicide prevention and chronic disease issues identified by community stakeholders through the comprehensive Prevention Needs Assessment.

## **Certainly the local communities can't do it all on their own?**

No single strategy exists to solve Wyoming's problems with the misuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, the tragedy of suicide or the growing concerns of chronic disease. And no single entity can provide the resources needed to accomplish all prevention goals. The PMO believes a comprehensive approach to prevention is best. Although our primary focus is support of local community initiatives, the PMO also collaborates closely with many state and national organizations including, but not limited to:

- **Wyoming Department of Health, Public Health Division**
- **Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police (WASCOP)**
- **The Wyoming Department of Revenue, State Liquor Division**
- **Wyoming Statistical Analysis Center (WYSAC)**
- **Wyoming Suicide Prevention Advisory Council (WYSPAC)**
- **Wyoming Prescription Drug Abuse Stakeholders (WRAS)**
- **American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP)**
- **American Association of Suicidology (AAS)**

