

ADHL adds the Washington State Alcohol/Drug Clearinghouse Contract
Ann Forbes interview transcript
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In 1998, we took over, what was then called the WSSAC program, which was Washington State Substance Abuse Coalition, and that was a mail out system that DASA funded to get information, prevention, and just general information out to the general public; dealing a lot with the schools, but with other health fairs and that. Mr. Stark came to me and asked if there was a possibility that could absorb that program under our name and our agency, and to run that in the future. This kind of added a very heavy, and new dimension to our program. We had often used and referred to WSSAC for teachers, educators and that to get free information. So then, within a couple of week period, we needed to move their office from Bellevue to Rainier Avenue, and to get that all repositioned and to, by July 1st of that year to get that running and up in order, so we had done that. It definitely was an adventure because they had lots of supplies and we didn't have a lot of extra room. So we did load that into a big mobile trailer in the back and then they came and said, "Hey, the trailer is tipping a little bit." So we had to reshuffle box, after box, and of course you do those things on one of the hottest days in the summer, and so our trailer housed tons of boxes and materials, and then we started sorting it out slowly and getting it organized into our building so that we could then start saying, come to a certain address and pick up your information. That's been a big project for us. It has expanded to where we have moved again, and have a big warehouse now, that people can get free, whether they're teachers, educators, community organizers, PTA, whatever, who wants to get free information about the drugs, adolescents, adults, seniors, and in a variety of languages that we supply.

We changed the name from WSSAC to the Clearinghouse because it really is a Clearinghouse of just general information pertaining to alcohol, drugs and family, and that name change came in 1998 too.

The material comes from, a lot of it from the Feds, the Federal Government sends from their divisions, free information out to us to disseminate. We need to buy some, we have posters, and so it comes from mostly free sources, which are not as frequent as we used to have, but we do get quite a bit of free material, and then the State does fund some of it the HIDTA, High Intensity Drug Trafficking program does supply a lot of information about chrystal meth to us and buys that for us. So we kind of do most of the resources that pertain to alcohol and drugs in the whole state of Washington, and as new drugs are being added, they send us materials, and we either run those copies or get them out as fast as we can. We also have a large video lending library that is about 900 titles deep, and so people can call. They may need to join the library for the big sum of \$5.00, but they can call and get the loan of a film.