"Currently our County’s teen pregnancy rate is 1:31. Though our rates are slowly getting better we know that our numbers are still more than twice as high as the state and national average. I believe this is because many teens don’t know about the resources that are available to them and not all of our schools are teaching comprehensive sexual health education nor do they give out the information for where teens can go and find the right resources."

-Ximena YLC Member

As I write this, COVID-19 continues to move across Okanogan County. Our geographically large and very rural community is, like much of our country, struggling to find common ground on a public health issue that has turned political. The parallels between our response to this pandemic and our response to comprehensive sex ed adoption are not lost on me.

Comprehensive sexual health has become a highly contentious issue in our state. The passing of the Mandatory Sexual Health Bill 5395 and the subsequent referendum have once again highlighted a deep divide in our communities. However, despite these contentious issues, it has been incredible to see how Room One and the Okanogan Healthy Youth team have faced difficult situations with integrity, dedication, and compassion for those on all sides of this issue.

It’s unfortunate that the end of our grant came at the influx of this pandemic, halting many of our plans and making it difficult to create closure. This is why, in addition to the Spokane Regional Health report on our Healthy Youth Collaborative, I felt it necessary to document the history of this grant and share our thoughts on moving forward. COVID, will unfortunately, determine our future in unknown ways, but rest assured we are dedicated to the same values that we started with five years ago: the health and wellbeing for young people in our county and the Methow Valley.

Thank you to all the people that carried this flame before us, the stakeholders and community partners that walked alongside us, and the amazing young people who continue to remind us of how very high the stakes are, but also how incredibly powerful this work can be.

Caitlin Cordell
Okanogan Healthy Youth | Program Manager
Overview of Funding and County Work

Five Year Income Dedicated to OHY Programming

- Office of Population Affairs (91.55%)
- Cardea (1.07%)
- Burning Foundation (7.38%)

Okanogan Countywide Map of Partnerships

- *Oroville
- *Tonasket
- *Omak
- *Okanogan
- *Methow Valley
- *Brewster
- *Pateros
- *Bridgeport
- *Nespelem

YLC members
Strong relationships with Sr. High Administration and Teachers, YLC members
YLC members, started conversation with curriculum director
YLC members, Juvenile Detention girls groups and sexual health
YLC members, Summer Native Youth Employment Program

Get Real 6th, 7th & 8th Grades
Get Real 7th & 8th Grades
All4You2
Get Real 6th, 7th & 8th LB Jr. Sr. Girls and Gender Non Conforming programming
FLASH 6th, 9th Gay Straight Alliance Native Voices ILC 9th-12th Social & Emotional Committee

Five Year Income Dedicated to OHY Programming

- $859,096.50
- $10,000.00
- $69,250.00

Office of Population Affairs (91.55%)
Cardea (1.07%)
Burning Foundation (7.38%)
Starting in 1998 Room One and the Methow Valley School District (MVSD) have partnered to provide sexual health and healthy relationships courses to students at Liberty Bell Senior High and the Independent Learning Center. Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) has been a keystone goal for Room One since the organization's inception and in 2015 our TPP work greatly expanded when we joined the Inland Northwest Healthy Youth Collaborative convened by Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and Northern Idaho (PPGWN) to apply for the Federal Grant “Replicating Evidence-based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs to Scale in Communities with the Greatest Need.” The Office of Adolescent Health under the Obama Administration awarded the Collaborative the grant, thereby allowing Room One to scale up teen pregnancy prevention dramatically across the county. Delays in receiving this funding due to the 2016 Presidential transition led to a cash carry over that now makes up some of our program's reserve.

In 2014, Okanogan County pregnancy rates for 15-19 year olds was 58 per 1,000 equating to approximately 1:20. Only two schools in the county were teaching evidence-based sexual health and MVSD was the only one teaching a comprehensive curriculum in compliance with the WA state Health Youth Act standards. The goal in the first year of the Okanogan Healthy Youth program was to bring partners together to strategize ways to implement comprehensive evidence-based curricula to Okanogan County schools.

