



CLERMONT COUNTY SUICIDE PREVENTION COALITION

COMMUNITY CONTEXT: Clermont County is a large suburban and rural County east of Cincinnati with a population of approximately 210,000. The County is the western most federally designated Appalachian County, and many of the County residents proudly view themselves as Appalachian. The County has a disparity in access to treatment and resources between the more rural southern part of the County and the northern more suburban part of the County.

LEAD AGENCY OR CONVENER GROUP

As the behavioral health authority for the County, the Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board is the lead agency for the Clermont County Suicide Prevention Coalition. The Board is in a unique position to bring together diverse sectors of the community to work together on complex social and health problems.

COALITION MEMBERSHIP

The Coalition has a diverse membership which consists of county government, elected officials, healthcare organizations, adult and child mental health treatment provider agencies, substance use disorder treatment provider agencies, prevention services, aging services agency, media, developmental disabilities, first responders, schools, survivors of suicide; funders, and county courts.

OPERATIONS AND PROCESSES

The Coalition has been involved in the community for many years and provides participating members with the benefit of sharing limited resources to address a serious health issue that impacts our community. The Coalition values collaboration and assures that all member's voices are heard regarding strategic planning, goal and objective development, and implementation of the strategic plan.

LEADERSHIP AND STAFFING

The Coalition is led by a volunteer Chair who is employed by the lead agency, the Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board. The Coalition Chair is responsible for the overall direction of the Coalition's work but shares the workload with volunteer Coalition members. Coalition members are ambassadors for the Coalition by assisting with awareness activities in the community, promoting membership to other community entities, and educating the public about the Coalition and its mission.

STRUCTURES

The mission of the Coalition is to increase awareness and reduce the stigma of mental illness community-wide and to reduce the number of suicides in Clermont County. The Coalition's strategic plan includes goals and objectives that are based on community-level data. The Coalition updates the strategic plan on a yearly basis utilizing the most recent community-level data.

FORMATION

MAINTENANCE

INSTITUTIONALIZATION

SYNERGY

POOLED RESOURCES

Pooled resources of the Coalition are focused on human capital. Without the time and energy of our Coalition members, the work of the Coalition could not have community-wide impact.

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Engagement of Coalition members is vital to assure that the work of the Coalition is impactful to our Community. With a diverse and engaged Coalition membership, the Coalition can intervene to address the complex health issue at multiple levels in the community. New members are identified and recruited by the Chair and Coalition members based on their passion about suicide prevention, sector representation, and connection to the priority population.

ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING

The Coalition uses the Strategic Prevention Framework process to guide the planning and work of the Coalition. Assessment data is gathered from the various members and community partners and provides the framework for decisions on the goals and objectives of the Coalition. Without data, successful implementation of a strategic plan is not possible.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIES

The Coalition utilizes the State of Ohio's Suicide Prevention Plan and the CDC Strategies for Community Change as the template to guide the implementation of strategies. Through analysis of local data, the Coalition ensures that the implementation of strategies is relevant and adding value to our community.

COMMUNITY CHANGE OUTCOMES

The focus of the Coalition is directly related to our mission. The Coalition seeks to create community-level of change to increase the awareness of suicide and reduce the number of suicides in Clermont County.

COMMUNITY CAPACITY

Through the work of the Coalition, many non-traditional partnerships have developed between treatment providers, government elected officials, first responders, criminal justice system, and public human service organizations which has led to increased awareness and access to treatment.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL OUTCOMES

As the Coalition works to become more data driven, the suicide prevention programming becomes more targeted to address the priority population or those at highest risk. Policies and procedures are continually developed or improved to assure that prevention, crisis, assessment, and treatment services focus on identifying and treating those in the high-risk groups.

Community Coalition Action Theory – Longer Narrative Clermont County Suicide Prevention Coalition Clermont County, Ohio

Community Context

Clermont County is a large suburban and rural County east of Cincinnati with a population of approximately 215,000. The County is located in Southwest Ohio and is the western most federally designated Appalachian County. Clermont County has 14 townships, and one city. Many of the County residents proudly view themselves as Appalachian. There is a large disparity between the needs of our residents, with those in the more rural parts of the County having less access to transportation and treatment.

Lead Agency or Convener Group

Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board (CCMHRB)

Coalition Membership

Coalition membership includes representatives from: County government, County elected officials, Healthcare organizations, various adult and child serving mental health treatment provider agencies, substance use disorder treatment provider agency, prevention services, Aging services agency, Developmental Disabilities, First responders, Schools,; Survivors of suicide, Funder organization, Coroner, and County Courts.

Coalition Operations and Processes

The Coalition has been involved in the community for many years and provides participating members with the benefit of sharing limited resources to address a serious health issue that impacts our community. The Coalition values collaboration and assures that all member's voices are heard with regards to strategic planning, goal and objective development and implementation of the strategic plan. Coalition decisions are made by consensus and a formal vote following Roberts Rules of Order. The Coalition also believes in the importance of offering 'action steps' or 'to do items' at each meeting to keep Coalition members engaged and feeling that they are making a difference in their community.

