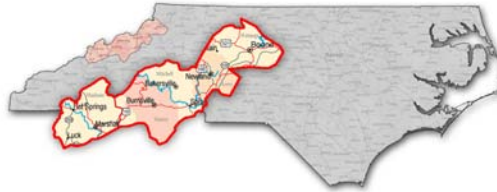


Now successfully strengthening substance abuse prevention initiatives in these seven counties, the Coalition has the experience, initiative and purpose to expand to the greater **Far West North Carolina Coalition for Safe and Drug-Free Communities**. This second

region for expansion follows the same configuration as that of the North Carolina Judicial District 24 which includes the following counties: Avery, Madison, Mitchell, Watauga and Yancey.

Project boundaries consistent with the Judicial District, enables and facilitates collaboration among law enforcement agencies, members of the North Carolina Senate and House of Representatives, school districts, health departments, and mental health services as well as court systems.

Still in the early stages of planning is the next regional coalition in Western North Carolina, the **Central West North Carolina Coalition for Safe and Drug-Free Communities**. This regional initiative will follow the same planning and implementation guidelines as the Western and Far West Coalitions. The Central West Coalition will encompass the following counties: Buncombe, Henderson, Polk, Rutherford, Cleveland, Burke, McDowell, Caldwell, Catawba, Lincoln, and Gaston. When fully implemented the Central West Coalition will be the final piece of the Western Alliance for Safe and Drug-Free Communities. Then each county in the western part of the state will have representation in and receive support from a regional coalition which in turn will be part of the greater Alliance.



Membership on the Advisory Board for the Alliance shall include such additional representatives of the "12 Sectors" of the community, approved by the Board of Director to include: State Government Elected Representatives, Federal Government Elected Representatives, U.S. National Guard, District Attorney



Western Alliance for Safe and Drug-Free Communities

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Western Alliance
for
Safe and Drug-Free
Communities



Western Alliance for Safe and Drug-Free Communities

The VISION of the **Alliance** is to promote safe and drug-free communities throughout Western North Carolina.

The MISSION of the **Alliance** is to support and coordinate community efforts to reduce substance abuse among children and their families through prevention.



Today's youth is the future of tomorrow

The **Alliance** BELIEVES

- Evidence-based prevention programs are effective.
- Investing resources in prevention is more cost-effective than incurring healthcare costs or incarceration.

- Every individual in Western North Carolina has the right to information about and treatment for substance abuse.
- There must be ongoing education programs in all schools to insure our children properly understand the risk of alcohol, tobacco and drug use.
- Every individual in Western North Carolina must be educated on the subject of alcohol, tobacco and drug abuse.
- Every individual in Western North Carolina must be educated on the Federal, State, and local laws and regulations addressing controlled substances and understand the repercussions of breaking those laws and regulations.
- Nothing less than a total community effort to address substance abuse will be effective.

The goals of the Drug-Free Community Support Program of the **Western Alliance for Safe and Drug-Free Communities** are:

- Reduce substance abuse among youth and over time among adults.
- Establish and strengthen collaboration among communities, private nonprofit agencies, Federal, State, local and tribal governments.

The Goals of the **Western Alliance for Safe and Drug-Free Communities** address the Four Core Measures of the Drug-Free Community Support Program:

- Age of onset of any drug use
- Frequency of use in the past 30 days
- Perception of risk or harm
- Perception of disapproval of use by peers, parents and other adults

History of the Alliance—In 2004, citizens in Clay County, North Carolina, got together to share concerns about what was believed to be a serious substance abuse problem and their willingness to become part of a solution. These individuals represented the broad spectrum of the community and was the beginning of the Coalition for a Safe and Drug-Free Clay County.

Just a few months into its first year, the Coalition had addressed all and met many of its objectives with data showing an upturn in the perception of risk or harm in the use of drugs and a downturn in the use of drugs among the youth in Clay County. Substance abuse affects everyone in the community; therefore, everyone must be involved in addressing the problem. In an effort to combat this vicious enemy of the family and community, initiatives were put into place in the schools,

churches, businesses, communities, and homes, thereby fortifying all stakeholders in the community. The Clay County Coalition believes that by fortifying all stakeholders with information and the means for implementing prevention activity within a variety of community sectors, a realistic decrease in substance abuse behavior will be achieved in the short term, and continued decrease expected through on-going intervention.

One objective of the Strategic Plan for the Coalition was to introduce substance abuse prevention initiatives into neighboring communities. In 2006, the **Western North Carolina Coalition for Safe and Drug-Free Communities** was developed with representation from each of seven counties (Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Swain, Macon, Haywood, and Jackson) of the western region of North Carolina. Later Transylvania County became part of this regional initiative.



It was believed early on that each community had the interest to develop a Drug-Free Community Program, but needed a jump start from a successful and operational program to help secure capable leadership to develop a local group of community stakeholders and to initiate programs. Once started, each community began to develop their own unique strategies