

A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN  
FOR DEALING WITH ALCOHOLISM EDUCATION  
AND THE EXCESSIVE DRINKING PROBLEM IN  
THE COUNTIES OF ASOTIN, COLUMBIA, GARFIELD AND WALLA WALLA

Presented to the Alcoholism Section  
of the Division of Social Services,  
Washington State Department of Social  
and Health Services

A Proposal Of  
The Walla Walla County Council on Alcoholism  
305 Denny Building  
Walla Walla, Washington 99362  
Telephone WA5-7800

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

		<u>Page</u>
I	INTRODUCTION	<u>1</u>
II	PHILOSOPHY	2
III	PROBLEM	3-4
IV	METHOD	5-11
V	GOAL	12

## I INTRODUCTION

The Walla Walla County Council on Alcoholism is taking broad steps forward in facing the nation's number one public problem, alcoholism.

In 1968 the Council was established as a non-profit organization to work with the community and review existing programs and needs for the problem drinker.

The first part-time Information and Referral Center opened in 1969. With community membership support, the Council slowly moved into broader and more functional community involvement and service through a part-time director.

On February 1, 1972 the Council employed a full-time professionally qualified executive director. In cooperation with the Alcoholism Section of the Social Services Division, and the Division of Institutions, Department of Social and Health Services, a counselor position has been established at the Washington State Penitentiary. A long overdue program of individual treatment has been implemented. It also provides an augmented counseling program in the community through the Alcoholism Information and Referral Center.

In addition, task forces are being established to research, develop and implement NEW action program areas to assist all segments of the community.

## II PHILOSOPHY

In a nation which has over 9,000,000 alcoholics with thousands of new cases each year (1), and in a state in which it has been estimated there were over 102,000 alcoholics in 1970 (2), it is apparent to even the most untrained eye that it is not a simple problem situation. It is estimated that four persons are involved indirectly with the problems of every alcoholic. If, as estimated, approximately 4.9 percent of the Washington State adult population are alcoholic, totaling 102,000 alcoholics, there are some 408,000 non-alcoholics, such as family members and employers, who are involved with this disabling problem. To impede the current trend will require action of the entire Southeastern Washington community and all its traditional institutions, resources and innovative implementation of action programs. To this end the Walla Walla County Council on Alcoholism is dedicated.

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- (1) American Academy of General Practice, "GP,"  
Vol. XXXIII No. 4; April, 1966.
- (2) Department of Social and Health Services,  
"A Comprehensive Plan to Combat Alcoholism  
in Washington State;" November, 1970 (page 3).

## III PROBLEM

The Walla Walla County Council on Alcoholism was developed as a local resource for city and county-wide use. It is realized, however, that the problem of excessive drinking, alcoholism and alcoholism education goes far beyond the boundaries of one county. It appears that the logical approach to facing fully the problems of alcohol abuse is through a multi-county system of Information and Referral Centers, treatment facilities and educational programs.

To accomplish this end, the Walla Walla County Council on Alcoholism must extend to Asotin, Columbia and Garfield Counties a sponsorship program. It is by this means that the only currently State Department of Social and Health Services approved alcoholism program operation in the Southeastern Washington area can effectively assist the regional county complex in dealing directly with the monumental community social problem.

The Walla Walla County Council on Alcoholism, in the development of its comprehensive plan, must address itself to the projection of program development within the multi-county complex. The following areas have been designated as essential for full action programs:

1. Task Force on AIRC for Junior High, Senior High Schools and Colleges
2. Task Force on Crisis Call System
3. Task Force on Mental Health Counselor Position
4. Task Force on Home Calling System

5. Task Force on New House
6. Task Force on Court School Development
7. Task Force on County-City Jail Interview Program
8. Task Force on Employee Education Program
9. Task Force on Union Education Program
10. Task Force on Membership Training
11. Task Force on Detoxification Center

NOTE: These and other Task Forces will be necessary for full implementation of Senate Bill 29. The law requires that the full facilities for the intoxicated be operational by July 1, 1974. A copy of Senate Bill 29 is attached.

## IV METHOD

With the passage of Senate Bill No. 298, a new Southeastern Washington regional responsibility has been established. The Bill reads in part as follows:

"In order to be eligible to receive its share of liquor taxes and profits, each city and county shall be required to devote no less than two percent of such share of liquor taxes and profits the support of an alcoholism program, such program to be approved by the secretary of the state department of social and health services." \*

In the near future additional resources will become available for alcoholism programs in the counties and communities in Southeastern Washington. In order to obtain these resources a local agency, recognized by the Department of Social and Health Services, has to be the responsible administering organization. The Walla Walla County Council on Alcoholism can fill this requirement. In order to carry the program to the four-county area of Southeastern Washington, a regional organization is required.

To fill this requirement, and at the same time initiate funding under the new legislation, the Walla Walla County Council on Alcoholism will sponsor the Southeastern Washington Council on Alcoholism.