Leadership and Staffing

The Coalition is led by a volunteer Chair who is employed by the backbone organization, Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board. The Coalition Leader is responsible for the overall direction of the Coalition's work but shares the workload with volunteer Coalition members. Tasks of the leader include member recruiting, outreach, engagement and training, convening the Coalition meetings including minutes and agenda creation, overseeing the subcommittee work, conflict resolution, grant development and management, oversight of the Coalition finances, collection of data across partnership organizations, and overall communication and coordination of the Coalition's strategic plan. Staffing includes Coalition members who volunteer to assist with the Leader's responsibilities by agreeing to sit on the subcommittees. Coalition members are ambassadors for the Coalition by assisting with awareness activities in the community, promoting membership to other community entities, and educating the public about the Coalition and its mission.

Structures

The mission of the Coalition is to increase awareness and reduce the stigma of mental illness community-wide and to reduce the number of suicides in Clermont County. The Coalition also has a strategic plan with goals and objectives that are based on community-level data. The Coalition updates the strategic plan on a yearly basis utilizing the most recent community-level data. The Coalition does

not have formalized bylaws but does have a formal structure for the Coalition meetings. The Coalition forms subcommittees as needed to work on identified projects related to our overall goals.

Pooled Resources

Pooled resources of the Coalition are focused on human capital. Without the time and energy of our Coalition members, the work of the Coalition could not have community-wide impact. The Coalition members pool resources such as staff time for involvement in Coalition related work, data collection, analysis and interpretation, access to the priority populations, training and education, subject matter expertise to guide decision making, grant writing, and meeting space.

Member Engagement

New members are identified and recruited by the Chair and Coalition members based on their passion about suicide prevention, sector representation and connection to the priority population. Onboarding of new members includes having a current member act as a mentor to provide information on the strategic plan, mission, and vision of the Coalition and the active work. Having a mentor for a new member helps to build group engagement. Inclusion and belonging are encouraged through an environment of collaboration, trust, idea exchanges and openness.

Assessment and Planning

The Coalition uses the SPF process to guide the planning and work of the Coalition. Assessment data is gathered from the various members and provides the framework for decisions on the goals and objectives of the Coalition. Data from partners on the issues related to the priority population, death trends, and community needs are important data points for planning. Without data, successful implementation of a strategic plan is not possible.

Synergy

When organizations come together and combine resources, knowledge, skills, and different points of view, they create something new that can accomplish more than the individual organizations could have accomplished on their own (Taylor-Powell, Rossing & Geran, 1998). There is something powerful in this partnership which researchers and others call synergy (Lasker, Weiss & Miller, 2001; Taylor-Powell, Rossing & Geran, 1998). In the CCAT, synergy occurs through the combination of: pooled resources, member engagement and assessment and planning. Synergy is evident in our coalition by the number of diverse members representing different sectors of our County that are engaged in the work of the Coalition. The diverse membership allows the Coalition to approach suicide prevention in a holistic manner using multipronged approaches. The diverse membership permits pooling of resources, ideas, and skills to address a complex health issue that impacts the residents of our County.

Implementation of Strategies

The Coalition utilizes the State of Ohio's Suicide Prevention Plan and the CDC Strategies for Community Change as the template to guide the implementation of strategies. Through analysis of local data, the Coalition ensures that the implementation of strategies are relevant and adding value to our community. The Coalition continually evaluates the implementation process through consistent discussion and review.

Community Change Outcomes

The focus of the Coalition is related to our mission. The Coalition seeks to create community-level of change to increase the awareness of suicide and reduce the number of suicides in Clermont County. Short term outcomes of the Coalition relate to education and awareness and long-term outcomes include increased access to treatment and a decreased suicide rate.

Health and Social Outcomes

As the Coalition works to become more data driven, the suicide prevention programming becomes more targeted to address the priority population or those at highest risk. New programming will focus on increasing access to treatment for middle-aged men who are the highest risk group in Clermont County. Policies and procedures will be developed or improved to assure that prevention, crisis, assessment, and treatment services focus on identifying and treating those in the high-risk groups. Partnerships with community entities that serve the priority populations will need to be developed or enhanced to assure that the Coalition is able to reach those in most need. Providing awareness of risk factors and community resources to businesses, private doctors, faith-based organizations, and civil organizations can lead to behavior change in members of our community. In order to assure that other age groups do not begin to have an increase in suicide, the Coalition will continue to focus on other priority populations such as youth and individuals in their 20s.

Community Capacity

Through the work of the Coalition, many non-traditional partnerships have developed between treatment providers, government elected officials, first responders and the criminal justice system, and public human service organizations in the County. The Coalition work has increased the County's resources by improving access to treatment by advocating for the start of the Clermont County Crisis Hotline and the Mobile Crisis Team. Involvement in the Coalition has been beneficial to its members by increasing their knowledge/skills and abilities by providing the members with opportunities to learn more about resources, coalition building, grant writing and community engagement. Our County Commissioners' have been impacted by the work of the Coalition and fully support funding of the CCMHRB's levy to address the important health issue of suicide. The Coalition will continue to work to increase our community capacity by continuing to recruit new members, participate in prevention trainings, and advocate for funding.

Community Coalition Action Theory – Shorter Narrative

Clermont County Suicide Prevention Coalition

Clermont County, Ohio

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Pooled Resources

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