Year Accomplishments

- 40 evidence-based, scientifically accurate sexual health education classes at Liberty Bell Jr./Sr. in 7th-12th (FLASH & KNOW).

  100% of students said that it’s not ok for someone to pressure you into having sex even if they are your boy/girlfriend, compared with 87% on the pre-evaluation

- 19 girls served in 6th grade, Jr. High, & Sr. High longitudinal girls groups.
- Community Advisory Group formed, including members from: Juvenile Detention, Family Empowerment, Family Health Centers, School Nurses (Pateros, MVSD), Pateros Brewster Community Resource Center, Public Health, Confluence Health, and DSHS.
- Organized a FLASH curriculum and sexual health education best practices half-day training for 4th-6th grade teachers.

"I strongly believe comprehensive sex ed will help my child make better decisions for himself and how he treats others and will ultimately be compounded as this generation enters adulthood sharing a common language."
— MVSD parent
Room One Girls and Gender Non-Conforming Groups aim to see the whole girl/young person and to provide a safe, confidential space for them to share their struggles, build community, and work towards resiliency and self advocacy. While girls programming has been facilitated by Room One staff as early as 2011, in this report we highlight girls programming that happened during the OHY federal grant term.

Program Staff: Adrienne Moore (Room One) and Hanna Sands of Methow Elementary  
Total Girls Served: 15  |  Average Attendance: 7  
Summary: Met once a week for six weeks. Activities consisted of check ins, discussions and activities with the goal of building girls’ ability to reduce stress and promote healthy relationships and behaviors.

Program Staff: Ellen Dungy  
Total Girls Served: 33  |  Average Attendance: 8  
Summary: Educational workshops, stress reduction skill building, healthy behavior and healthy relationship conversation

Total Girls Served: 23  |  Average Attendance: 5  
Summary: Educational workshops, stress reduction skill building, healthy behavior and healthy relationship conversation

Total Girls Served: 200  |  Average Attendance: 4  
Summary: Healthy relationships and healthy coping skills, personal identity story sharing, art and creative work, journal prompts, resource cultivation, reproductive education and advocacy.  
*Note: Staff offered a Girls on the Outs group after release from JD, but attendance did not follow the interest voiced in the group while in detention.*

**Independent Learning Center Girls and Gender Nonconforming Crash Lab (2019-2020)**
Program Staff: Caitlin Cordell & Keri Moore  
Total Girls Served: 15  |  Average Attendance: 15  
Summary: (3) Three week mini-series with themes on self-defense, media and internet safety, healthy relationships, personal rights, and zoom online hangouts—including movie watching, yoga classes, and cooking.

**LESSONS LEARNED:**
- During the last two years of the Sr. High group were challenging, and questions arose whether the longitudinal group approach was inclusive and reaching the students who could benefit most.  
- Amount of time together made a difference. Girl’s groups at Liberty Bell were often rushed during advisory, while the ILC and JD groups had 1.5 hrs-leading to more in-depth relationship building.  
- Communication between Room One staff and partners about resources, curricula expectations, partner protocols for behavior, and check-ins led to better groups and coordination of supports.  
- Participants’ trust in Room One Staff was very high and was a major factor for their satisfaction in the groups.

**POSITIVE OUTCOMES:**
- 2016-2017 & 2017-2018 end of year reports noted that for all MVSD Girls Groups 100% of participants reported an increased ability to: build positive relationships, communicate effectively, make positive decisions for themselves, recognize unhealthy patterns among their peers, and connect better to positive adults, friends, and family.  
- Girls Groups at Juvenile Detention led to numerous resource connections between Room One staff and the girls once they had left detention, such as medical care, housing and food.  
- After the ILC Crash Lab 100% of participants had a better ability to see the warning signs of an unhealthy or abusive relationship, understood the ways that gender stereotypes are reinforced and had stronger confidence in using their voice or body to help them get out of an unsafe situation.
Year two was the growing year for Room One. Two new staff were hired (Madeline Naumann and Ellen Dungy) multiple evidence-based interventions were piloted at schools across the county, partnerships expanded, and the Youth Leadership Council was formed.

