

PREP COALITION MEETING CONFERENCE CALL – April 20, 2015

ROLL CALL

Dr. Dianne Kerr, Molly Malloy, Frank Catrone, Julie Chaya, Ashanti Parker, Sarah Goins, Helene Gates, Renee Hosoi, Julie Willis, Cheri Miller, Kenny Crookston

REVIEW

Dr. Kerr summarized the results of the most recent Region 6 youth pre – post test data analysis. The tests can be used to gauge the differences between what youth participants knew and/or felt prior to and after completing PREP. Test questions pertain to sexual frequency and orientation, birth control, stress management, money, and friendship. She explained the analysis, as the group reviewed a handout detailing the findings.

Dr. Kerr opened the conversation to discuss current PREP efforts of call participants.

Helene mentioned an issue she has with questions pertaining to marijuana usage and the Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) unit. Youth are asked if they will use marijuana in the next three months and if they will have sex in the next three months. Responses may be influenced by the duration of time that they will be in custody. If they will still be detained in three months, they are likely to answer no to these questions. Dr. Kerr agreed. She will point this out to Ohio Department of Health.

Helene described her experiences with the curriculum as “so far so good.” She said she enjoys teaching PREP. Her organization (Mahoning County Juvenile Justice Center) is currently on its fourth round of PREP, and is interested in adding a new employee to its trained staff. She said she still refers to the curriculum check sheets, but she is now more conversational. She finds that the class gets bored when she reads from the book. She is working at becoming more comfortable with the financial portion of the curriculum, but she loves the Reducing The Risk (RTR) book.

Dr. Kerr said in the past, sex education focused on an abstinence based approach. President Obama started PREP in order to have a more comprehensive, evidence based sex education program.

Kenny said his most recent session was last summer. He said his organization (Stark County Children Services) teaches the curriculum at a local YMCA and currently has four trained staff members. He asked if anyone had suggestions about teaching PREP material to 14 year olds because they are developmentally different than those in their late teens. Helene said she believes it is better to educate them about PREP topics sooner rather than later. Dr. Kerr agreed. She said sex education is not taught until 10th grade in many public schools. By that time, many students have already had sex. Julie said there are positive and negative aspects of teaching the two groups together. While older kids can serve as role models, it is difficult to shelter 14 years olds from hearing and learning unsavory details shared by older classmates.

Renee said she loves the program. She is glad she went through staff training and was able to share the information with her facility (Trumbull County Juvenile Detention Center). She said she is amazed by the cooperation and participation she received during her first session. She has not established a separate criteria (in addition to official PREP criteria) for the selection of youth that she will teach. Therefore, she does not know a lot about the participants or how long they will be detained. She lost 90% of the class during her second session. She said she is now intimidated by starting a new session because she may have to stop prematurely. Dr. Kerr said try moving through the curriculum a bit faster and hand picking participants. Renee said it was also difficult to work around school schedule, so next time she may try to do the program in the summer when school schedules are less of an issue. Dr. Kerr said all classes are different. She added she hopes Renee tries again and can keep an optimistic outlook.

Helene asked Renee if her youth are court ordered to attend PREP. Renee said no. She said implementing a CBT unit would solve her issues, but the facility does not have it yet. Helene said Allen County is a great place to observe a CBT unit.

Dr. Kerr said the purpose of coalition meetings is to discuss topics and issues such as these. She asked Molly about upcoming training opportunities. Molly said the next staff training will be held on April 30, 2015 at the Northeast Ohio Regional Training Center (NEORTC). The registration is currently closed, but if anyone knows of interested individuals, let her know within the next day or so. Helene said she did not receive an email about the registration. Molly said she should have received it because it was sent to everyone on the Canton City Health Department PREP contact list, which includes all trainers. Molly added that she would re-send the registration information.

Dr. Kerr said she hopes Kenny, Sarah, and Julie can do another summer session. She thanked everyone for attending the conference call.