



**Kamiah Community Partners Coalition
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On September 12th, Sharlene Johnson, Executive Director of Kamiah Community Partners Coalition (KCPC) , was awarded one of 20 slots to participate as a scholar in the “School For Prevention Leadership”. There was a lot of stiff competition from all 50 states and only 20 positions were available for scholars and then an additional 5 positions for mentors.

In order to qualify for this first-of-its-kind initiative, candidates had to currently hold a leadership position and a minimum of 3 years of experience in the prevention field. This 7 month program is designed to assist participants to prepare for systems change in the context of health care reform and to contribute to local, state, and perhaps national-level public health efforts.

Each scholar is required to attend all three Washington, DC-based meetings (October 17-21, 2011; February 28-March 01, 2012; and May 08-09, 2012). As part of her selection all of Mrs. Johnson’s expenses are covered in full, including her travel, accommodations, food and education.

As a participant in the School for Prevention Leadership she will:

- Learn about their strengths and developmental areas through self-assessments
- Learn about a variety of components of effective leadership
- Learn about the “business” of providing prevention services
- Apply the theoretical aspects of effective leadership to practical, team-based problem-solving.

“I am very excited for this opportunity and honored to have been selected” Sharlene said “there were so many qualified applicants hoping to be chosen for this opportunity, that to be honest I am still in a bit of shock. But good shock, because I know I will learn a lot of tools for myself, but

also my coalition and for the community.”

Participants will acquire leadership skills while simultaneously receiving training in topics relevant to substance abuse prevention.

The learning objectives for participants are as follows:

- Through self-assessments, participants will understand their own personalities and leadership styles, and how to work with other personalities and leadership styles
- Participants will understand the aspects of transformational leadership and apply these to practical, team-based problem-solving
- Participants will learn about the “business” of providing prevention services (e.g., Federal and State funding, Medicaid)
- Participants will understand policy and advocacy to promote substance abuse prevention
- Participants will understand the provisions of the Affordable Care Act that relate to prevention and integration with primary care

Sharlene Johnson said “One of the bigger challenges for our coalition are the travel expenses, because of how rural we are. Having all of the expenses included in this training really is what makes it possible for me to be able to attend. Coalitions like ours often have to choose between work here and travel to somewhere else.”