One of the challenges of working within the guidelines of the Office of Adolescent Health (later renamed the Office of Population Affairs) grant was the limited list of evidence-based interventions (EBI) that Room One educators could use in order to get school stipends and count student participation. In year two, Room One staff tried a number of different curricula to see which interventions worked the best. These curricula included:

- **Project AIM (Adult Identity Mentoring):** 12 sessions, focus population Latinx and African American students
- **All4You2!:** 15 sessions, focus population alternative school students
- **SHARP (Sexual Health and Adolescent Risk Prevention):** 1 four-hour session, focus population high risk youth in detention settings
- **Get Real:** 9 sessions in each sequential grade from 6th-10th grade, focus population public school.

Even if some of these curricula aligned with EBI standards, many of them were not highly ranked by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). This meant that it was difficult for Room One to advocate for their implementation, knowing that the curricula were not of the best quality. Get Real ended up being one of the only curricula that was highly ranked by OSPI, met the standards for the Healthy Youth Act and was an EBI. Unfortunately, it was hard for schools in more conservative districts to adopt because Planned Parenthood funded the research and development of the curriculum.

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**Year Accomplishments**

- 330 students received comprehensive, medically accurate, evidence-based curricula. Schools and partners included: Pateros, Brewster, Liberty Bell Jr High, Independent Learning Center, Paschal Sherman Indian School, Juvenile Detention and the Boys and Girls Club of Brewster.
- 620 unduplicated students received sexual health workshops. Participating schools and programs included: Oroville Schools, Okanogan Middle School, Colville Confederated Tribes Youth Development Program, Methow Valley School District.
- Re-established the Gay Straight Alliance at Liberty Bell Sr. High.
- Created the popular "Know Your Rights" booklets to help inform youth of their reproductive healthcare rights.
- Facilitated the Social and Emotional Health Committee which helped the Methow Valley School District adopt a Comprehensive Sexual Health policy.
- 5 comprehensive sexual health trainings for youth on probation.

“[The most valuable part of the class was] learning things I never knew before. We had fun in class with no judgement from others. Great Class!”
- ILC student
Created in 2016, the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) is working towards a rural community where every young person has access to factual, non-judgmental education and services that respect their unique and powerful identities. Youth from across Okanogan County are provided a space to speak about community challenges surrounding health equity and unintended pregnancy, and form strategies to integrate comprehensive inclusive sexual health into schools.

Program Elements:
- Youth ages 13-19 participate in monthly evening meetings located in Omak at the Family Health Centers.
- Stipends of $50 are paid for meeting participation and mileage is reimbursed.
- Dinner is always provided.
- Meetings include learning and strategy. Themes have included: community organizing, healthcare rights, racial justice, reproductive justice, lobbying 101, personal identity.

Program Highlights:

"I decided to join the YLC because I became witness to the devasting affects that the lack of comprehensive sex ed has on young people in Okanogan County. I have received more education regarding sexual health and healthy relationships during my time in the YLC than I have in my 10 years of public education, and I have been able to spread that knowledge among my peers. The YLC has changed my life and it will continue to change the lives of every young person in Okanogan County."
- McKenna YLC Member

"The most important thing the YLC does for Okanogan County is spread awareness, knowledge, and acceptance. The YLC strives to create an environment where everyone feels safe enough to ask for the information and help they need from their peers and friends that they aren’t receiving at school or even at home."
- Emma YLC Member
In July of 2017, the Trump administration unlawfully cut the funding for Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program grantees and halted payment to TPP programs across the country. At that time, we received widespread support from our Board and community to maintain our emerging Okanogan program. Throughout 2018, local government organizations across the country successfully challenged the Trump administration’s efforts to politicize the TPP funding in court which reinstated funding to the grantees. However, the halt in payment led to unfortunate layoffs for PPGWNI and major disruptions to their programs around the region.

For Room One, however, partnerships continued to progress. In the Methow Valley, the Social & Emotional Health Committee and the School Health Advisory Council with the support of the OHY staff continued to implement systems and policies that supported sexual and emotional health in the schools. One new initiative and partnership took root in Title X, a federal program dedicated to providing confidential family planning services for low-income patients. In Okanogan County, Family Health Centers was the primary recipient of these federal funds, which aided local clinics in providing contraceptive supplies and counseling around reproductive health and family planning.

