

City of Shoreline

Hello!

My name is Sierra Ranier. I am a citizen of Shoreline and have been for over 10 years. I am also the Director of Business Operations for the Washington Poison Center. You or your child may recognize us as the organization behind the face of Mr. Yuk! We have been educating parents, children, and seniors regarding the dangers of ingesting toxins for over 50 years, and have dedicated many hours to accidental poison prevention. We have traveled to schools, hospitals, community centers, and many city planned health events to provide information, hand out stickers, literature, and provide training to local organizations who want to help their communities. In addition, although prevention is an important part of our organization, it's only a fraction of the service we provide to the community. We are also a fully staffed, 24/7, poison emergency call center. Currently, we are staffed with over 20 highly skilled, highly specialized, expert medical professionals, consisting of Pharmacists, Nurses, and Doctors, who are ready to help 365 days of the year. Our education department consists of 3 highly trained and experienced MPH's who provide on-site training, as well as webinars and online classes. Our administrative staff are also highly skilled professionals who ensure the organization runs smoothly. We are proudly committed and dedicated to service. All of us.

Unfortunately, funding is not guaranteed for the Poison Center. We are a 501C3 operation that relies heavily on grants and contributions. We are NOT a government agency, nor are we housed under a hospital agency or any other health organization. We are autonomous and rely on funding/grants from the local communities we proudly serve, such as Shoreline.

Shoreline has not funded us in the past but we are requesting funding based on the critical emergency services and education we provide to the Shoreline Community.

On our grant application for 2021, we asked for \$4037/year based on population and calls. The Core Services that the Washington Poison Center provides align perfectly with Shoreline's priority areas to focus on Behavioral/Mental Health and the Older Adult population.

To help underscore the valuable and vital services we provide to the Shoreline Community, we have provided the following data -

Specific Shoreline stats:

1. Total calls to WAPC from city of Shoreline:

- a. In **2019**, 184 calls (~ 50% involved children < 6 and about 13% involved adults 60+)
- b. From **January to June 2020** we already have received **125 human exposure calls and 50 information calls = 175 calls so already projected to receive many more calls than 2019**. A total of 67 individuals who called the poison center first have been kept home, thereby avoiding a trip to the emergency room or their doctor. This **saved approximately \$100,500 patient healthcare dollars**.
- c. **Average cost /call of \$65, so uncompensated revenue is ~\$11,375 so far in 2020.**

2. Public Education/Community Outreach events:

- a. 2019: 1 educational events in Shoreline: 1 e-cigarette TOT in 2019 which reached over 125 people in Shoreline

- b. 2020: COVID Virtual education: Our public education/community outreach program rapidly transitioned to providing virtual real-time and on-demand educational presentations and trainings for the entire state just as the Governor’s Stay At Home order went into effect in March and are continuing to set them given the Governor’s Safe Start Washington plan.
 - i. Shoreline residents have attended our virtual education sessions through both the Seattle Public Library system and the King County Library system.
 - 1. Provided 2 virtual webinars in May 2020 through the Shoreline branch of King County Library System; Vaping 101 - Attendees learned about common devices, regulation, public health concerns, and youth-specific concerns for both nicotine and cannabis vaping. Throughout the presentation, our Public Health Educators additionally raised awareness on poisons in the home, prevention strategies, and poison center services. Cannabis 101 - Attendees learned about the legality of cannabis, common modes of use, trends in use, current evidence on health risks and therapeutic uses of cannabis, and youth specific concerns. Throughout the presentation, our Public Health Educators additionally raised awareness on poisons in the home, prevention strategies, and poison center services.
 - ii. Working to also set up education with senior centers and other older-adult serving organizations, now that many are starting to provide virtual programming
 - 1. Key partnership has been the Adult Family Home Council, a statewide organization that educates and assists adult family homes across the state of Washington. Our public health educators have given 5 webinars so far to adult family home caregivers (3 on cannabis use in older adults and 2 on medication management); each webinar has reached over 60 adult family home caregivers.
 - iii. COVID 19 Resource page on WAPC website – information resources, snapshot reports of exposure trends and recorded educational presentations that can be accessed by anyone.

General poison statistics and impact of COVID pandemic:

1. Our call volume has increased 8% since the beginning of January 2020.
2. In 2019, the WAPC managed over 125,000 calls regarding over 66,000 individual patients.
3. From January-June 2020, 92.2 % of all cases where the poison center was called first were managed at home by WAPC specialists. Keeping patients out of the emergency department **saved \$21,673,863 patient dollars for the state.**
4. During 2020, amongst fear of coronavirus infection and with increased healthcare facility utilization due to the virus, WAPC has been able to assist in social distancing and compliance with “Stay at Home” orders and now with the governor’s “Safe Start Washington” plans by keeping patients home, preserving critical prehospital/EMS resources and prevent unnecessary exposures and risk in emergency departments/hospitals.
5. COVID 19 specific stats. Increase in case counts during 2020 COVID pandemic compared to same time in 2019:
 - a. Cases of Misuse of Household cleaners, bleach, disinfectants, rubbing alcohol have increased 54% in all age groups.
 - b. Young children: Unintentional hand sanitizer exposures in children < 12 years of age have increased 41%.

- c. Adolescents: Intentional self-harm/suicidal intent cases increased 5% and intentional abuse cases increased 34% so far in 2020.
- d. Young children, school age and adolescents – reported cases of cannabis exposure have increased in all age groups during pandemic.
- e. In Older Adults 60 years and older:
 - i. Cases of Accidental misuse of household bleach, hydrogen peroxide and other disinfectants have increased 35% during the pandemic.
 - ii. Cases involving medication errors have increased almost 15% during the pandemic.

General

- WAPC provides free and confidential 24/7/365 emergency helpline for all citizens regardless of race, ethnicity, ability to pay
- We are not a state agency and rely on diversified revenue including King County grants to support our core services including our public education programs which promote prevention and harm reduction.
- WAPC is an exemplary public health model of value-based healthcare.
 - We are able to manage many patients at home and protecting the already overwhelmed prehospital/EMS system and hospital Emergency Departments
- We also are involved in local and state Emergency Response. We were the independent provider of the state COVID Hotline during the first 6 weeks since the first case was reported. Calls from King County accounted for most of those initial calls. Currently, we are assisting King County by providing our data on exposures during COVID pandemic.
- We provide support to our first responders and EMS systems, providing them with a backdoor number and assisting them with triage of patients with potential toxic exposures.
- We provide specialized expert toxicology information and services that no other agency in the state provides.

We hope you will consider helping us this year.

Sincerely,



Sierra S. Ranier (she/her)

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