



## Wasco County Supports the Passage of HB 3321

Wasco County is excited that the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission (ADPC) is in a unique position to engage in developing a strategic plan regarding Youth Substance Use across the continuum. HB 3321 highlights the first and most critical element of the continuum is **prevention**, we appreciate the Co-Chairs taking time to listen to the many partners.

Prevention must include an investment in a trained and certified workforce specializing in the science of prevention. This workforce has been under resourced for years, and we have reaped the outcome of the disinvestment. It is critical that counties have the opportunity to work closely with the ADPC to ensure each county can maximize the impact at the local level.

Youth with Substance Use Disorders (SUD) are overrepresented in the juvenile justice system, and juvenile justice is not adequately funded or designed to provide treatment. Our system relies on community partners and services providers, which there are not enough treatment options available. The costly result of the lack of services is heightened incarceration both at the local and state level.

Young adults who then enter recovery often say they wish services were available before they experienced the harms of substance use. HB 3321 defines prevention in ways that allow youth to continue to be impacted through prevention services from universal through indicated prevention, increasing intensity and basic intervention for youth to enter recovery as any point.

Wasco County Youth Services stands ready to assist and participate with the ADPC as they move forward with the statewide assessment and focus on Youth SUD. Wasco County Youth Services recommends and requests support for HB 3321.

*Submitted by, Molly Rogers, Director*

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*Date*