With the completion of the youth friendly practices report and the hiring of Eve Russell, a former nurse, the OHY team was positioned well to support a coordinated effort to get reproductive healthcare programs more accessible to young people in Okanogan County. This effort started with implementing a Community Advisory Board that supported the FHC Title X Coordinator Susan Sloan. The goal of the group, which was made up of School Nurses and FHC clinic providers, was to ensure that Title X services were administered in a youth friendly and efficient way. All services, from the receptionist through to the billing process were reviewed and assessed for possible improvements.

"Thank you for your strong leadership, tireless advocacy, and support in developing healthy, educated youth prepared to make informed choices."
— MVSD School Administrator

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**Year Accomplishments**

- 501 unduplicated youth from Bridgeport, Pateros, Methow Valley, and Paschal Sherman Indian School delivered comprehensive, evidenced-based sexual health education to middle school students.
- 250 additional unduplicated youth attended sexual health workshops in partnership with Colville Confederated Tribes Youth Development Program, Liberty Bell Sr. High & Independent Learning Center, and Okanogan Juvenile Detention.
- Representatives from 4 of 5 partner school districts joined the Teachers Summit for Sexual Health Education in Omak. OSPI provided clock hours for attendance.
- 57 girls received support through the Juvenile Detention Girls Group or the Liberty Bell Jr. and Sr. High Girls Group.
- Juvenile Detention hosted 3 comprehensive sexual health workshops for youth in detention and on parole.
- OHY provided 8 workshops to FHC staff in all clinics.
- A Youth Friendly Practices Report was completed, utilizing a focus group comprised of Youth Leadership Council members that had experiences attempting to obtain birth control at local clinics.
Youth Storytelling Project

Program Spotlight

"I'm telling this story because I care about my peers and I want them to feel safe. My voice matters and no one should feel silly advocating for a decent school environment and resources for students."

- Veronica, Youth Storyteller

In January of 2018 the OHY team embarked on the Youth Storytelling Project, the goals of which were to: positively impact the individual storyteller, build community among youth, and create systems change through advocacy. The project was designed to maximize all of these potential impacts by incorporating individual mentorship, workshops for the youth, and expert technical assistance for creating the final product. Utilizing a participatory action research model which centers the storyteller's process as the most important outcome, youth participating in the project were positioned as the most knowledgeable about the social, political, and economic issues that affect their lives and communities.

Five incredible young women worked with OHY staff and a professional cinematographer to craft their stories and make short documentary style videos. Themes covered in these stories ranged from school based activism, youth homelessness, substance abuse, interpersonal and colonial violence, reproductive rights, and infant mortality.

Veronica

"Finding affordable housing in my community is nearly impossible for undocumented agriculture workers. But really for anyone. I'm currently housing a homeless teenager because there are no resources available for homeless teens here."

Alexis

"At this time in my life being close to the people that I loved and cared about was worth going back to Juvie. My probation officer would just tell me not to get high but it wasn't that easy. I was using drugs for a reason."

Loryn

"To me there is nothing more powerful than a room full of women that only want to uplift one another. Because of the powerful women in my family, I've learned that women's support is fierce."

Anahi

"When my sister was in highschool she got pregnant. Her boyfriend was extremely abusive. My sister ended up leaving him but it wasn't easy for her and its still not easy for her and her daughter. I didn't want to go through that."

Miah

"The doctors said I had no more than a 2% chance of living but here I am. On the reservation child death is common, and that right there is heart breaking. Maybe if we had more resources more people could be saved."

