



EDUCATION CITATION PROGRAM

Deputy Paul Wolfe
Skagit County Sheriff's Office

Danika Troupe, CHES
United General District 304

Scenario:

A group of five
Skagit County 16-
year-olds are
drinking in the
woods.

Would you rather...

A) Kids get caught by
Police and receive a
minor in possession
(MIP) misdemeanor

B) Kids get caught by
police but do NOT
receive an MIP

What are the Pros/Cons?

What we know....

- 1) ~30% of Skagit teens reported drinking in the last 30 days*
- 2) Nearly 20% of Skagit teens reported drinking and driving OR riding in a car with a driver who had been drinking*

*Healthy Youth Survey 2016

- 3) Underage alcohol and marijuana use are associated with a myriad of social and health problems
- 4) Early contact with criminal justice system has an adverse impact on young people's lives



Program Background

In response to a high drinking rates in East County, United General was awarded a grant in 2016 from the Washington Traffic Safety Commission to:

- Conduct Party Intervention Patrols (PIPs)
 - Emphasis Patrols to intercept underage parties and provide Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) to minors
- Many concerns arose about the feasibility and equitability of the PIP program
- Overtime, the project developed into the ECP



The Education Citation Program Solution

- Instead of citing a minor (under 21) with a criminal offense, at the point of contact with a minor, a Law Enforcement Officer can offer an “Education Citation” in lieu of an MIP (alcohol or marijuana)
- Education Citation connects students to 3 hours of education at either:
 - a) Their school or school district with a student assistance counselor or prevention-intervention specialist
 - b) Catholic Community Services (18 - 20 year olds)



The Education Citation Program Solution

- If all 3 hours are completed, no referral is made to the Courts
- If classes are not completed, minor is referred to the Courts for an MIP
- This option is available only one time! If caught again, a student will be referred for an MIP to the Courts



Who benefits in this system?

- **Minors** - get a chance to get connected to a caring adult in their community, receive education, and have a chance to *learn* from their mistake - they can move on with their lives without a criminal record
- **Families** - don't have to worry about getting their child to court
- **Courts** - Saves time
- **Tax Payers** - Saves money
- **Law Enforcement** - Very positive experience, and saves time!
- **School Counselors** - get a chance to meet with kids who need their help



Who is (currently) participating?

Law Enforcement

- Skagit County Sheriff's Office
- Sedro-Woolley Police Department
- Anacortes Police Department
- Mount Vernon Police Department

Treatment

- Catholic Community Services

Schools

- Concrete School District
- Burlington School District
- Anacortes School District
- Mount Vernon School District
- Sedro-Woolley School District (pending)
- La Conner School District



Where are we now?

- Full year of implementation for evaluation
- Developing sustainability plan
- Needs/Gaps
 - Burlington Police Department
 - Anacortes School District
- Web-based learning/Curriculum training



Education Citation Program

Questions?

Contact Information:

Danika.Troupe@unitedgeneral.org | 360-854-7175

paulw@co.skagit.wa.us