

PREP COALITION MEETING – JANUARY 7, 2015

ROLL CALL

Dr. Dianne Kerr, Dana Hale, Molly Malloy, Frank Catrone, Julie Chaya, Ashanti Parker, Joy Dougan, Sarah Goins, Skylar Woods, Matthias Collins, Rick Senften, Helene Gates, Andre Elliott

REVIEW

Dr. Kerr provided all attendees with a copy of the booklet *Reducing the Risk -- Understanding Self-Identity*. She presented on understanding self-identity which focused on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth health and bullying issues.

Following the presentation, Dana opened the room to questions about PREP. Skylar asked for the date of the next staff training. Molly said the next training will be held on February 12th at Goodwill Industries.

Dr. Kerr informed attendees that PREP stands for Personal Responsibility Education Program. It is a teen pregnancy prevention program that targets youth in juvenile justice and foster care settings. Canton City Health Department in partnership with Kent State University jointly lead project efforts in Region 6, which is comprised of Northeast Ohio counties. PREP staff from Kent State University and Canton City Health Department train agency staff to teach PREP curriculum to their foster care and/or juvenile justice youth. The curriculum consists of 19 lessons. PREP Region 6 staff co-facilitate 8 of the 19 lessons to assist agencies providing the PREP program for the first time.

Sarah described the youth training process utilized at Stark County Job and Family Services. Trainings are held at the YMCA, and are rotated between four facilitators to divide and conquer the curriculum. Youth are given an hour lunch break, followed by a recreational break to utilize the services available at the YMCA.

Helene said an eight week training timeframe works better than a four week timeframe for Mahoning County Juvenile Justice.

Dana asked Stark County Family Court how long their youth are detained. Skylar said the duration of stay is dependent on progress made and staff recommendation. Rick said that one minor was released in six months, while another had to stay for two years. Dana asked if the program would be useful to their agency. Skylar said yes and added that she is very interested in teaching PREP.

Dana described the growth of the program in Region 6 from grant year one to today. She said there are many more agencies on board. She said that the program is lengthy, but there has been good feedback from youth participants. The Ohio Department of Health collects all data, including all pre-tests and post-tests. This information is used to track knowledge, attitudes and behavioral intent changes by youth completing the curriculum.

Molly asked Stark County Family Court staff if the program is exclusively residential or if youth also come to their facility as scheduled. Skylar said both. Molly asked if they work with foster care youth or juvenile justice. Skylar stated both.

Molly said PREP trainers from Canton City Health Department and Kent State University are available to co-facilitate youth training sessions. She asked Sarah how the co-facilitation process was for the facilitators at her agency. Sarah said the materials they were provided with were all inclusive. She listed some of the supplies they were given. She said the youth involved displayed a high interest level in the material.

Andre added that the youth he trained at Mahoning County Juvenile Justice liked following along in the book.

Dr. Kerr said she has noticed more participation and interest in role playing from foster care and juvenile justice youth than from youth in school settings.

Dr. Kerr said it is a goal of PREP to continue to expand the number of agencies and organizations teaching the curriculum. There will occasionally be opportunities to earn CEU's for attending PREP trainings. The program offers incentives such as gift cards, to parents and agencies for youth completion of the program.

Dana asked the group if they had any more questions or comments. There were none.

Dana and Dr. Kerr thanked everyone for coming and their interest in PREP. Dana said all interested parties should contact PREP staff. Contact information is provided in the quarterly newsletter and at www.neoprep6.ehhs.kent.edu.