Youth storytelling videos were used to bring Okanogan Community members together to talk about issues young people face. Videos were shared on social media, viewed at a candidate forum for the County Sherriff’s office and Prosecuting Attorney in order to spark conversation, brought to the Mazama Bush School to bring countywide youth issues to the Methow Valley, and shared at the Room One Soup Dinner. These powerful stories showcase the challenges that young people face in our county, while also highlighting their amazing resilience.
Year four brought significant transitions for the OHY team. Madeline and Ellen both left around the same time and Eve Russell and Caitlin Cordell stepped into their roles. Four months into that transition Adrianne Moore, the Associate Director and one of the founders of the OHY Initiative, left Room One. Caitlin became the Program Manager and Omak resident Mady Sandoval was hired on in December. Not long after Mady joined, Eve departed and Keri Moore was hired on as the new Health Educator. Other transitions occurred with the parent grant team: PPGWNI's grant manager for the TPP work left and was replaced by Jessica Lucht. The PPGWNI team brought on many new educators and organizers, dramatically shifting the makeup of their staff.

Our PPGWNI collaboration experienced a positive re-charge with new staff and new leadership. The Healthy Youth Collaborative (HYC) that held PPGWNI and Room One participated in a number of shared learning experiences, including the National Sexual Health Conference in Chicago, an end of year retreat in Leavenworth, and many HYC team calls to share practices and updates.

While funding for the fifth year of TPP work was secured, the Trump Administration initiated a domestic gag rule that prohibited abortion referrals, imposed coercive counseling standards for pregnant patients, and imposed unnecessary and stringent requirements for the physical and financial separation of Title X funding. This resulted in the Family Planning Clinics across the U.S. having to choose to either reject Title X funds or make medically unethical changes to their practices. Planned Parenthood was once again hit hard by this, but fortunately PPGWNIs team was not effected.

Though these shifts created many "lost in transition" moments—where the history of OHY and the partnerships that were held by previous people were hard to navigate—the new team took these challenges and continued to move forward successfully, reaching more young people in districts across Okanogan County.

### Year Accomplishments

- 443 unduplicated youth received comprehensive sexual health education through Okanogan Healthy Youth school partnerships with Brewster, Bridgeport, Pateros, Methow Valley, and Paschal Sherman Indian School.
- According to pre- and post-survey data of students who completed OHY comprehensive sexual health education, youth demonstrated an increased knowledge of protection methods, how to access local reproductive health care resources, and the benefits of abstinence.
- 25 youth received an enhanced curricula that used the evidence based Native Voices video which focuses on native youth. Youth who received these workshops came from the ILC, Juvenile Detention, and the YLC. This specific programming was due to a partnership with Cardea, a national health organization focused on bringing trainings, development and research analysis to partnerships focused on reproductive health and healthy relationships.

"Teen pregnancy correlates very strongly with domestic violence, abuse and poverty. One primary strategy to ending the cycle of poverty and violence includes comprehensive sex education."

-Methow Valley Community Member
In the Methow Valley School District where sexual health education has been taught in partnership with Room One for nearly a decade, the process for updating the middle school curriculum has taken three school years. For this reason, we highlight one curriculum in particular and the multi-year process it has taken to bring it into the classroom.

The Get Real Middle School curriculum, created by Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts, is an evidence-based comprehensive sexual health intervention. Get Real is also one of the few curricula that qualifies as a federal evidence-based intervention, is highly approved by OSPI, and meets the standards of the Washington State Healthy Youth Act. With only nine classes for each grade level, a robust parent engagement platform, and age appropriate content, Get Real was the top-ranked curriculum following a review by the MVSD Social and Emotional Health Committee, a group of teachers, principals, counselors, parents and community members invested in building social and emotional learning across grade levels.

Through an informal, verbal agreement, Get Real was initially taught in the MVSD 7th and 8th grade classes in 2017. In 2019, with the support of Room One and new district leadership, OHY and district health teachers began the process of formally adopting the curriculum. Below are some of the major actions and takeaways:

**Staff transitions and partnership building.** Both Room One and MVSD experienced substantial staff transition during the grant cycle, which at times led to gaps in historical knowledge. By advocating for formal curriculum adoption, rather than continuing to proceed solely on precedent, misunderstandings about what should be taught in health class decreased, and both transparency and trust between Room One and school partners grew.

