

Resources and Ideas from SCA Prevention Networking Session

8/21/24

Successes/Activities Planned/Resources

- Compass Mark is implementing Positive Action which is intended to be implemented throughout the entire school year. However, schools only provide a max of 10-12 weeks to provide the program. Reached out to the developer for guidance with making adaptations. They identified essential lessons. Facilitators found the essential lessons falling flat, so they made other adaptations. Reached out to EPIS for support regarding making these adaptations. Program evaluation results show their adapted version of program is having positive outcomes. Next phase will be internal monitoring of program implementation.
- Delivering BABES and Too Good for Drugs in schools. Have been successful with being able to implement all sessions but do have to work through challenges when need to reschedule sessions.
- Meeting with schools to discuss PAYS data and how can help schools fill gaps seeing. Working with schools to buy-in to the need for a comprehensive approach to prevention (provided in all grades) rather than just doing programming in a couple grades.
- PA Youth Survey Data Utilization
 - Examining shifts in behaviors in 6th and 12th grade. Looking at transitions (what may be needed for 5th graders, early high school, and their parents to address this).
 - Created reports for schools comparing the schools to the county (not just the state). For some schools, also gave them comparisons to other counties. Also create an executive summary of county data.
 - Were able to use PAYS Data Highlights template on EPIS website to create a report of data highlights to share. <https://epis.psu.edu/pays/in-action>
 - PAYS Advisory Group has been working on a state level PAYS Highlights Report. Goal is to hopefully provide the Canva version of this report, so others could customize for their county or school.

Questions

- Conducted focus group with SAP assessors who shared issues around social media as a key concern. What is available to address social media use?
 - Too Good for Drugs recently updated the 5th grade curriculum to include a lesson on social media.
 - Berks Council on Chemical Abuse created a programs Kids/Teens & Technology. Working to update the programs and will share updates with all those using the programs. Other SCAs/providers can use the programs. Has a key focus on digital citizenship.
 - Ryan Klingensmith does a presentation for parents on social media and youth. He also has a Shaping Digital Wisdom SEL Curriculum for youth. <https://shapethesky.org/>
 - Hosting a family connect night during Red Ribbon Week to focus on connections together. Not specifically call out social media but emphasizing in person connections.
 - Resources are available from [SAMHSA's Center of Excellence on Social Media and Youth Mental Health](#)
 - Would be valuable to have more training on social media and related topics.
 - PAYS Advisory Group is looking at potential questions to add to the PAYS in future related to social media use.

- Would like to expand services but have been unable to fill prevention positions. Any suggestions for recruiting new staff?
 - Hiring from AmeriCorps and other service-based organizations can be helpful. Can be an AmeriCorps host site.
 - Partner with local colleges.
 - Continually network with others.
 - Using interns (able to hire former interns).
 - Kentucky has been working on co-op programs with high schools to get students introduced to prevention careers before they graduate.
 - Think outside the box on experience-be willing to explore different backgrounds. People come into the prevention field from many different types of fields/backgrounds.
 - People are looking for flexibility. Offer opportunities for flexibility and highlight in job postings the flexibility within the position.
- Do you employ Prevention Specialists only during the SY (9-10 months) or all year long? 2) If so, do the staff return back each SY or do you have to rehire new staff each new SY? 3) Do any organizations have prevention specialists working all year long? And, if so, what do they do during the summer?
 - Many have prevention specialists working year-round. In the summer they do work such as summer programs/camps, programs/education at community locations such as daycares, summer programs for youth, senior centers, Boys & Girls Clubs, etc., and program planning/development/marketing. Center for Humanistic Change started a program for grades 5-8 provided at various schools throughout the area, four 3-hour sessions per group.

CPA Updates

- Applications will open this fall for CPA Board of Directors. Informational Zoom meetings will be forthcoming.
- 2025 CPA Conference will be in State College at the Penn Stater. If you're interested in being on the conference planning committee, please reach out to CPA.

DDAP Updates

- New resource: [What Works in Prevention](#). This guide reviews seven prevention strategies to avoid due to a lack of effectiveness. This includes scare tactics, alcohol/drug impairment goggles and DUI simulators, drug testing in schools, information only approaches, assemblies and one-time presentations, personal testimony from people in recovery for youth, and myth busting. The guide also includes a section reviewing the guiding principles for effective prevention.
- Prevention Impact in Action Award: New initiative aimed at recognizing and celebrating the great work prevention teams are doing across the state.
 - **Who Can Be Nominated:** This initiative is limited to SCAs and their contracted prevention providers. Nominations should be made for teams (2 or more people), not individuals. A team can be the SCA, prevention provider, or coalition as a whole or teams of prevention staff within the SCA/provider/coalition (e.g. team of 3 staff who implemented a specific project).
 - **When:** Planning two rounds of nominations and awards this year. First round of nominations will be open until 9/30/24. The second round will be open until 12/31/24.
 - **How:** To nominate a prevention team for this award, complete the nomination form. The nomination form will be emailed to SCAs by 8/30/24. The form will remain open through 12/31/24. Anything submitted by 9/30/24 will be considered for round 1 of the awards and anything submitted between 10/1 and 12/31 will be considered for round 2.