

Prevention Subcommittee

Minutes 1.11.19

Attendance: Tammy Sassaman (Family Service), Vicky Smith (Cedars), Kiersten Hill (BBBSL), Shirley Terry (LFS), Rose Hood Buss (HUB), Bill Michener (Lighthouse), Ishma Valenti (Malone Center), Jarvis Green (Boys & Girls Club), Myeisha Essex (YWCA), McKenzie Stauffer (Girl Scouts), Roma Amundson (County Board), Matt Baker (OTP), Natalie Wiebelhaus (ACCC), Rebecca Dacus (HopeSpoke), Brandon McWilliams (Men With Dreams), Amanda Garner (Boys & Girls Club), Sheli Schindler (LCYSC), Sara Hoyle (Human Services), and Jenni Ryan (Human Services)

Effective Prevention Programs:

Last meeting we looked at an article on Principles of Effective Prevention Programs. We discussed how prevention works, when it starts & ends, and the continuum of prevention to post-vention. We decided the large JDAI Collaborative can serve as an avenue to provide training as one of the principles is having well-trained staff. We considered holding trainings that agencies can send their staff to, making them available online to accommodate more staff, making them free, and utilizing multiple dates or a series focusing on multiple perspectives.

Trauma Informed Care Training:

Discussed bringing in different cultural perspectives. Cheryl Turner with CCFL has something developed already. Matt stated he can connect with a few Native people that have experience. Shirley can ask Oscar Rios Pohirieth with LPS or someone else about the immigrant/refugee population. Ishma will follow-up on generational trauma. We could easily spend a whole day to allow for focus in multiple areas.

Screening Assessments:

We need to use pre & post-assessment tools. Gina Vincent (presented in screening tools at our 2016 Community Aid conference) might be a good person to contact. Tammy mentioned a strengths and difficulties questionnaire they use. We could take a whole day again to go over different types. Ishma mentioned a VPIO-Gallup Builder profile and Strengths Finder. The UNL Public Policy Center can provide information on various assessments & would know if they are free or copyrighted, etc. Kiersten stated that they do various surveys that are owned by Big Brothers Big Sisters and have them available in a text format for youth. We can get feedback from the JDAI Collaborative on what assessments they are most interested in learning more about.

Restorative Justice/Healing Justice:

Bill is a licensed Restorative Justice trainer and could provide training on RJ practices. He shared that it can be used programmatically.

Socio-culturally Relevant & Fun:

Ishma, Matt, & Myeisha will work on developing something for this principle. It's important to build relationships that are fun and meaningful in order to truly prevent at-risk behavior. Agencies need to be willing to fund the person that's fun and who kids relate to more so than the person with the most education/accolades. Matt shared that many youth of color have a

disconnect between their reality and the reality of where they came from. Food, language & music along with the story behind it are effective tools to reach these youth. Two issues that youth of color experience are: 1) they don't understand who they are (just what the media portrays) and 2) educational struggles. Myeisha shared that youth need to feel ownership of the experience – giving them leadership roles within the program & providing that peer perspective. It's important to hook kids up with “their thing”.

Define At-risk Population:

Bill expressed issues with labeling youth as at-risk and that becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy. Instead it's better to use the term at-risk behavior. He phrases it as at-promise youth with at-risk behavior. Ishma shared that families and youth are in opposition to calling themselves at-risk. Matt suggested using the terminology of a program that creates opportunities. We will focus on a messaging change within the JDAI Collaborative.

Next Meeting: February 4, 2019 from 10-11am in Room 303

Submitted By:

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