**School Board engagement.** Keri Moore gave a formal presentation on Get Real to the MVSD School Board following an invitation from Superintendent Tom Venable. The Board made clear they wanted to see data, evidence of change in behavior, assumed roadblocks to implementation, and alternative curricula. Soon after the board approved to move forward with field testing, a one-year pilot of Get Real in grades 6-8.

**Local media coverage.** MVSD staff leaned into full transparency on the curriculum adoption process with the Methow community: an article was written on the district website announcing the field testing, community members were invited to make comment at school board meetings, a larger venue was made available to accommodate the 80+ parents attending the Parent Info Night, and the Methow Valley News ran both an article and an op-ed on the subject.

**Parent engagement.** While the only legal requirement for parent engagement was the Parent Info Night, Moore spent many hours over several weeks meeting with parents and small groups to discuss the Get Real curriculum. Meaningful engagement and partnership building happened one conversation at a time, and these meetings were met with overwhelming appreciation by participants, even from parents who had firmly decided to opt their child out of sexual health class.

**Successful Pilot.** Implementation of Get Real happened in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade in 2020. Moving forward into 2020/2021 school year the formal pilot will continue due to the impacts of COVID and will be adapted for online learning. MVSD has asked Moore to step in again to support teachers.

"I attended the information session last night and wanted to pass along my gratitude. The way you presented the curriculum and the poise and thoughtfulness with which you handled the tough questions was commendable. I’m grateful the LBHS kids have you to teach this very important curriculum." - 7th grade MVSD parent note to Keri Moore
The final year of the TPP grant was a lesson in adaption and shifting expectations. Our team also had the opportunity to focus on policy advocacy. SB5395, the mandatory sexual health law, was resurrected in 2019 after not leaving the WA Senate's Education Committee the year before. A working group led by OSPI created a final report on the impacts of Sexual Health (which included interviews from Okanogan youth) and presented it to both the House and Senate Education Committee's. During the 2019 legislative session, youth from Okanogan County traveled to Olympia with OHY staff to talk to their legislators. They met with Senator Short and Representative Maycumber and spoke eloquently about why comprehensive sexual health education was important to them. SB5395 quickly passed both the House and Senate, but soon after it had been signed into law by Governor Inslee the opposition collected enough signatures to put a referendum (Ref 90) to voters on the November 2020. Fortunately the referendum passed, upholding mandatory comprehensive sexual health for all grade-levels in public schools.

Another point of adaption that, no one could have expected, were the impacts COVID-19 has had on the nature of our work. With classrooms closed, our team did less teaching and more direct youth advocacy providing concrete supports to vulnerable young people made possible through a number of generous emergency support fund grants. Our youth organizer Mady had built relationships with many youth through the Juvenile Detention Girls Group, and with their probation officers following release. Several youth were struggling due to sexual exploitation, a lack of stable housing, being teen parents or dealing with all three issues. After COVID-19 shutdowns, Mady did frontlines work supporting youth with various needs, ranging from housing, to food, to hygiene, to medical appointments, and navigating resources and partnerships through some very stressful times.

The end of year five was hard. Without the ability to gather in person as the Healthy Youth Collaborative or complete school-based programming, closure was difficult. In truth, we are not done, and our commitment to teen pregnancy prevention and partnerships will continue and grow in coming years.

**Year Accomplishments**

- 345 6th, 7th, and 8th graders from MVSD and Brewster Middle School received Get Real. Bridgeport was unable to due to COVID.
- Tonasket high schoolers met with their Principal and Superintendent to advocate for Sexual Health. Unfortunately, COVID prevented them from organizing further.
- 12 ILC 9th-12th graders attended a pilot girls and gender non-conforming empowerment program. After the school closures, Keri Moore held a four-week online group to maintain relationships.
- 6 YLC youth and 2 OHY staff attended their first Lobby Day in partnership with the PPGWNI Youth Empowerment Program.
- Trained 15 teachers at the Annual Sexual Health Educators Summit. Teachers came from Tonasket, Brewster, and the Methow Valley. OSPI provided clock hours.
- 30 youth and program staff from All Girl Everything Ultimate Program (AGE UP) visited the YLC for their annual retreat. Youth shared stories of local issues, played games, and made cross cultural/geographic connections.
Five Year Summary of Outcomes

