

Youth Marijuana Prevention Education Program

June 2016 Regional Meeting

June 24, 2016

CHOICE Regional Health Network, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., via teleconference

Introduction:

Winfried Danke began the meeting by asking the participants to consider what the strategic goal of the group should be. Options include preventing an increase in youth marijuana use, decreasing the overall use, or keeping usage stable in the targeted communities. More ambitious goals may be considered as well, as long as everyone makes the decision together.

Presentation and Discussion:

Meagan Picard from The Athena Group presented the results of the Needs Assessment survey.

Overview

66 people participated in the survey across the region. These were from phone interviews, group meetings, and e-surveys with a breakdown of these numbers being listed in the presentation.

Existing Prevention Strategies

Key findings from the survey regarding prevention strategies include the following:

- There is no critical mass of strategies, but the most common evidence-based CPAA strategies are happening in most every county in the region.
- None of the Tribes were interested in the listed prevention programs.

The group was asked to consider if they should focus resources on the most used strategies, and what issues would arise in delivering them to Native youths.

Strengthening Existing Strategies

In regards to strengthening existing strategies, survey results showed that:

- Few modifications were made, and there is a high confidence in fidelity to guidelines of the most common strategies
- There is a need for materials/supplies and training to carry out these strategies.

The group discussed these findings and agreed that training without the required supplies is a typical dilemma they face throughout the region. Depending on the program, there is a frequent lack of copies of materials, books, and guides. Additionally, with more materials, more people can participate in the trainings which would not only be more cost effective, but also support the sustainability of the program.

Meagan then provided some pointers about addressing the top three priority populations. The survey showed that:

- Most reporting organizations strive to meet diverse population needs, however
- Priority populations may need more focus.

The group discussed this and reiterated how transportation poses such a challenge to reaching priority populations in both rural and urban areas. Some counties may also either have less diverse populations, or participants need to work on identifying where those populations are located in the county.

Little was reported on readiness and who is assessing it. A key finding from this area:

- It appears most are using community health assessments

The group was asked if community health assessments provide needed information to determine different populations' reading to receive prevention information. Participants reported that there was not a great response from Hispanic/Latino or Native American youth, and there is not a good way to tell if the prevention information will be received well among certain groups. There is also the issue of assessment fatigue. The group may need some time to look at tools available, including the SAMHSA document, to see what would be the most useful.

Needed Prevention Strategies

In the section on "Prevention Strategies Needed in the CPAA Region" it was reported that all of the current CPAA strategies were identified as being needed. Some strategies, however, were identified as being needed that were not yet being provided by this program. Chief among these was the strategy, "Guiding Good Choices." These strategies will be looked at to help fill potential gaps in future prevention work with the program.

In the section of resources most needed, "Training," and "Materials/Supplies," were the top two. In the discussion on the topics of prevention strategies and resource needs, the group commented that it would be good to look into the "Guiding Good Choices" need since it shows up again and again as a top need. People on the call had some limited experience with this strategy.

E-Cigarettes and Vaping Devices

The last section was on "E-Cigarettes and Vaping Devices," and this section revealed that the region has varying restrictions on these devices. This information was marked as something to potentially follow up on.

Comments from the group on this were that local communities can work on education currently and that is needed prior to policy being pushed forward. Several people in the group mentioned concern that kids were using the devices in schools, but that in general, cities were not interested in regulation yet.

Summary of Findings

Some of the key findings were:

- Tribes are open to providing education to youth on the harms of marijuana. With respecting tribal sovereignty.
- "Guiding Good Choices" was coming up a lot in the assessment and is not yet in the work plan, but maybe should be.
- Top reported resource needs for existing strategies are Materials/Supplies (n=26) and Training (n=32).
- There is a big need for culturally competent programs that target our priority populations—this will be a challenge to address but it is important that we do so. Priority populations have not

been focused on yet (year one) in this work—possibly because of resource and/or time limitations.

Closing Discussion

Program Manager Matthew Shellhart reiterated the overarching goal for the program being to stop and then reduce the growth of Marijuana use among youth in the region, which will be monitored via the Healthy Youth Survey which will be out next in spring of 2017. Guiding Good Choices was discussed as something to explore for year two.

Next Steps

- Matthew will go over the findings in more detail and use them as well as feedback from the group in developing out year two planning.
- Matthew will send out a doodle poll for an in-person meeting sometime soon for a July/August “kick-off” meeting.
- In the meantime, members who have questions are encouraged to call or email Matthew or Meagan.