

Wahkiakum Youth Leadership Initiative

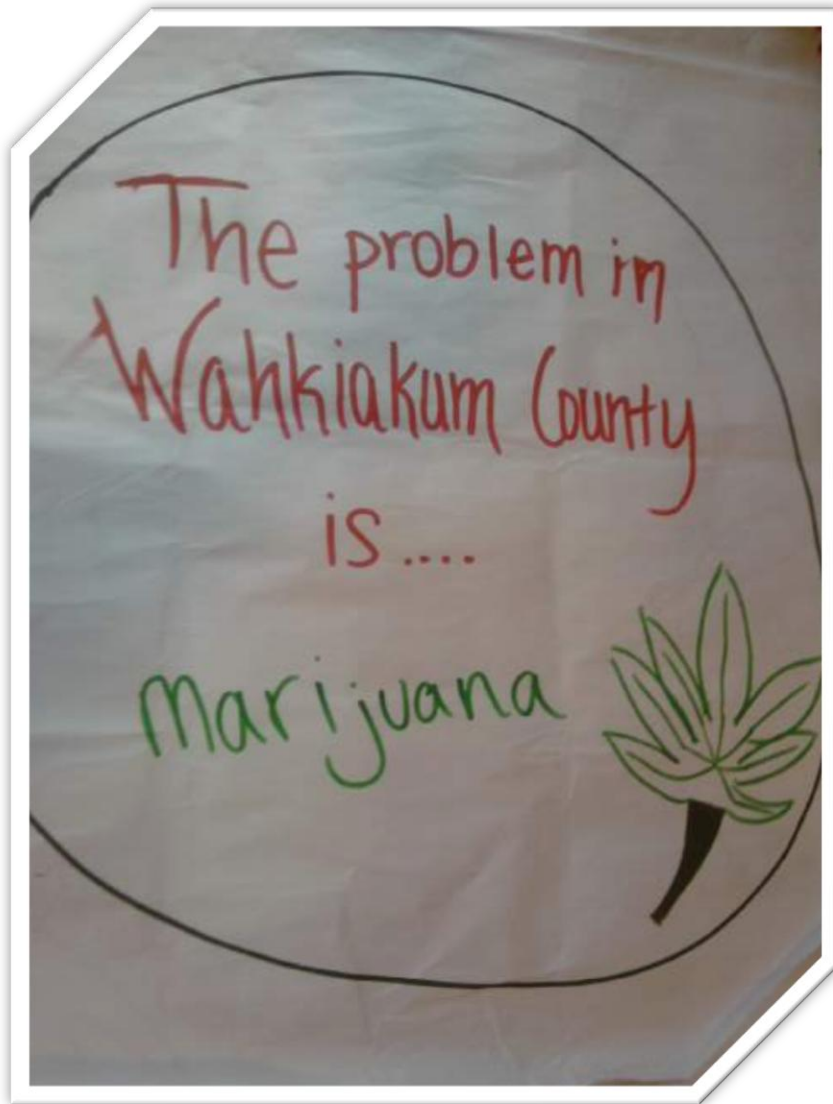
- Encourages students to examine community needs
- Provides formal training on how to address those concerns
- Focus's on improving the lives of youth and families



Youth members who received formal training from the National Youth Leadership Forum in July 2011:

- *Amy Gawith*
- *Ashley Silva*
- *Austin Smith*
- *Brianne Helms*
- *Chelsea Paulsen*
- *Keith Reitz*
- *Maya Stanley*
- *Taryn Peterson*





Youth selected student marijuana use as their #1 concern, stating there is still work to be done to address this problem...

But why?

Weed - why is it such a problem in Naselle and Wahkiakum School Districts?

1 Small Town - Teachers want to be friends w/students and teachers are friends w/parents - it prevents them from being a "teacher" when they want to be a friend.

2 Peer pressure to fit in

3 Lack of knowledge of the negative affects of marijuana

4 Easy to get

5 Students don't know how to cope with their stress

6 Family influence and norms around marijuana

7 Media attention has increased on making it legal - deflating the importance of abstaining from use

8 Appears to be no punishment or consequences

Why isn't it being addressed in school?

1 Lack of Enforcement

1.1 Staff not enforcing new drug policy change yet

Teachers and staff are choosing to ignore students who come to class high and/or turn a blind eye to avoid dealing with it

1.2

2 Adults don't know how to deal with the issue

2.1 Top administrators want and/or need more training on what to do and what they can do

2.2 Staff is afraid of losing relationships with students and parents of students (small community)

*Did you know...
safety, absenteeism,
dropout rate, tardiness,
productivity and work
quality are significant
outcomes for
marijuana-using
students and their
respective schools?*