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\* Senate Bill No. 298; State of Washington, 42nd Legislature, 2nd Extraordinary Session; By Senators Ridder, Keefe and Peterson (Ted) (By Department of Social and Health Services Request).

The sponsoring council would contribute the following administration, services and resulting fiscal assistance towards this development each year:

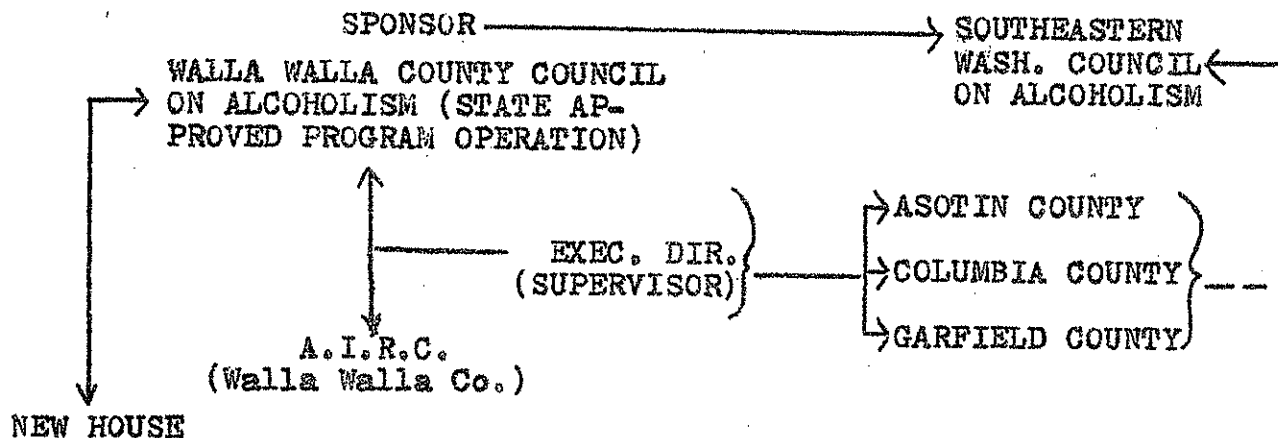
1. Executive Director	\$ 15,000.00
2. Alcoholism Program Coordinator (Corrections)	9,000.00
3. Alcoholism Program Coordinator (Mental Health)	9,000.00
4. Contributions and Pledges	6,000.00
5. Alcoholism Section Fund (matching)	12,000.00
6. Office Operations	5,000.00
7. In Kind Donation - New House	2,400.00
8. New House Manager's Salary	<u>7,200.00</u>
	\$ 65,600.00

The anticipated fiscal expectation of Asotin, Columbia and Garfield Counties would initially be set at \$4,000.00, \$3,000.00 of which would be derived through the two percent liquor tax and sales revenue as established in Senate Bill 298. These funds would be used for the development of Information and Referral Centers, educational programs and towards the salary of the executive director.

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\* To be established in the near future.

With the multi-county complex, it is necessary that certain administrative and procedural revisions occur. The following is a graphic demonstration on the operational method of sponsorship responsibility of the Walla Walla County Council on Alcoholism.



(FIGURE 1.)

With the Walla Walla County Council on Alcoholism being the "...program approved by the secretary of the state department of social and health services" (3) in the Southeastern Washington area, and with the required "...ten percent of the amount expended for such facility, plan or program... from local public or private sources" (4), an awesome responsibility falls directly on the Council regarding the advancement of responsible multi-county sponsored programs.

(3) Senate Bill 298.

(4) Senate Bill 298.

By establishing County Commission and City Council cooperation in Asotin, Columbia and Garfield cities and counties, the following amounts from liquor taxes and profits can be placed directly back into the multi-county alcoholism "need" areas:

<u>Cities</u>		<u>Total</u>	
Asotin	\$	128.35	
Clarkston		1,205.99	
College Place		819.85	
Dayton		528.68	
Pomeroy		373.28	
Prescott		48.93	
Starbuck		56.03	
Waitsburg		188.10	
Walla Walla		4,663.78	
			<u>8,012.99</u>
 <u>Counties:</u>			
Asotin	\$	462.69	
Columbia		113.08	
Garfield		87.42	
Walla Walla		914.51	
			<u>1,577.70</u>
			\$ 9,590.69

(Figure 2.)

