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October 2006

Washington State Alcohol Drug Clearinghouse

The WA State Substance Abuse Prevention Clearinghouse and its variety of names over the years began in 1987, 1988, somewhere in that timeframe. And it was created as a result of the National Clearinghouse for alcohol and drug information and was established out of the Federal Omnibus Bill.

The National Clearinghouse not only sent us information, but also began the RADAR System where they said we would support each state clearinghouse with a volume of material, or supply of material, and then if they want to have satellite clearinghouses or satellite offices around the state that they would support with materials, we would do that as well. So in Washington State we ended up with the State Clearinghouse, and probably a cadre of maybe 30 satellite RADAR centers which the state clearinghouse would help support as well as the national clearinghouse and what that translated into was many county offices, a few of the tribes perhaps would have a supply of materials in their offices as they worked with their providers.

The Washington Substance Abuse Coalition, which had been working for a period of 10-15 years, they went out of business in the late 1990's, and at that point we needed to develop a mechanism to continue with many of their services, so we moved the state clearinghouse in with the alcohol and drug 24 hour helpline at that time, feeling like if folks were going to a number, a center to call for help and assistance, that the clearinghouse function made a whole lot of sense to be in the same building and vice versa, if people came in and wanted materials and started disclosing issues that were more acute in nature, or someone needed help in their family, then they'd have the helpline service there to help assist them. So that kind of marriage happened in the late 1990's.