

Resources and Ideas from SCA Prevention Networking Session

8/23/23

Successes/Activities Planned/Resources

- Attending the ICRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction in fall.
- Working with evaluator, Cindy Pharis, to assess how well SCA is doing, how aware people are of prevention services, etc. Will be starting a community readiness initiative that will involve a community survey to look at the contributing factors influencing PAYS data and key informant interviews with community sectors.
- Met with county commissioners and shared SCA evaluation report. They wanted to be able to see what SCA does and also what outcomes they are having, so evaluation report was helpful resource to share.
- Implemented MD Smart Choices problem gambling prevention program for first time. Really liked the content and was easy to implement (good slides and instructions for facilitators). Youth responded well to the program. Promoted it as a healthy choices program.

Questions

- Too Good for Drugs lessons require 45-50 minutes, but average time in classroom is often about 40 minutes which doesn't account for transition time, taking attendance, etc. How much time on average are schools providing in classroom for Too Good for Drugs?
 - Ideally want 45 minutes, but often have only 30 minutes.
 - 40-42 minutes for many schools
 - Varies by grade (30 min for K-4/5; 40 min for grades 4/5 and up)
 - Have school who really sees value of program and have rearranged schedule this year to provide an hour in 4th-6th grade classrooms. Will be looking to see if outcomes for program improve now that have the full time for program.
 - Some helpful strategies are allowing the regular education teacher to give pretests and posttests at their convenience and asking the teacher to assist with collecting homework prior and taking attendance.
 - Work with schools to get them on board for implementing program with fidelity and trying to implement in standard ways across schools within county, rather than just implementing in whatever way/times schools may request.
- Is anyone using homework for Too Good for Drugs and are incentives offered?
 - Offer piece of candy as incentive for returning homework
 - Use homework every other lesson. If they bring it back, give them pencil, erasers, gummies etc. with teacher permission
 - Provide pencil as incentive for younger students. Students don't return homework at high school level (won't turn in when see other students don't).
- When liaisons go to team meeting, but only one person from team is present and they just end up discussing one or more students, is this captured as a team meeting or a consultation?
 - If the meeting was supposed to be/scheduled as a team meeting and the school is recording it as a team meeting, then record it as a team meeting.

- If it makes more sense for SCA/liaison to capture meetings where only one person attended and wasn't a true meeting as a consultation instead, that would be ok. SCA can decide what is best for them regarding how to capture these meetings.
- Can recommend SAP maintenance training for teams where members aren't attending meetings. Barrier is that team members haven't been given time in their schedule to participate on team. Some teams meet before/after school to address this barrier.
- Parent meetings on SAP Liaison Annual Report is any two-way communication, but in WITS parent meeting code says only face-to-face or phone meeting. Should/could other two-way communication outside of in-person/call be recorded in WITS (e.g. a back and forth text exchange)?
 - It would be ok to record under PIR02 in WITS a two-way conversation with parents that took place via a medium other than in-person or phone if SCA wants to capture those conversations (but doesn't have to be recorded).

CPA Updates

- CPA's Collegiate Action Network (CPA-CAN): <https://paprevention.org/special-initiatives/collegiate-action-network-cpa-can/>
 - Application open
 - Looking for college students to participate (develop leadership skills and work with PA Start/Stop campaigns to implement program/messaging on their campus)
 - Please share this info with your collegiate contacts
- Last legislative session a bill to legalize recreational marijuana was introduced in the senate. Will be another bill introduced in the fall in the house. CPA collaborating with others to hold event on October 12th in Westmoreland County to provide education. CPA will be sending out talking points for others who want to do education/advocacy on this topic.

DDAP Updates

- PA Youth Survey
 - Sign-up for 2023 PAYS is still open.
 - Can check PAYS website to see [table](#) of what schools have signed up.
 - EPIS staff have pulled together a spreadsheet to list schools who haven't signed up and shows which have participated previously. Schools who have participated in multiple years but are not signed up, should be a priority for outreach to encourage them to participate.
 - New resources such as one-pagers and videos are being added to EPIS website: <https://epis.psu.edu/pays/resources>
- Prevention Workforce Survey
 - Thank you to everyone who completed the survey!
 - 403 total respondents to survey.
 - Summary report of the results will be coming soon.
 - Highlights of results:
 - Nearly 50% of respondents have been working in prevention field for 5 years or less
 - Most common reason for choosing prevention field: Desire to help others and make an impact
 - Most common ways learned of current position: online job search website (29%); friend/colleague/family told them about position (27%)
 - 85% satisfied with current prevention position

- What makes you feel valued: Being appreciated, having a voice; having autonomy
- While 41% report having a master's degree or higher, most of the workforce (75%) makes less than \$55,000 per year. Among those who are not in a leadership, management or supervisory role, 78% make less than \$45,000 per year.
- Only 32% feel their pay is comparable to the work required
- 36% do not feel their workplace sustains an adequate number of employees for prevention
- 70% do not see opportunities for advancement in prevention within their organization
- 44% report being likely to leave their current prevention position in next three years. 33% are likely to leave prevention field in the next three years.