

Resources and Ideas from SCA Prevention Networking Session

10/18/23

Successes/Activities Planned/Resources

- Red Ribbon Week Activities:
 - Plant the promise (red tulip bulbs) – Included pledge and gave out at farmer’s market. Encouraged people to share photos when flowers bloom (some gave email so could remind them to share photos). Will also give out at take back day events.
 - Door decorating contest – prevention is the key theme
 - Head Start children will be doing a planting ceremony
 - Sent tulip bulbs to all elementary schools. Schools will send pictures in spring of their flower beds and then have public vote on who has best flower bed. May try to get local newspaper/radio to come.
 - Have youth in juvenile probation plant tulip bulbs as their community service.
 - Montgomery County CTCs are coordinating efforts together. Had proclamation signed by commissioners and are doing screening of Screenagers film. Each coalition also doing activities such as plant the promise, chalk art outside school, presentation for parents.
 - Student leaders doing plant the promise (was very well received last year)
 - Elementary students will be planting tulip bulbs
- Will be sponsoring Trunk or Treat event at local drive-in and continuing to hold sober tailgate events.
- Creating documentary to spotlight prevention programs in the county (focus on alternative activities youth can participate in).
- Local community center providing after school tutoring and mentoring (for average of 142 students per night). Funding over 14 tutors. Funding also supports transporting youth to and from program. Funds from others pay for providing a hot meal for the youth and onsite mental health counseling. Also providing Strong African American Families program at the center.

Idea for Recruiting/Supporting Workforce

- Look at ways to provide support for evaluation to help reduce volume of work on people’s plates. For example, creating regional evaluation support maybe in partnership with colleges/universities (e.g. students working on master’s/doctorate in evaluation).
- Look into how incentives can be provided for certification (e.g. raise if get certified).
- Identifying a way to fund media that can highlight what prevention is, what we do, prevention efforts being implemented, etc. (i.e. this is what prevention looks like). Fosters awareness of prevention.
 - How can we collect prevention success stories to use to advocate for prevention and promote the field of prevention? In particular, stories from participants in programs/services about the impact in their life.
 - Mercer County Behavioral Health Commission spoke with a local reporter prompted by Red Ribbon Week but spoke about prevention programming more broadly. Reporter suggested writing op-ed about prevention. Considering having participant from Strengthening Families Program write their success story.

Questions

- Have others encountered schools saying liaisons attending full SAP team meeting is violation of confidentiality and they should only attend beginning of meeting and then exit?
 - Best practice is that school-based treatment providers and other outside agency reps (e.g. juvenile probation, children and youth) attend beginning of meeting to give updates on students they are serving and then exit meeting (to avoid conflicts of interest and ensure only those who are SAP trained are sitting on SAP team). This does not apply to liaisons who can be considered members of the SAP team (and stay for whole meeting).
 - Schools should make it clear to parents who is on the SAP team
 - Should have clear letters of agreement between school and provider/agency

CPA Updates

- CPA's Collegiate Action Network (CPA-CAN): <https://paprevention.org/special-initiatives/collegiate-action-network-cpa-can/>
 - Application open through this month. Have 8 students currently but looking for up to 12 students to participate.
 - College students will be paid \$800, must be available through May 2024, and can anticipate 3-5 hours a month of participation including the 90 min virtual monthly meetings.
 - If you know of college students who may be interested, please let them know.
- CPA conference will be in Harrisburg June 12th-14th. Speaker proposal form will be coming soon. Looking to continue 30 minute power sessions to highlight great prevention work happening in PA. Also looking to provide first/second time presenters an opportunity to present for this type of larger audience.
- Legalization of recreational marijuana: Jeff Hanley will testify at public hearing on 11/1. Rep. Frankel will be introducing bill to house committee (expected to pass out of committee, pass in House, then go to Senate). Westmoreland Drug & Alcohol Commission hosted a community event on 10/12 on impacts of legalizing recreational marijuana in other states and also mobilized advocates.

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.
 - [2023 PAYS Participation Table](#) shows which schools have actually administered the survey. Can use to check if schools who signed up do actually take survey.
 - Lieutenant Governor recorded two videos (one directed to [parents](#) and one to [schools](#)) to promote PAYS.
- Prevention Workforce Survey
 - Thank you to everyone who completed the survey!
 - Summary report of the results was shared with all SCAs who were asked to forward onto prevention providers/staff.
 - If there are action steps or strategies you think can be taken at local or state level to improve recruitment, retention or training of prevention workforce, please share those ideas.