

Communities that Care

Prevention Works. It's working Here.

Policy & Practice Change Workgroup

February 28, 2018

Present: Laurie Loisel (NWDA), Kat Allen (PFY), Kara McLaughlin (GMCSF), Tess Jurgenson (OTF), Lucinda Brown (Reinventing Justice), Serena Smith (CAYP/Youth Rep), Melinda Calianos (FH Tobacco Free), Phoebe Walker (FRCOG), Ilana Gerjuoy (PFY- recording).

- Introductions and Ice breaker
- How do members/orgs want to be involved in working toward workgroup goals, either on the inside or outside of bullseye in Community Action Plan? Which work is connected to or part of work that members are already doing?
 - OTF: Physiology of Addictions, RECOVER Project Collaboration, assessing trauma-informed programming, promoting drug take back days
 - OTF: related to this, Tess is helping to coordinate Ruth Potee's schedule for presentations, so that is helpful to know for continuing to promote physiology of addiction education. Phoebe notes it is important to keep getting it out there as an ongoing process, especially to parents and can use the video that is available.
 - Phoebe/FRCOG: Will be doing a presentation on how local government works with a focus on how public health professionals and others who promote public health strategies can work with local governments. Also marijuana and tobacco regs and working with Boards of Health.
 - Melinda: Compliance checks and signage, smoke-free housing, continuing to do vaping presentations.
 - Question from the group: Does Juul packaging and nicotine juice have surgeon general's warning? Answer: No - it's not regulated by the FDA. This is a concern.
 - Lucinda: Most of her work is post-addiction – this brings up important questions related to her passion: how do we become communities that erase stereotypes and give people in recovery the chance to rebuild pro-social lives? It's a lot of work to move back into a healthy lifestyle. We need to change norms of community and also focus on relationships!
 - Phoebe – build on State without Stigma and other related social marketing?
 - Lucinda: Reminder that Institute for Health & Recover has a webinar that she really likes about trauma-informed care and it focuses on agency culture, not just how staff treat people who use the services of an agency but how they treat each other. This connects back to creating a truly recovery-friendly and prevention-friendly community.
 - Laurie: Prevention is being more recovery-friendly. She can work on drug take back days and drop boxes. She is involved with trauma-informed work in Hampshire County and can partner with us about that work.
 - Rena: Will continue to provide input re: youth perspective and connect us with youth leadership. Thinking about signage in parks – could they also be in the middle of the park? Are there other ways to make signage more effective?
 - Kara: Helping municipal leaders (especially boards) to develop education and skills, helping youth to be more involved, trauma-informed work.

- Report back from Cannabis Control Commission Hearing and other Marijuana-related discussion
 - Several members attended and/or presented at local hearings. Many issues were raised, interesting discussions, more people there who acknowledged the importance of youth prevention. Quite a few people spoke up in favor of local control vs. big business control of industry.
- Alcohol Policy Task Force letter that we just signed onto
 - CTC signed onto letter to the Alcohol Policy Task Force, along with many other prevention coalitions across the state, asking for more of a focus on youth prevention and acknowledging positive steps that have been made.
- Update on next steps for racial justice and health equity work
 - A survey on CTC racial justice climate and work so far will be available soon. All workgroup members will have the opportunity to take the survey and we would love your input.

General comments/discussion:

- There was consensus that it's important to keep vaping/nicotine norms and education as part of the work of this group)
- Think about language that we use related to marijuana legalization: some people like the term “retail marijuana” better than “recreational marijuana” because it reminds us of the commercial nature of the legalization and potential ramifications. However, since not all legal adult use is retail (people can grow their own, there will be grow facilities, wholesale, processing etc) it does not cover the whole picture of legalization. So we can discuss language further as things evolve!
- It would be great to see the agencies that need the most help with trauma-informed principles have access to training. Can we encourage probation officers to view the Dept of Justice videos on trauma-informed work?
- It would be great to have a goal related to youth leadership and policy involvement.
- Also, even though CTC focuses on youth, can we also see this work in a multigenerational framework, with the understanding that rates of SUD in older people are increasing due to depression, loneliness, medical issues, etc? Group liked this idea. Connects with prevention-friendly and recovery-friendly work going hand in hand.

Next meeting: Mar 28. Then need to set future meeting date – go to every other month?