

The TRUST Partnership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 7, 2023

A meeting of the TRUST partnership was held at Hoboken Community center on September 7, 2023. 44 partners attended the meeting. Dawn Deen, Executive Director for Brantley County Family Connections, presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Welcome and Prayer-

Dawn Deen and Ambi Bess Ambi Bess, Public Health Analyst and Opioid Overdose Prevention Program Manager for the Southeast Health District welcome everyone to the meeting.

Break Bread Session-

Ambi shared a video about the power of knowing your “why.” Dawn and Ambi encouraged all partners to participate in the “Break Bread Session” by introducing themselves and sharing their “why.”

Elevator Speech-

Dawn read the Elevator Speech that was created by TRUST Partners at the TRUST Retreat in May 2023. The elevator speech is as follows:

“Every relationship that we build starts with trust. Our tri-county coalition was established to support the recovery of people living with opioid and substance use disorders. Our goal is to unite our community by sharing personal experiences and transcending the social, economic, political, and racial stereotypes most often associated with substance misuse. We strive to promote the message that recovery is important, but prevention is the priority in minimizing the stigma and discrimination of people suffering from opioid and substance use disorders in Pierce, Brantley, and Ware counties. Together, we can bring back trust.”

Dawn also shared that a video has been created and will be shared at the TRUST annual Conference in November. Dawn noted that this was created to help our partners to better explain what the TRUST a partnership to others in the community.

PSA Analytics-

Chandler McGee, Communications Specialist for the Southeast Health District and Katie Hadden, Public Information Officer with the Southeast Health District shared the analytics for the PSA that was voted on by the partners in a previous meeting. They noted that in the latter half of June they were able to run a campaign on the radio and the ads were played 66,756 times in a 15-day period.

Katie and Chandler also discussed the idea to hold a speaker’s bureau workshop and encouraged partners to reach out if this was something, they would be interested in.

Know Your Worth Awareness Week-

Ambi gave an update on all the Know Your Worth Awareness Week events that helped kick off Suicide Prevention and National Recovery month. Ambi shared details on events such as each dress up day, the Mobilize Recovery Bus Tour, and the pinwheels that were placed in each county (Pierce, Brantley, and Ware). Ambi noted, “in 2022 127 residents of Pierce, Brantley, and Ware counties overdosed from

opioids and fentanyl, and 30 of those overdoses were fatal. 97 lives were saved because of harm reduction practices such as Narcan.”

Know Your Worth Presentation-

April Thomason, Executive Director for Coffee County Family Connections, gave a presentation on the Know Your Worth Collaborative that was started in Coffee County with the initial goal to focus on suicide prevention and now encompasses decreasing risky behaviors, boosting self-esteem and making responsible choices. April introduced a mother, Marnie Smith who shared her daughter, Caroline’s story.

Trust the Purple Spot-

Ambi shared the significance behind “trust the purple spot.” Ambi explained that the goal is for people who are battling addiction or just needing support to know that they can trust and ask for help if they see someone wearing this purple dot lapel pin (given to partners at the meeting).

Subcommittee Reports-

Prevention Education and Harm Reduction Committees: Maggie Santana, chair for the prevention committee, reported that the prevention team met together with the Harm Reduction committee at Unison Behavioral Health on 8/7. The teams discussed and planned activities for the Know Your Worth Awareness week.

Peer Services-

Shauna Mattingly, LCSW and owner of Anchored in Jesup, GA shared about that they will be partnering with the TRUST through the RCORP grant to help provide peer services to the tri-county area.

Celebrate Recovery-

Ambi Bess led the partners in a time to celebrate those who are in recovery.

Closing Remarks/Adjourn-

All the partners in attendance were invited to the Proclamations occurring in each county for You’re your Worth Week. Dawn Deen called the meeting adjourned at 11:15AM.

Emily Allen, Grant Project Coordinator
Recording Secretary for Meeting