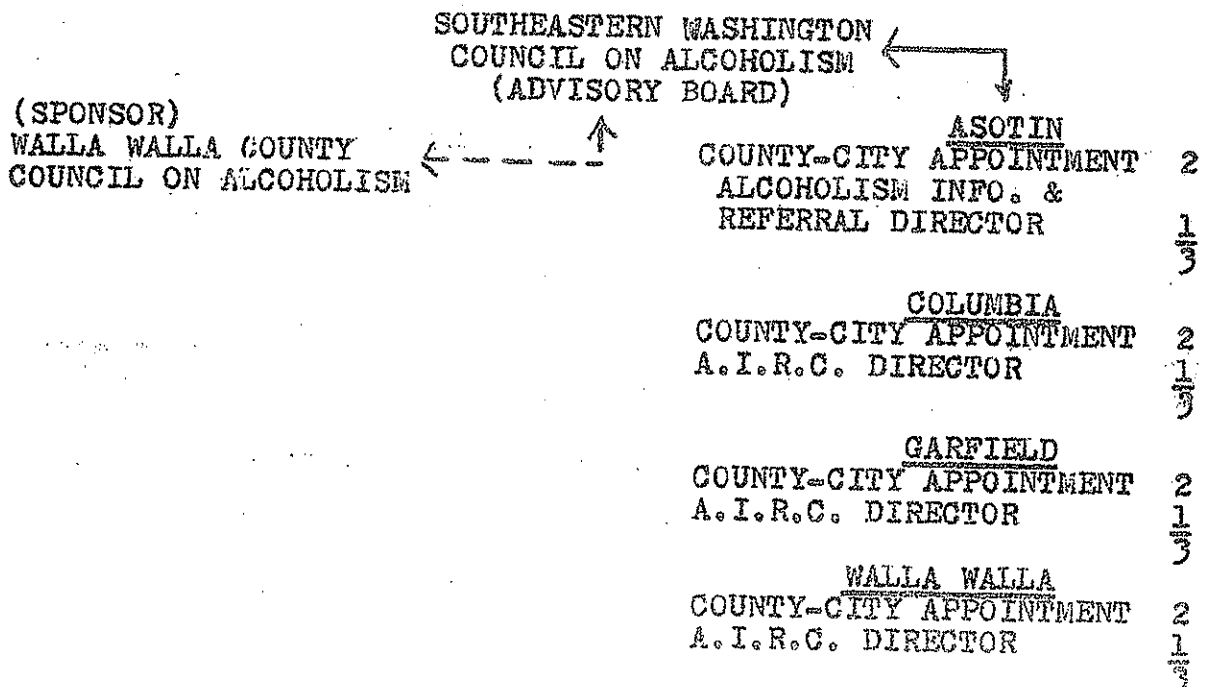
It is suggested that as a means of expediting the funding aspects regarding the two percent liquor sales and tax revenue that cities and municipalities turn their two percent revenue over to their respective county. The sponsoring Council could then contract with the County Commission, thus eliminating the necessity of so many individualized contracts for the same services.

The sponsoring Council would furnish offices (Room 305, Denny Building, Walla Walla, Washington) for the Executive Director, Walla Walla County Council on Alcoholism. This individual would also be the supervisor or Executive Director

for the Southeastern Washington Council on Alcoholism Information and Referral Centers and other programs and activities now functioning or to be implemented during the 1972-73 fiscal year and all subsequent years. In addition, clerical support services and material will be provided by the Walla Walla County Council on Alcoholism.

The Walla Walla County Council on Alcoholism and its Information and Referral Center will serve as the training agency for all new multi-county Information and Referral Centers to be established. Professionally qualified part-time Information and Referral directors will be sought within each county. The Information and Referral directors will serve as advisory board members of the Southeastern Washington Council on Alcoholism. Also, two other individuals from each county in the Southeastern Washington Council on Alcoholism will be appointed by agreement of the County Commissions and City Councils. The following graph demonstrates this arrangement:

(Figure 3.)



This Southeastern Washington Council on Alcoholism Advisory Board will administer, under the direction of the sponsoring agency, the two percent county-city program operation funds placed in a special account.

For the period of organization and establishment, the sponsoring Council will be responsible for the establishment of estimated Information and Referral Center budgets based on the current monthly budget of the Walla Walla County Council on Alcoholism's Information and Referral Center.

The sponsoring Council will, through the Executive Director, establish the Information and Referral Centers' physical locations. It is the objective of the multi-county complex that this be done cooperatively with the individual city-county advisory board members and existing social service agencies.

By utilizing the professional counseling position now functioning through the Walla Walla County Council on Alcoholism the Executive Director will, in cooperation with the law enforcement agencies and judicial systems in the multi-county complex, establish functional court education programs. As education or counseling needs become apparent in the multi-county area, volunteer and contracted professional counseling and training programs will be established initially by the sponsoring Council. As local resources develop with the

Southeastern Washington Council on Alcoholism area, each individual Information and Referral Center will accordingly assume additional educational responsibilities within the contiguous area.

## V GOAL

As one reviews the problem and method statements, the GOAL of working toward dealing effectively on a local basis with the alcohol problem becomes most apparent. The magnitude of the problem precludes effective handling without this cooperative program and financial approach. Without this a duplication of administrative operations will occur. The cost in functional action programs can only diminish as a result.

Thus, reviewing the dedication to effectively dealing with the major social problem in the United States and consequently in our local multi-county region, it is REQUIRED that we, Asotin, Columbia, Garfield and Walla Walla Counties, establish cooperatively the network operation for the education and treatment of the excessive drinker and potential problem drinker. Our united financial and concerned efforts will enable a beginning toward such an awesome responsibility by fully developing all existing social service resources within our multi-county region.