

## Join Our Collaborative Effort for Community Well-being

The South County Harm Reduction (SCHR) Table, facilitated by the Jefferson County Behavioral Health Consortium (BHC), is a table of diverse stakeholders—spanning health institutions, mental health services, local hospitals, therapeutic courts, substance use counseling, emergency services, and law enforcement—united with a singular mission: to enhance the health and safety of our communities.

For three years, relevant BHC Members have been meeting monthly with key figures from South County, including school superintendents from Brinnon and Quilcene, EMS representatives, and the Sheriff. Our aim? To forge a safer, healthier future for our communities through dedicated efforts in harm reduction.

### What is Harm Reduction?

Harm reduction (HR) is the SCHR table's guiding principle. We are implementing strategies to minimize health and social risks, embracing a range of safe practices from wearing seat belts and bike helmets to broader public health initiatives like ensuring Naloxone, a life-saving medication that can reverse opioid overdose, is available throughout South County. Harm reduction is about saving lives, curbing the spread of illness, and supporting those in need.

### Partnership for Progress

Our achievements are a testament to what we can accomplish together:

- **Empowered Teens Coalition** In collaboration with Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH), we've fostered strong partnerships with local schools, nurturing a generation that's informed, resilient, and empowered.
- **School-Based Health Centers** With the support of JCPH and Jefferson Healthcare, the Quilcene School District now boasts a health center right on campus, ensuring our children have access to the care they need.
- **Mobile Counseling Services** Believe in Recovery extends the reach of substance use counseling to the far corners of Quilcene and Brinnon, bringing hope and healing on wheels.
- **Comprehensive Training** Through workshops and training sessions, we're raising awareness and understanding of harm reduction strategies among school staff, healthcare professionals, and first responders.
- **Naloxone Boxes Deployment** Life-saving naloxone boxes have been strategically placed across key locations, ready to save lives in the face of overdose emergencies.
- **Community Health Mobile Services** The upcoming launch of a JCPH mobile van is projected to begin offering services once a week in late Spring, bridging the transportation gap with potential services from wound care to health screenings to those most in need.

- **Policy and Awareness Campaigns** We're driving change, advocating for policies and practices that support harm reduction, fostering a community that's informed, compassionate, and safe.

#### **What Can You Do?**

- **Get involved:** Attend the SCHR quarterly meeting; be aware of Naloxone supply box locations;
- **Sponsor /Provide Spaces:** Help us raise awareness and provide Harm Reduction education.
- **Utilize networks:** Leverage your influence to advocate for supportive policies and practices.

#### **Get Involved:**

We value your input and invite you to join us in making Jefferson County a safer, healthier place. For more details or to participate in an upcoming meeting:

*Contact: [Lori Fleming – 206.714.1925 - will have email once we get a BHC website set up]*