

Vermont Strategic Prevention Framework

Learning Community Overview 9-08

Background

The Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) State Incentive Grant has provided a unique opportunity to create a learning community throughout Vermont that is focused on Substance Abuse Prevention. Communities who receive SPF Funding will work together with a shared vision to fulfill common goals through collaboration, active learning, peer consultation and the use of technical assistance resources.

WHO is part of the Learning Community?

The Vermont SPF Learning Community is comprised of two major audiences:

- 1) SPF Leadership including:
 - Vermont Department of Health (VDH) SPF Team
 - VDH Prevention Consultants
 - SPF Training Team (Center for Health and Learning)
 - Community Coordinators (SPF, New Directions and CHAMPPS grantees) and Local Leadership Teams
- 2) Local community organization membership and community partners

WHY have a Learning Community?

- To establish a shared vision
- To learn through cooperation, using one another as resources
- To build networks that are ongoing and provide access to shared resources that sustain the work
- To provide support for the application of knowledge in a timely way

WHAT will the SPF Learning Community do?

The goal is for all the activities of the Learning Community to support the application of knowledge and skills in communities in the prevention of substance abuse. Additionally, the use of common language, tools and technology at the community level will ensure consistency of approach statewide.

WHAT resources will we use to cultivate and support the Learning Community?

We will use a combination of activities and tools that build relationships, knowledge and skills including:

- Dialogue education and focused peer exchange
- Technical assistance from experts
- Print, online and other technological resources

These resources are outlined in the SPF Learning Community Resources Table on the reverse side.

HOW will we activate the Learning Communities?

The Learning Community design uses a process experienced in multiple cycles (through training, meetings and resources) to enhance communication, and build community team rigor and outcomes. Each cycle repeats and leads to the next stage of SPF planning. The cycle includes:

- Group forming and maintenance
- Identifying knowledge, tools and skills that assist the work
- Anticipating and planning for community level tasks
- Reflecting on successes and challenges

Strategic Prevention Framework Learning Community Resources Table 9-08

Resources	Focus	Audience	
		Leadership	Community
Education and Peer Exchange			
Statewide training and meetings JoEllen Tarallo-Falk	Learning, sharing, networking October 2 (snowdate 10/3) January 14 (snowdate 1/16) December 4-5 (snowdate 12/10-11) March 11 (snowdate 3/13) May 12 (snowdate 5/14) <i>Questions or concerns?</i> 802-254-6590 or info@healthandlearning.org	X	
Local training and meetings	Group forming and maintenance, building awareness through education and community-level work		X
SPF List-Serve Dawn Jorgensen	The list-serve provides an opportunity for SPF Leadership to communicate with one another about common challenges and share information and resources. All SPF grantees will be added to the list-serve. Requests to be added may be addressed to: 802-652-4148 or djorgen@vdh.state.vt.us	X	
ADAP Training Series	CHL will be coordinating a Prevention Training Series for ADAP which offers one-day workshops offered January through September 2009 on timely topics to support community work. For more information: 802-254-6590 or healthandlearning.org (click on: Register-Trainings)	X	X
Technical Assistance			
VDH Prevention Consultants	The ADAP Prevention Consultants work with communities to provide support for all processes related to assessment, capacity-building, planning, implementation and evaluation of the SPF.	X	X
Lori Tatsapaugh-Uerz Amy Livingston	VT SPF Coordinator, VDH, 802-652-4149 or luerz@vdh.state.vt.us State-wide On-site Evaluator Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, 802-652-4111 or alivingston@vdh.state.vt.us	X	
Technology and Tools			
DoH web-site	Provides information on many aspects of the SPF in Vermont including what the SPF is, goals and priorities, FAQs and Vermont's plan. There are links to documents in pdf format. http://healthvermont.gov/adap/prevention/SPF/StrategicPreventionFramework.aspx	X	X
CHL web-site	A portal for the SPF on the homepage links to Training agendas, minutes, and important materials and tools to carry out community-level tasks, e.g., Training Needs Assessment, VT Guidance Document (TBA), etc. www.healthandlearning.org (click on: Strategic Prevention Framework)	X	X
SPF E-Newsletters	The <i>SPF Learning Community Connections E-newsletter</i> will relay major training concepts and remind participants about tools and tasks. These E-newsletters may be forwarded on to local membership to support community-level communication and learning.	X	X
On-line Courses	There will be opportunities for communities to participate in facilitated online courses, e.g., <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Effective Strategies: Building Blocks of Prevention ▪ Data Collection Methods: Getting Down to Basics ▪ Evaluation 101 	X	X