Our Vision: A region where poisoning and drug exposure is no longer a leading cause of unintentional death

Preventing, educating, and reducing harm

Serving:

- ER Physicians
- Parents & Children
- Community Groups
- Older Adults
- EMTs
- Healthcare Student Rotators

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2018 – Washington Poison Center – A Demonstration of Value

In 2018 the Washington Poison Center (WAPC) demonstrated the importance of “Value” on many levels. For 62 years, we have provided 24/7/365 emergency telephone helpline services for all Washington residents with poisonings, toxic exposures, and/or overdoses.

Our organization’s Core Values of Compassion, Integrity, Growth, Drive, and Innovation continue to define the principles by which our Call Center staff strive to provide the highest quality of healthcare to all of our callers. These values also guide Management/Leadership staff in the development and implementation of programs and education focusing on poison prevention, harm reduction, and specialty toxicology topics.

The WAPC is an exemplary public health model of value-based healthcare, while aiming to fulfill the quadruple aim of healthcare: enhancing our patients’ experiences, improving population health, reducing costs, and improving the work life of our staff. Our life-saving services alleviate the burden of an already overwhelmed emergency medical response system and provide value to the healthcare system while reducing risk to patients and healthcare providers, which save additional healthcare dollars. Numerous published studies provide evidence for the cost-savings that poison centers provide on a local and national level through our specialty toxicology expertise, our public education and outreach to underserved and vulnerable populations, our assistance to local health jurisdictions and the state Department of Health for emergency response situations.

Value is important because it helps us develop and grow our services in a cost-effective manner that maintains quality, relevancy, and importance with overarching principles on how we provide our services that focus on the needs of our patients.

We thank you in advance for your support of this vital public health resource – the Washington Poison Center – which provides highly specialized emergency toxicology services and Value for which NO other agency in the state provides.

Ryan Keay, MD  Erica Liebelt, MD, FACMT
WAPC Board President  WAPC Executive/Medical Director

Compassion  Integrity
Growth  Drive  Innovation
2018 ACHIEVEMENTS:
113,586 calls answered and 64,139 cases managed by WAPC

- 92.5% of all household cases were treated at home, saving $42,773,233 in healthcare costs.
- 46.3% of all cases concerned a child under 6 years old.
- 66.1% of home callers would have gone to the ER or called 911.
- 22,953 people were reached through community education.
- 26.3% of our cases were from health care professionals.
- 107,733 MR. YUK stickers, magnets, and other printed materials distributed.
- 123 medical residents & students, pharmacists, nurses & paramedic students were trained by WAPC staff.
- Provided education to 1,550 healthcare providers.

OUR MISSION: To prevent and reduce harm from poisoning through expertise, collaboration, and education.

(800) 222 1222
wapc.org
“I had accidentally splashed laundry bleach in my eye. As soon as the specialist answered the call, she took control, finding out what happened; and then provided specific instructions as to what I must do to prevent permanent damage to my sight. Because of the certainty in her voice, I followed her instructions exactly and did the whole fifteen minute flush. As directed, I called her back; and, based upon a gritty feeling remaining, she directed me to see an ophthalmologist immediately. Had I not done this, and then not gone to the ophthalmologist, my eyesight would have been severely damaged. I don’t really know how much more I can express my gratitude to WAPC and its operations for saving the sight in my eye.” - John M.

“The Washington Poison Center is an invaluable resource to its communities and the medical providers serving them. As an Emergency Medicine physician I use this resource frequently. To have the information and knowledge that would take a physician years of additional training and decades of experience to gain on their own, at the other end of a phone call, is incredible and likely under-appreciated by many. Upon calling the poison center, you are immediately provided with the medical information you need to stabilize and treat your patient.” - Emergency Medicine Physician

“...On October 20, 2018, my EMT class placed a call to 1-800-222-1222 for the purpose of training. The Poison Control person was very helpful and this was really an informative interaction that helped my students understand how calling poison control works. Thank you, thank, thank you, a thousand times thank you.” - Lincoln County EMT Instructor

Senator Patty Murray’s staff visit the WAPC: Joan G., Call Center Staff; Erica Liebelt, Medical Director; Madeleine Pannell and Osaremen Okolo, Health Policy Aides

Associate Medical Director
Scott Phillips at Secure Take Back Kiosk Celebration, Providence Mt. Carmel
A WORTHWHILE INVESTMENT

The Washington Poison Center is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit and relies upon a combination of state contracts; federal, corporate, and foundation grants, and donations from people like you to sustain our core services and expand our reach to provide public and clinical education promoting prevention, intervention, and harm reduction.

Calls from hospitals and healthcare professionals continue to increase, reflecting the growing need and importance of our Hospital Fair Share program to provide financial support for the increasing demand of these services. Hospitals in our state make community benefit donations to help support the costs of providing immediate access to our free consultation services. Please see the list of participating hospitals on this report. Thank you to our partners for their ongoing support!

