

Addressing Substance Use in Rural Areas

A Joint Training for Regional Prevention Partnerships
and Tobacco Control Program Community Grantees

July 8, 2019



TABLE TOPIC STRUCTURED NETWORKING AND SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Table Topic Summaries

TABLE 1

Topic: *Youth Engagement in Educating Legislators and Policy Leaders*

Challenges

- Connecting to Schools, getting the schools information, transportation issues
- Getting kids to buy in (you have to meet them where they are at), it has to be an issue they care about or they won't engage
- CBD has no age range to purchase?
- Flavored vapes
- Things are changing all the time – languages – names of vapes, we can't keep up with the language
- Marijuana is effecting young people with employment, legislators need to hear that.
- How do we make sure people are ready to hear youth?
- How can you get a youth to head, actually lead?
- Managing different levels of skills and behaviors with youth
- Parental permissions – to substance – don't want to talk about substances
- Surveyed youth – youth didn't feel safe or feel they have a voice
- Schools are important when you are looking to youth empowerment.

Opportunities

- Youth intern, youth task force, have the right person in the role to help make youth feel safe
- Getting to the "Y" – let youth drive it and they get better response
- Work with the schools.
- Youth enjoy looking into corporate justice social justice issues.
- Share what you find (have youth share what they find with legislators).
- Be aware of what youth have interest in or engagement will be a challenge.
- OVX Kids – Rally at the statehouse, snowstorm prevented them from going to the rally so rescheduled for a week later. They brought vapes and did a presentation.
- Legislative breakfast – bring youth
- Take pictures and tell stories of how marijuana is effecting lives
- Getting to "Y" can lead into a stronger youth group.
- Have youth do peer recruitment
- Photo voice project through VKAT

Opportunities (continued)

- Vermont Afterschool
- Youth summit – attorney general keynote
- Get youth to present to superintendent
- Teen Institute: Youth can dig into the hows and whys – teaches peer leader, CADCA youth went
- Give youth opportunities to share data with local municipals and legislators around vaping and opioids. Before legislators go to the state building to be informed.

Solutions

- Go into the school to help with transportation barriers.
- 21 Years old to buy tobacco
- Approach things using social justice, talk about tobacco and social issues, teach youth about what companies are doing in other countries.
- Search institute training - power sharing, share as much power with youth as you can if you want youth to be empowered
- How you present to youth will get them to engage, if you are genuinely wanting them to be empowered they can tell which
- Genuine reactions from legislators
- If youth are comfortable with the people, they will be the best advisors.
- Youth that lived an experience are more valuable to talk about that issue.
- Have youth show retailers and others what vapes look like.
- Have youth look things up to do some fact-finding.
- Thank you notes
- Teen Institute – peer leadership training, in school support, leader from each school
- Planning for prevention – Healthy Lamoille County
- Youth called Leahy to do something about vaping.
- Strong SAP is important
- Ann Donahue wrote back to youth – empowered youth
- When youth advocate it means more chances to be successful | making changes.