Resources and Ideas from SCA Prevention Networking Session 8/20/20

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

Education/Presentations

- Summer teen groups started this month. Had 12 middle and 12 high school students registered. Parents have been very happy about program.
- Strengthening Families Program 10-14
    - Completed groups virtually who had begun in-person in Spring. Format – Two nights – Youth session on Tuesdays and Parent and Family Session on Thursday. Planning to run group in fall, winter and spring. Will limit groups to 12 families. For future groups plans to try to send activities to families for the children who would have been in childcare to do.
    - Held new group with families who had expressed interest in past. Cathy Hockaday (hockaday@iastate.edu) from Iowa State was extremely helpful. Catchy attended planning calls and provided lots of guidance/advice. She has also observed sessions. Cathy pointed out the importance of having someone to manage the tech side of things. Families have been very engaged and some have even participated in sessions while on vacation. Format – Two nights – Youth session on Tuesdays and Parent and Family Session on Thursday. Mailed packages to families with materials, supplies, gift cards, etc.
    - For the younger children in family dropped off Play-Doh and craft kits for them to work on while parents in SFP session.
- Strengthening Families Program 6-11
    - Completed groups virtually who had begun in person in Spring and started new group. Have had great interest and response. Parents really looking for interaction and support. Have waiting list of families for October. Send food to each home (pizza and salad). Format – do everything in one night; start with youth session.
- Implemented Project Toward No Drug Abuse virtually. Went well. Had reached out to program developer who offered good ideas and advice.

Benefits of Virtual Program Delivery

- Encouraged at the possibility of virtual service delivery because of success of doing SFP virtually. Need to think about things in a different ways (who manages chat, have we set ground rules that if people haven't muted themselves that host will mute them), but can still be a very positive experience.
- Reached youth in virtual summer groups that never would have reached before.
- New strategies that have enabled us to reach people unreached before will need to continue going forward, not abandon post-Covid.

Training/Community Events/Other Events or Activities

- Participating with committee for System of Care and trauma informed initiative to incorporate Gov. Wolf's plan for making PA trauma informed into work they are doing.
- Invite your legislators to participate in Montgomery County's Youth Marijuana Prevention Project Taking the Lead event – http://tinyurl.com/y8k4y54m.

- Planning virtual 5K in the fall. Sharing prevention messaging via social media, mailing info to people, and printing on things like buttons, stickers, etc. May have a 10 at 10 Zoom call for children who win to talk to superhero.
- Promoting Young Lungs at Play. Outreaching to municipalities on tobacco and vape free parks. Presented to township board who passed ordinance. More aware of the need for this.
- Providing a virtual Resident Assistant Training on current drug trends and holding training on Problem Gambling and Seniors.
- Montgomery County's revised vaping toolkit can be found here: https://www.montcopa.org/DocumentCenter/View/22295/Vaping-Toolkit_August-2020?bidId=

Sharing Tips on Virtual Program Delivery

- Would be valuable to have a shared document where people can share tips on things you should consider if going to implement programs virtually. Include tips that would be helpful regardless of the program being implemented (e.g. need to assign someone to manage chat, virtual group ground rules).
    - DDAP will work on developing a shared document and will send link out.
- Might also be helpful to create a best practice guide for using on-line platforms.
- Common Sense Media has good resources on delivering programs virtually. https://www.commonsensemedia.org/
- If parents have challenges with using technology, reach out to them ahead of time to give them tips/support.

Remote Learning Platforms

- Google Classrooms – Is free, but fee for certification.
- Edpuzzle – Not a live platform, but can record and upload presentation/lesson. Can also put in pre/post tests. Free up to 20 lessons. Edpuzzle works with Google Classroom and Canvas.
- Nearpod – For schools only doing asynchronous remote learning, may use to have recorded lessons, but can also add quizzes throughout to make more interactive.

Lack of Wi-Fi/Internet Access

- Access to reliable Wi-Fi is an issue.
- Some schools are working on getting students access. Some schools provided hot spots to families. Some have created hotspots in the school parking lots.
- Comcast has only been willing to offer free access for short time periods. In Philadelphia offering for free until December. Some areas have no infrastructure for cable/Wi-Fi/etc., so added challenge.
- Have considered purchasing cheap tablets (1 per family) on Amazon ($60 ish each) and allowing families to keep it if they complete the program. However, this doesn't necessarily address WiFi/Internet connection issue.

WITS Data Entry

- Educational programs, groups, presentations, etc. that are provided virtually can still be entered into WITS in the same way would have if were in-person.
- Zip code entered for virtual program can be zip code of where most of participants are from.