Several ways to donate at www.wapc.org/support-us/donations/
collaborating for a healthier and safer Washington

Hospital Partners

CHI Franciscan Health System
• Harrison Medical Center
• Highline Medical Center
• St. Anthony Hospital
• St. Clare Hospital
• St. Elizabeth Hospital
• St. Francis Hospital
• St. Joseph Hospital
Columbia Basin Hospital
Columbia County Health System
Confluence Health – Wenatchee Valley Hospital
East Adams Rural Healthcare
Ferry County Memorial Hospital
Forks Community Hospital
Garfield County Public Hospital
Island Hospital
Jefferson Healthcare
Kadlec Regional Med. Center
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan
Kittitas Valley Healthcare
Lake Chelan Community Hospital
Lincoln Hospital
Mason General Hospital
Mid-Valley Hospital
Morton General Hospital
MultiCare Health System
• Allenmore Hospital
• Auburn Medical Center
• Deaconess Hospital
• Good Samaritan Hospital
• Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital
• Tacoma General Hospital
• Valley Hospital
North Valley Hospital
Ocean Beach Hospital
Odessa Memorial Healthcare Ctr.
Olympic Medical Center
Othello Community Hospital
PeaceHealth Columbia Network
• Southwest Medical Center
• St. John Medical Center
PeaceHealth Northwest Network
• Island Medical Center
• St. Joseph Medical Center
• United General Med. Center
Providence Regional Medical Center Everett
Providence Healthcare SW
• Centralia Hospital
• St. Peter Hospital
Providence Health Services SE Region
• St. Mary Hospital
PMH Medical Center
Pullman Regional Hospital
Quincy Valley Medical Center
Samaritan Hospital
Seattle Children’s Hospital
Skyline Hospital
Snoqualmie Valley Hospital
Summit Pacific Medical Center
Swedish Health Services
• Swedish Ballard
• Swedish Cherry Hill
• Swedish Edmonds
• Swedish First Hill
• Swedish Issaquah
• Swedish Mill Creek
• Swedish Redmond
Tri-State Memorial Hospital
Three Rivers Hospital
UW Medicine
• Harborview Med. Center
• UW Medical Center
• Northwest Hospital & Med. Center
• Valley Medical Center
Virginia Mason Medical Center
Virginia Mason Memorial Whidbey Medical Center
Whitman Hospital
Willapa Harbor Hospital

Corporate Partners
Puget Sound Energy
Swedish Health Services
Boeing Employees Community Funds

WAPC received the Washington State Health Care Authority Prevention Award of Excellence: Contribution to Prevention by an Organization. (Arti Shah and Jared O’Connor accepting the award.)
President  Ryan Keay, MD, Providence 
   Regional Medical Center, Everett
Vice President/President Elect  Steve Burgon, JD, Ogden 
   Murphy Wallace, PLLC
Treasurer  Erika Allen, CPA, Peterson Sullivan LLP
Secretary  Anita Mires, Independent Consultant, Project 
   Management and Leadership
Immediate Past President  Jane M. Hutcheson, MSN, 
   RN, Retired, Nurse Executive
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Director  Danica Pytte, MBA, BSN, Seattle Children’s Hospital
Director  June Spector, MD, MPH, UW Department of 
   Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences
Director  Stacy Tarango, MD, Spokane Emergency Physicians
Director  Carrie Ulvestad, MBA, Alaska Airlines

Terms ended:
Laura Chartier, PharmD, Walgreens, District 189
Capt. Kathryn Hobbs, USN (Ret), Washington State PTA
April Henderson, CPA, Seattle Aquarium
Melissa Vasiliades, MBA, UW Medical Contact Center Director

Non-Voting Members
Nathan Weed, MPH, Director, Office of Community 
   Health Systems, WA State Department of Health
Erika Henry, MSPCI, WA State Department of Health
Susan Stern, MD, Harborview Medical Center
Scott Hogan, MHA, Board Member Emeritus

Representative Tina Orwell with the Yuk Mobile

501(c)(3) nonprofit  
(EIN 94-3214597)
Public Health And Education

Our Public Health Education Department continued to expand programs in 2018, reaching 22,953 Washington residents and professionals of all ages throughout the state. Our programs align with our primary mission, and ranged from trainings, presentations, expert panels, community health fairs and school events to participation in regional and statewide public health meetings. One of our 2018 achievements was extending our reach to underserved communities and vulnerable populations by providing educational events to several rural counties, tribal and refugee communities, and communities with non-English speaking citizens. In addition to educating our residents and professionals, we supervised 5 Master of Public Health students completing their practicum/capstone projects from University of Washington, Bastyr University and Eastern Washington University. Their projects included conducting a statewide needs assessment of poison center-related awareness, developing a curriculum on the harmful effects of cannabis in our youth, identifying data needs of public health and school districts, revising our older adult education program, and creating a survey of the public’s attitude on safe medication disposal. The Washington State Health Care Authority awarded the Washington Poison Center the **State Prevention Award of Excellence** for **Contribution to Prevention by an Organization**.

In 2018 our public health team provided 133 events statewide.

Visit wapc.org to see annual statistics on the top 10 most common exposures, seasonal health alerts, data reports, to check out Yukboxes, and order materials.

Find us on social media

www.facebook.com/MrYukWA
twitter.com/mryukwa