

What does it take for local communities to adopt evidence-based prevention?

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National Prevention Network Conference
September 18, 2007

Your experience with technical assistance.....



- What are the qualities of really good TA?
 - received
 - provided



EDC Principles of effective TA

- Relationship-based & collaborative
- Customized
 - >developmental, culture, grant phases
- Offered as a continuum of services
 - > stems from needs assessment
- Responsive to culture, race, ethnicity and economics

EDC Principles of effective TA

- Applies the most up-to-date research to practice
 - Draws on best practices in diffusion of innovation
- Capitalizes on the many federal and privately funded tools, resources and publications

MetroWest Youth Substance Abuse Initiative

- 10 communities in metrowest/Boston
- \$200,000. for 3-year project
- Goal: apply evidence-based strategies to strengthen prevention, intervention & access to treatment for youth



MetroWest Youth Substance Abuse Initiative

Project resources:

- Education Development Center, Inc. – provides technical assistance and training to 10 communities to improve their capacity to implement EBP's
- Brandeis University – evaluate impact of the 10 community initiatives & impact of the TA Center

MetroWest TA Center Services

- Three levels of TA:
 - Individual project coordinators – skill-building, research, collaboration
 - Community team – training, planning & facilitation
 - Region – convening & dissemination

MetroWest TA Center Services

- Individual Training & TA:
 - Assessment skills & tools > readiness
 - Coalition-building - community input
 - Skill-building - communication & facilitation
 - Coaching & project coordination
 - Strategic planning > mission/vision/structure
 - Sustainability > grantwriting, fundraising, networking

Evaluation Impact

Challenges

- Unique characteristics of each community – requires customization
- Community constraints: leadership, skills, readiness, resources
- Sustainability; three years is a very short time to develop a comprehensive community approach

Lessons Learned

- Meet communities where they are at
 - Meet their requests & move from there to a broader vision
- Cohort Two Planning structure: Go slow so you can go fast
 - Ground in theory & strategy
- People will support what they help create
 - Get buy-in at every step along the way

Community Gems

- Framingham – brief intervention program at the middle schools
- Needham – parent coffees
- Wayland – coalition-building, parent outreach
- Hopkinton – police outreach; be-free web site
- Milford/Bellingham – cultural outreach

Regional model advantages

- Speeds the understanding & use of evidence-based practices via:
 - Group training on theory & practice
 - Individual sharing between communities on program selection, implementation, adaptation and resource-sharing



Regional model advantages

- Encourages creative problem-solving
 - Handling tragic incidents/parties
 - Adapting speakers presentations
 - Brainstorming funding ideas
 - Examining problems/solutions from a regional view (YRBS & police meetings)

Regional model advantages

- Collect lessons to share with newly funded towns & broader group
 - Providing multiple perspectives on what it takes to implement evidence-based strategies (Cohort Two benefits)
 - Mentoring opportunities for funded communities
 - Encouraging other funders to think regionally

Implications for potential funders

- Adaptations of federally-funded TA centers offer many advantages:
 - Knowledge of EBP's, fidelity & adaptation
 - Skilled at adult learning approaches, coaching/facilitating for local communities
 - Available tools for assessment, planning, implementation & evaluation
 - Skilled conveners of broader community to increase shared understanding & collaboration

Additional information:

http://www.mchcf.org/special_initiatives/yshtml

- **articles**
- **resources**
- **meeting materials**
- **TIPS and FAQ's**

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