

Resources and Ideas from SCA Prevention Networking Session

8/11/21

Outlined below are the activities, tools, ideas and resources shared.

Events/Activities/Programs Held/Planned

- Have already confirmed to head into 5 of our 8 schools but a little nervous with how COVID is going to go.
- Hosting a virtual Town Hall Meeting targeting parents on topic of underage drinking on 9/21.
- This summer offered activities in community (e.g. splash pad and summer lunch programs to encourage to make healthy choices).
- Child and Family Focus Inc. is offering the Alcohol Literacy Challenge program for college aged populations in Bucks County. For more details, contact: kmontague@childandfamilyfocus.org.
- Starting first Strengthening Families Program and have 7 families. Have been doing a lot of community summer programs at lunch programs and community venues.
- Had a successful program within one school district this summer for the Extended School Year program and the Summer Success program.

Questions

- Are there any Making the Connection trainings scheduled?
 - Can check TMS for any that may be scheduled, but if none scheduled SCAs can request an on-site training.
- Will the state be mandating vaccines? Challenge of schools that may require regular COVID testing for provider staff to come into schools. Is there funding for COVID testing?
 - Not aware if planned state mandate for vaccines. Not aware of funding specifically for COVID testing; however, the cost of testing could be rolled into the provider cost of delivering programs/services which could potentially be reimbursed.
- Challenge with getting Catholic schools to participate in PAYS. They are checking with the diocese to see if they can use a passive consent. Is anyone having this issue? Any tips on getting private schools on board?
 - Could let them know that most schools in PA use passive consent for the PAYS, so they can know that many of their fellow schools are using that strategy successfully.
- Will DDAP continue to offer in-person training with COVID cases rising?
 - DDAP is still planning in-person trainings at this point in time.
- Schools have requested emotional support services/programs for elementary students. What social emotional learning programs are others using (or programs to address topics like peer pressure, taking care of yourself, etc.)?
 - [Botvin Life Skills Training](#)
 - [Second Step](#)
 - Montgomery County website with data from their implementation of Second Step: <https://www.montcopa.org/3672/Social-Emotional-Learning-in-MontcoPA>
 - [PATHS](#)
 - [HALO](#) (age 3-6) – provided during summer, family shared video of child singing songs from program while on vacation

- [Bounce Back](#) – Not a universal SEL program, but school-based group intervention for elementary students exposed to stressful and traumatic events.
- Can find list of evidence-based SEL programs and more at: <https://casel.org/>.
- Anyone working with PATHS in elementary schools? I am having trouble getting schools to want to use that program.
 - Have provided PATHS in past but not much success last year.

SAMSHA Listening Session Questions

SAMHSA is holding regional meetings with states regarding prevention. Requested feedback on questions below as DDAP prepares for this meeting with SAMHSA.

- How do you tell the story of prevention in your community to highlight its benefits?
 - Presentations to universities and older adults to share about available programming.
 - Send letters to partners with information from needs assessment and prioritized risk/protective/contributing factors.
 - PA Prevention Week initiatives (one way we've been promoting prevention)
 - Present to school district/school board about programs provided in school.
 - School shared on their website about one of the really successful prevention programs.
 - CTC is sharing PAYS data and highlighting progress made to reduce their top three risk factors.
 - Meet with school superintendents/principals to talk about program offerings, PAYS, and share data from prior school year.
 - Send letters to principals to let them know what grades provided Too Good for Drugs classes in and the results of the pre/post tests.
- What current challenges do you have in recruiting, training, and retaining the prevention workforce?
 - Low pay for prevention staff is resulting in quick turnover.
 - Static/flat funding for prevention programming is a challenge. Lose providers as complexity of work increases but funding doesn't.
 - Most funding opportunities only offer start-up funds. It is difficult to find funds to sustain programming. It would be helpful if more long-term funding opportunities were available. Programming takes time to implement because of the multiple partnerships required.
 - Reimbursement rates for prevention services has been stagnant for a long time and limits pay/salary of staff. Beyond direct hour of a service, there are costs for planning, meetings, documentation, coordination, etc. With current job market there are a lot of other job openings must compete with (e.g. Target paying \$20 per hour).
 - Lack of funding to hire additional staff, therefore staff members have to travel long distances to many locations and provide many different services (leading to staff feeling overloaded).
 - Difficult to hire a new employee not knowing what the future holds and whether additional funds will be available after 2 or 3 years. With training involved and partnerships built then not being able to continue/sustain the program is not ideal.
- What prevention programs are being initiated to help address disparities? What data or program challenges exist related to addressing disparities?
 - To address disparities need to understand them well, but challenge is data gaps and how to collect surveys/data. One challenge is communities understanding the value of participating in needs assessment and trusting that you're not going to ask for data and then not bring anything back to community (need to build relationships to build that trust). Obtaining representative survey sample is also a challenge.

CPA Updates

- CPA through the PA STOP Campaign has started an initiative for International Overdose Awareness Day (8/31). Materials include social media content/posts/memes, 30 sec video PSAs, posters, etc. CPA will be doing a statewide media buy that will be focused largely on social/digital media ads.
 - When using these materials use #endoverdosepa (helps with evaluation of this initiative)
 - www.pastop.org/ioad

DDAP Updates

- The oversight of all problem gambling prevention work has moved from DDAP's Prevention Section to new Problem Gambling Section. Kelly Frizen has returned to DDAP and will serve in the role of the analyst assigned to problem gambling prevention. Please direct any problem gambling prevention questions, etc. to ra-da_gambling@pa.gov.
- DDAP has received two new pots of Block Grant funding (COVID Supplemental & ARP Supplemental)
 - SCA proposal to request funding for prevention due 9/15
 - Webinar for SCAs to review instructions, timelines, priorities, etc. on 8/12 at 10:00
- DDAP will be instituting a new check-in process with SCAs for prevention for SFY 21/22. Will involve email check-ins in October and July and phone or virtual meeting check-ins in December and March with assigned DDAP prevention analyst. Details will be forthcoming.
- Timeline of upcoming tasks/due dates:
 - **8/13:** SCAs complete SAP Liaison contact for cyber schools survey
 - **8/15:** Finalize SFY 20/21 Data Entry (includes fixing any remaining data entry errors)
 - **Late August:** Respond to analyst inquiries about prevention requirements not met for SFY 20/21
 - **9/1:** SOR II plan entry due date in WITS
 - **9/15:** Proposal for BG Supplement funds due
 - **9/29:** Ensure all SOR I funds fully spent
 - **10/31:** Complete entry of all SOR funded services from 7/1/21 through 9/29/21 into WITS
 - **Early Nov** (Date TBD): Enter BG Supplement plan into WITS