



Quality Improvement Success Story

MONTEREY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Increased Community Access to Safe, Fresh Drinking Water

In 7 Seaside elementary schools there was no access to fresh drinking water because fountains were rusty and old. Community Partnership for Youth members who conducted the ReThink Your Drink campaign survey for the Nutrition Network of the Central Coast learned that kids wouldn't drink school water because it tasted bad. On their way to school, kids were stopping at corner stores to buy sugary soda and sports drinks for their school backpacks.

Within 1 week of bringing the problem to light before Seaside Elementary Schools and the City of Seaside, the collaborating group established water stations at 7 schools and 1 park.

- Kids now drink more water with reusable bottles provided by MCHD and CA4Health.
- CalAM wants to continue to help increase access to safe water,
- The solution is inexpensive, easily expandable, and sustainable because of community sponsors and contributors.



The Problem

The Action

The Result

The Connection

Contributors

- MCHD Prevention Staff
- ReThink Your Drink Campaign
- Community Partnership for Youth
- Seaside Elementary Schools
- Nutrition Network of the Central Coast
- City of Seaside

Listening to a national webinar, MCHD staff learned about using community drinking stations to re-introduce water to schools and community parks. The idea was shared with the Seaside Leadership Council, who helped Community Partnership youth express their concerns. MCHD staff used its CA4Health grant funds to purchase drinking stations for 7 elementary schools and 1 pocket park. CalAM agreed to provide water for the stations on a continuous basis.

- MCHD works to decrease childhood obesity by
- Educating parents and partners about sugary beverage consumption
 - Increasing water consumption
 - Empowering residents to make healthy choices
 - Working with community partners to create lasting, meaningful, outcome-focused change.

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