



Example Abstracts

Presentation Title:

Local Health Department's Role in Opioid Misuse and Abuse Prevention

Session Description:

Efforts from local health departments to implement and support opioid misuse prevention strategies are continually met with roadblocks, including inadequate data, financial constraints, and a pervasive misunderstanding regarding the complexities of opioid misuse and abuse. By establishing cross-sector partnerships that leverage the knowledge and experience of stakeholders to overcome these barriers, Wright County Public Health (WCPH) has embraced the true responsibility of public health in assuring an equitable and timely approach is used to prevent substance use. Wright County has an increased capacity to respond to the opioid epidemic using co-created projects with local government and community partners. WCPH and partners continue to explore innovative ways to address the opioid epidemic at a local level through creation of policies and procedures, transforming the systems that impact substance use, and cultivating environments that encourage lifelong health.

This session will address how to build capacity to mutually address substance use with a variety of partners and assist attendees in applying these concepts to their work. Focus will be on finding advocates, building collaborations for collective impact, data collection and analysis, and action plan development. WCPH will share different ways to measure and celebrate success and how to fearlessly attempt big and bold ideas.

Presenters:

Becky Graham, BSN, RN, PHN from Wright County Public Health

Ellie Vanasse, BSN, RN, PHN from Wright County Public Health

Jacob Anson, BS from Wright County Public Health

Presentation Title:

Developing Culturally-Specific Prevention and Intervention Supports for Karen Youth

Session Description:

After resettlement, while many refugee-background youth integrate quickly, others face barriers to resettlement including difficulty with school and family stressors (Patel et al, 2017). Both pre-migration trauma and post-migration stress contribute to elevated risk of harmful substance use (Posselt et al., 2014). Compounding these risk factors, there are very few, if any, substance use prevention or treatment programs that specifically target refugee youth and consider their migratory, sociohistorical, cultural, and linguistic characteristics (McCleary, 2016). There are even fewer resources for Karen youth, who are a relatively new refugee-background community from Burma who have been arriving to the U.S. in large numbers since 2007. This presentation describes the process of developing and implementing culturally-specific prevention and intervention supports for Karen youth. The work described in this presentation was developed in partnership between the Karen Chemical Dependency Collaboration (KCDC), a cross-disciplinary, cross professional group, and the Karen Organization of Minnesota. Prevention and intervention supports go beyond intervening with individual youth to engaging parents and family members, community leaders, youth leaders, and faith leaders. Crucial steps in the development of this programming, including the role of the Karen community in identifying community problems and solutions, will be discussed.

Presenters:

Tonya Horn, PhD, LICSW from the University of St. Thomas
Ner Mu from the Karen Organization of Minnesota