

Prevention Networking Session: Resources & Notes

2/25/26

Successes/Activities Planned/Resources

- Compass Mark's virtual Positive Change Conference is on April 8 - 9! Up to 6 credit hours available. Keynotes include Dr. Shankar-Brown speaking on Cultural Humility and Dr. Aaron Weiner on Adolescent Mental Health and THC. Registration info here:
<https://www.compassmark.org/training/positive-change-conference/>

Questions

- Are others experiencing a decrease in D&A SAP referrals? Have noticed a decline in SAP referrals for screening/assessment. Surveyed schools to find out reasons behind decline. Reasons shared were: schools now have behavioral health counselor so refer to them instead of waiting for next SAP meeting; fewer parents agreeing to SAP process; students having issues are moving to cyber school; if school policy violation just send to district magistrate.
 - Several echoed they are experiencing the same challenges and decline in referrals.
 - Refer to directly to school-based treatment and other services bypassing SAP. Lack of training on SAP contributes to this.
 - Schools are referring students directly to school-based mental health treatment. Concerns with this are: not identifying contributing issues in home, students can end up on waiting list when services would be available elsewhere, school-based treatment may not be the best/most appropriate option for all students.
 - Seeing the opposite with referrals increasing. Provide school-based drug & alcohol treatment. Have expanded network of referrals. Getting many referrals from juvenile probation and district magistrate. Built relationship with magistrates for students going to magistrate due to vaping violation. At hearings the magistrate presents SAP to parents and gets their permission for child to participate in SAP process. Also have worked with hospital program to have them refer adolescents coming in for substance use issue.
- Is anyone offering Too Good for Drugs (TGFD) Middle school curriculum training or SFP 10-14 recertification training?
 - Clearfield/Jefferson Drug and Alcohol Commission is planning a TGFD training for May 7/8 in Dubois. Once ready to open registration will share the info with DDAP to send to all SCAs.
- Is anyone doing Guiding Good Choices virtually? Decided to offer a group virtually to have option that is accessible to those who can't attend in person. Have a small group signed up. Did an orientation session with them and sent packets home to them with guides, handouts, activities, Zoom instructions, etc. Plan to provide them with a gift card at end of the program.
 - Have had success and great attendance doing Guiding Good Choices virtually (have had both small and large groups). Provide a \$30 gift card for food delivery service for family to purchase dinner. Found that it's important to set clear guidelines and expectations (e.g. need to be in their own room or on headphones; need to have camera on so they can confirm they are in a safe space and not driving; ask not to do laundry, etc. during program).

- Are there any evidence-based prevention programs people are having success with in over-crowded, urban elementary schools, as well as after-school programs? It seems several of our districts are moving away from Botvin LifeSkills Training (LST) which had previously been in each school. School had 15 minute SEL period so doing programs that fit that and not LST.
 - Moved from LST to TGFDF. Find TGFDF is more interactive/engaging. For large classes need to purchase extra game boards, card sets, etc. Can also buy large classroom curriculum kits for class size of 30.
 - Positive Action (have shorter SEL lessons). Pasela is a virtual platform that is great.
 - Second Step (SEL lessons designed for teacher implementation throughout school year)
- Are others having challenges getting all 10 TGFDF sessions in at schools?
 - Several noted they experience this challenge.
 - Have to double up sessions (two in one week or two lessons in same session back to back)
 - Many class periods are only 30 minutes, so have to shorten lessons.
 - Used an intern to do fidelity observations to see what is/isn't getting done when don't have the proper time/weeks for program
 - Schools want programming to all happen in Fall due to Spring testing (but lack staff capacity to get to all schools in the Fall)
 - There comes a point when time provided is so limited that have to say can't provide the program because program can't achieve intended goals if have to cut out much of the content.
 - Some schools choose LST because it's only 8 sessions in elementary.
 - Try to focus on getting into social studies classes in middle school as it's not a tested subject. Health classes are also a good option.
 - With some schools having their own SEL curriculum they don't see need for TGFDF.
 - Some schools have expressed concern with TGFDF name. Mendez Foundation is looking to rebrand and change program names (e.g. Maximizing Life).
- Suggestions of afterschool program options?
 - One Circle Foundation programs (Girls Circle, The Council)
 - Too Good OST
 - Wings Curriculum
- Is anyone familiar with [Bee the Friend](#) program from Jason Foundation?
 - No one shared being familiar with this program.

CPA Updates

- 2026 CPA Conference
 - June 10-12, 2026: Hilton-Harrisburg
 - Registration opens March 16 with virtual event kickoff from 9:00 - 9:30 am. Register for event kickoff here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/papreventionconference>.

DDAP Updates

- **Prevention Implementation Evaluation & Support Process:** Free technical assistance process provided by EPIS. This short-term TA model is designed to help SCAs and their contracted providers strengthen the effectiveness and consistency of their programs and services.
 - If you're interested in this free TA process, please reach out to EPIS: EPIS@psu.edu.
 - For more details about the process view this [webinar recording](#).

- **Prevention Evaluation Roundtable: Collecting/Tracking/Analyzing Pre-Post & Survey Data**
Date: April 8, 2026
Time: 11:00-12:00
Zoom: <https://psu.zoom.us/j/4428434174>
- **SPF Application for Prevention Success Training (SAPST)**
 - Planning to hold SAPST the week of April 27th at a location in southeastern PA. Hope to have dates and location confirmed soon. Training will be available in TMS for registration.