

WISE* in Oregon



Picture 1

How WISE Came to Be

Early in 2009, several partners met to collaboratively apply for a grant opportunity "Working to Institutionalize Sex Education" from the Grove and Packard Foundations. At the time, HB 2509, legislation to require all public school districts to provide students with medically-accurate, age-appropriate sexuality education, was moving through the legislative process. Passage of this important bill seemed likely and the "WISE Team" wanted to

be able to support schools and districts that were ready and willing to insure their students received quality, comprehensive sexuality education. HB 2509 did pass and the WISE Team wrote a successful proposal. This allows us to help you, our local grantees, as you work to support and promote the health of Oregon youth through improved sex ed.



Picture 2

WISE in Oregon Grantees

The following districts are the first WISE Grantees.

- ☆ Clatskanie
- ☆ Sheridan
- ☆ St. Helens
- ☆ Tigard/Tualatin
- ☆ Willamina
- ☆ Woodburn

In this newsletter, there are images from each of the districts – can you match the image to the district?

WISE in Oregon
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Newsletter Submissions

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Picture 3

Picture 4





Picture 5

Where are the youth hangout spots in your district? Send photos for the next newsletter to jessica.duke@state.or.us.

Who is the WISEest of them all?

Who is really WISE in Oregon? Other than the schools and districts we are working with, the folks on the WISE Team are. As mentioned above, WISE is a collaborative project in the truest sense. Here are the active WISE Team members, in no particular order:

- Brad Victor, Oregon Department of Education
- Mary Gossart, Planned Parenthood Southwestern Oregon
- Kris Gowen, Portland State University
- Kari Stuhmer, Healthy Kids Learn Better Cadre
- Gina Farrell, Planned Parenthood Columbia-Willamette
- Shelagh Johnson, Cascade AIDS Project
- Jess Bogli, Bogli Consulting
- LeeAnn Phillips, Portland State University
- Camelia Hison, Planned Parenthood Columbia-Willamette
- Lawrence Piper, Oregon Department of Human Services
- Bill Baney, Portland State University
- Molly Franks, Multnomah County Health Department
- Jessica Duke, Oregon Public Health Division

Grantees should feel free to contact any member of the team for support!

What will WISE dollars support?

Funding from the WISE Grant can be used in many ways. Here is a short list -

Training ~ Most of the funding will support training for administrators, teachers and other school officials. By the end of the grant period, most WISE districts will have participated in Standards and Assessment, Mapping and Alignment and HECAT (Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool) training. These trainings allow each district to pick the most appropriate comprehensive sex ed curriculum for their students. WISE funds can also be used to support training on specific curriculum.

School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) ~ The more knowledge and understanding the broader school community has on the value of sexuality education, the easier it is for schools to provide sex ed. WISE funds can be used to help organize a new SHAC or enhance an existing SHAC.

Community Meetings ~ Is your community concerned about sexuality education in schools? (We have yet to find a community that isn't!) Are parents and others worried about what students are learning? WISE funds can be used to support facilitated community forums to increase support for sex ed.



Picture 6

We would like to use this newsletter as a way for WISE districts to keep abreast of WISE activities and learn about special WISE projects. We would be happy to share information and stories about what is going on in your district. Send newsletter submissions to jessica.duke@state.or.us.

Upcoming Activities

Let's Get Healthy Fair

March 12

St. Helens Middle School

Standards & Assessment Training

March 30 & 31

Clatskanie School District

Sheridan School District

April 21 & 22

Woodburn School District

Mapping & Alignment Training

April 7

Sheridan School District

April 21

Clatskanie School District

Adolescent Sexuality Conference

April 13 – 14, Seaside. All WISE

Grantees are invited to attend. Information at

www.oregon-asc.org

PICTURE ANSWERS

Picture 1 – Tigard/Tualatin
Picture 2 – Willamina
Picture 3 – Woodburn
Picture 4 – Clatskanie
Picture 5 – Sheridan
Picture 6 – St. Helens

WISE in other states

There are WISE grantees in seven states. Oregon is joined by our neighbors to the north and south, Washington and California, as well as Colorado, Iowa, Georgia and New York. Washington, Iowa and Colorado are all doing assessments of how/if school districts provide comprehensive sexuality education. California and Georgia are concentrating their efforts in specific school districts. Georgia has tied its WISE work to an anti-poverty campaign. In New York, Rochester City Schools are using WISE funds to develop a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum specifically for grades 4 – 6.

All states will share their lessons learned and final products with one another. The WISE Team looks forward to learning from partners across the country.

Evaluating WISE Efforts

One reason Oregon received the WISE grant was because we had a strong evaluation component. The WISE Team thanks every WISE district for participating in the evaluation process. We recognize that answering all of our questions can be a chore. Through evaluation, we hope to better understand each districts' "starting point" in implementing comprehensive sex ed and how far districts will "move" towards providing quality sex ed during the grant period. We're confident that all of our "first year" districts will make great strides.

Flash Back

YouTube is a treasure trove of old sex ed films. Sex Education for Girls (Parts 1 & 2) is a definite slice of time. While the gender roles may seem more rigid than what we have in today's world, the film does show parents, teachers and other adults being supportive of youth. When youth have involved adults in their lives, they are likely to make healthier decisions about their sexuality. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtIh8EF6QH8>



Resources

The **Oregon Youth Sexual Health Plan**, which puts youth at the center of making decisions around healthy sexuality, will help you frame your discussions on sexuality education with your community.

The Rational Enquirer, published right here in Oregon, is an annual publication on youth sexual health. This magazine can be used in high school classes to spark discussions about healthy sexuality. Youth contribute to The Rational Enquirer every year.

The Oregon Youth Sexual Health Plan is available at <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/children/teens/tpp/yhsp-021109.pdf>

Past Issues of The Rational Enquirer are available at <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ah/re/re.shtml>

Print copies of the Plan and the 2009 Rational Enquirer are available now. The 2010 Rational Enquirer will be released mid-April. Contact Jessica Duke for copies of any of these publications. jessica.duke@state.or.us

School District Spotlight

Please submit your school district's story for inclusion in the next WISE Newsletter. We want to feature what YOU are doing to support comprehensive sexuality education. Submit your story to Jessica Duke jessica.duke@state.or.us.