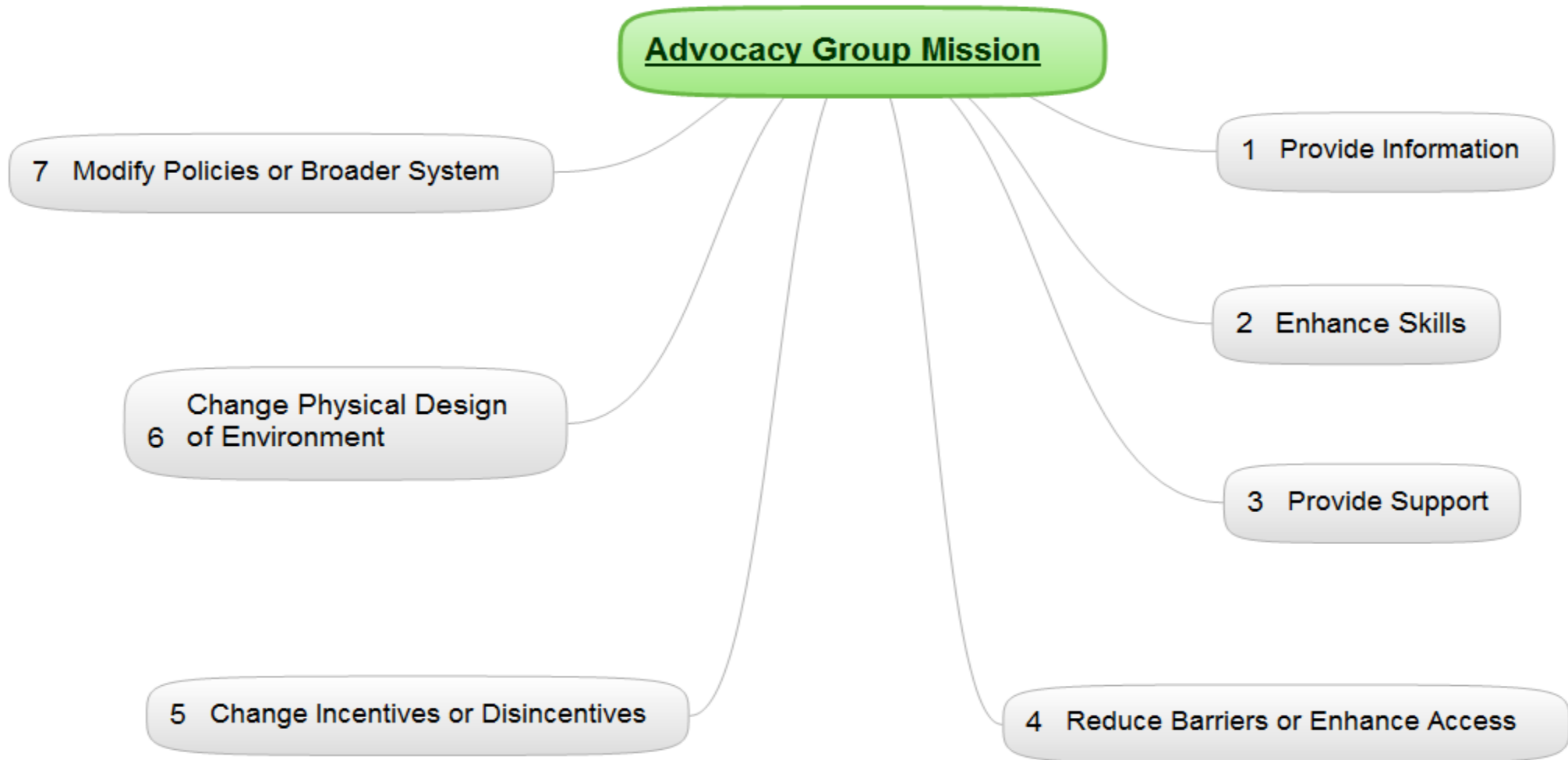
But why here?

What can we do about it?

Action: Create an advocacy group between the students and staff to talk about and be ready to address current
1 issues like marijuana

Our advocacy group members would consist of the school principal, superintendent, teacher representative, coaching staff, counseling staff and student body.

What Will The Group's Focus Be?



Teacher and student presentations... new drug testing policy... education



1 Provide Information

- 1.1 Provide information to staff about adequate punishment and current policy

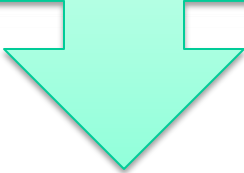


2 Enhance Skills

2.1 Provide training opportunities to staff and parents about how to detect and deal with marijuana use

*Signs that a youth may be using marijuana are:
apathy, disrespect, and disinterest in activities, lower grades, frequent mood changes, depression, and isolation from the family*

National data suggests that of those youth in drug treatment, 68% are there for marijuana use. In 2009, 830,000 youth displayed characteristics of marijuana addiction.



3 Provide Support

3.1 Increase counseling opportunities at school

4 Reduce Barriers or Enhance Access

4.1 Student and staff advocacy group to talk about school issues



5.1 Review school policy for using marijuana at school and increase enforcement of current policies

5 Change Incentives or Disincentives



**USE/POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL
AND ILLEGAL DRUGS**

Students are prohibited from possessing, being under the influence of, or using alcohol or illegal drugs while they are in school, on school grounds, or at any school sponsored activity.

Students suspected of violating this policy will also be disciplined. All offenses listed below include confiscation and notification of law enforcement. Any use of prescribed drugs that are not disbursed by the office is considered illegal use of drugs.

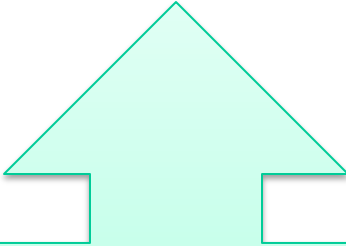
6.1 Advertise new policies throughout school including student posters

6 Change Physical Design of Environment

Broaden communication to students and staff why marijuana affects the student body. Simply suspension isn't enough of a deterrent

7.1

7 Modify Policies or Broader System



ASK YOURSELF: *With increased potency, reduced safety, absenteeism, dropout rates, tardiness, productivity, work quality and learning skills such as problem solving, concentration, motivation and memory, do you think marijuana is a positive factor for our students?*

Advocacy Group – The Overall Workplan

