

The TRUST Partnership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 11, 2024

A meeting of the TRUST partnership was held at the Southern Georgia Regional Commission on Thursday, January 11, 2024. 42 partners attended the meeting. The meeting was hosted by Pierce County Family Connections.

Welcome-

Emily Allen, Grant Project Coordinator for the Southeast Health District, read the opening statement to begin the meeting. Ambi Bess, Public Health Analyst and Opioid Overdose Prevention Program Manager for the Southeast Health District, read an introduction of what the TRUST Partnership is. Stephanie Bell, Executive Director for Pierce County Family Connections, welcomed all attendees, directed everyone to the “Community Standards” placed on their tables, and encouraged everyone to participate in a moment of silence to remember why we were all gathered.

Break Bread Session-Introductions/Engine Wheel

During the break bread session attendees introduced themselves to others sitting at their table. They were asked to look over the engine wheel given to them and share three of their favorites “calming activities with the people at their table.” The engine wheel is a tool to help people identify the emotions they are feeling in the moment.

Teaching Self-Regulation

Susan Haddock, Executive Director of the Ware Children’s Initiative, discussed the engine wheels further and explained how they can be incorporated into our daily lives. To help explain self-regulation, Susan used the description of the “upstairs and downstairs brain.” Susan introduced that the next training she will be leading on Mindfulness will be Thursday, February 1. She encouraged attendees to practice mindfulness even in the in the calm so that when “fight or flight” kicks in one can know how to use those techniques.

Harm Reduction Broadcast

Attendees listened to a broadcast by NPR titled “I ain’t found it yet. ‘No line this mother won’t cross to save her addicted daughter.’” Link: [To save her child from drugs like fentanyl, this mom will do anything : NPR](#)

Break

Shane’s Story

Shane Johns shared his testimony of his recovery journey. After sharing his story, Shane was presented with a recognition award and congratulations from the TRUST partnership for completing and graduating Drug Court.

Harm Reduction-Let's talk about it listening session

During this time the partners in attendance had an open and honest conversation about the harm reduction broadcast that was played. A lot of the discussion was based around the views of harm reduction in our tri-county area. Many different experiences were shared.

What's an RCO?

A video was shown to inform those in attendance about what an RCO is.

Link: <https://peerrecoverynow.org/resource-library/rco-directory/>

Subcommittees

After watching the RCO video Ambi explained that the names of the subcommittees had been changed to match the goals of an RCO.

- Harm Reduction changed to **Peer Support**
- Prevention Education changed to **Education**
- **Communications and Speaker's Bureau** (did not change)
- Law Enforcement/First Responders changed to **Emergency Care Team**
- Leadership and Finance Changed to **Advocacy**

Attendees were encouraged to find a subcommittee that they were interested in, and they then broke out into those subcommittees. The chairs of each committee shared with their group what the committee was and outlined the roles. They then gave the opportunity for people to sign up for their committee.

Mini-Grants

Barbara Bruno, Executive Director at Share Health Southeast Georgia, introduced the mini-grants that are being offered by Share Health Southeast Georgia to all active TRUST Partners. Barbara walked through the application and explained the details of the mini grants being offered. The amount is up to \$2000 each, for a total of \$8000. The application due date is February 29, 2024. The application was emailed to all TRUST partners following the meeting.

Bridging the Gap

Stephonie Goddard, Coordinator for the Waycross Judicial Circuit Accountability Court with Unison Behavioral Health, gave a presentation about Drug Court in our area. Stephonie shared with the group the history of accountability court in our area and what the process is like today. Stephonie gave an overview of what they do, the referral process, eligibility for drug court, eligibility for mental health court, and the requirements of participants. When concluding the presentation Stephonie shared some accomplishments accountability court has had. For example, winning the Steven L Jackson Community Award in 2017 and having a 29% retention rate for drug court and a 32% retention rate for mental health court.

Awards and Celebrate Recovery

There were 3 “Above and Beyond” Awards given out to people that were unable to attend the Annual Conference. Those 3 recipients were Maggie Santana with Satilla Advocacy Services, Michelle Lee with Brantley County Fire Association, and Susan Haddock with Ware Children’s Initiative. Additionally, an “Above and Beyond” award was given to Santo Nino, Fire Chief/EMA Director in Pierce County. Autumn Lang also received an award and congratulations for graduating her program of recovery. Lastly, all attendees celebrated recovery.

Closing Remarks

Stephanie Bell thanked everyone for attending and the meeting ended with a moment of silence. Attendees were encouraged to grab their lunches and stay for the All Recovery Meeting if interested.

Emily Allen, Grant Project Coordinator
Recording Secretary for meeting