- Can identify signs of an unhealthy relationship: Before 56%, After 76%
- Knowledge of birth control: Before 50%, After 90%
- Comfort talking about birth control with partner: Before 21%, After 35%
- Intend to be abstinent until in a committed relationship: Before 35%, After 44%
- Believe that victims of sexual assault are never at fault: Before 60%, After 77%
- Condoms protect against HIV and STI/D's: Before 39%, After 62%

Girls Program Participants = 286
- JD (69.93%)
- MVSD Jr & Sr (24.83%)
- ILC (5.24%)

Students Reached with EBI = 1,554
- Get Real (90.09%)
- Native Voices (3.22%)
- SHARP (2.06%)
- FLASH (2.57%)
- All4You2 (0.9%)
- Project Aim (1.16%)

Changes in Teen Pregnancy
- Pregnancy per 1,000 Females 15-19
  - 2014: 52.23
  - 2015: 36.35
  - 2016: 46.38
  - 2017: 44.06
  - 2018: 32.2

Knowledge of birth control, comfort talking about birth control with partner, and belief that victims of sexual assault are never at fault saw significant improvements.
After five years of growth, challenges, transitions, and accomplishments, we find ourselves looking into a future that feels so much more unknown than ever before. But what helps ground us as we explore the unknown are the incredible bonds that have been forged in this tumultuous time, and the confidence that the people involved in this work care deeply about this community and about each other.

Year 6 brings yet again another OHY staffing transition. Mady Sandoval left Room One in October 2020 to start her own youth serving organization called the Foundation for Youth Resiliency and Engagement (FYRE). After seeing the major gaps in services based in trauma informed care, equity, and inclusion, she and her family are creating a youth center with a drop-in recreation space and direct services wing. While Mady's leaving was hard, the possibilities of the partnerships between Room One and FYRE are exciting. Fortunately, the YLC will still be moving forward with Mady and Keri at the helm as a partnership between the two organizations. This feels like a sustainable way to support the YLC and we hope to bring more Methow youth into this powerful circle of young leaders.

Because there is now a youth-serving entity best suited to support the needs of Okanogan valley youth, Room One will not be replacing Mady and instead will look for ways to support FYRE. Because of this, the approval of Ref 90, and the end of our Federal grant requirements, our work advocating for comprehensive sexual health across the county and collecting data from countywide schools will diminish. We are also evaluating our work in Juvenile Detention as this partnership has been challenging over the years, and FYRE now offers a space to work with vulnerable young people in a much different way.

With the passing of Referendum 90, our work with the annual teachers summit is more important than ever. We hope to provide our school partners with the skills they need to teach comprehensive sexual health education in hybrid learning environments (online and in-person). Additionally, the hope is to support parent education workshops to families who are trying to navigate sexual health conversations with their children, but also equip them with knowledge to be advocates for comprehensive sex education.

Of course, our work at Room One will continue to be about high-quality sexual health education, programs supporting healthy relationships, and teen pregnancy prevention. The programming we plan to continue will be:

- Supporting the ILC and MVSD in regards to teaching sexual health and other push-in lessons focused on equity and inclusion.
- ILC girls and GNC programming potentially expanding into Liberty Bell with our new self-defense and empowerment workshops.
- Supporting the development of healthy boys programming.
- Continuing to make connections between MVSD and social and emotional programming centered on young people's well being.
- YLC partnership with FYRE.
- Collaborating with the Liberty Bell GSA (Gender and Sexuality Alliance).

With Keri's exceptional leadership and self-initiative, the OHY team will be re-forming into a co-leadership team with Keri and Caitlin joining forces together to help guide the work of OHY. We recognize with a smaller team and less countywide work our reach may be reduced, but our commitment to high quality, responsive, youth-centered programming continues.

Thank you to the many people who have supported this work throughout these last five years. We are grateful for the meaningful connections we have made along the way and look forward to the future of Okanogan Healthy Youth!

Submitted respectfully,

Caitlin Cordell, Keri Moore, & Kelly Edwards, Interim Executive Director