

The TRUST Partnership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 9, 2024

A meeting of the TRUST partnership was held at the Southern Georgia Regional Commission on Thursday, May 9, 2024. 38 partners attended the meeting. The meeting was hosted by Brantley County Family Connection.

Welcome

Emily Allen, Grant Project Coordinator for the Southeast Health District, read the opening statement to begin the meeting. Ambi Bess, Chronic Disease Prevention Manager/PHA for the Southeast Health District, read an introduction of what the TRUST Partnership is. Dawn Deen, Executive Director for Brantley County Family Connection, 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-Youth Trends

Ambi B. challenged everyone to think back to when they were 14 years old and then look at all the post-its that were hanging up in the room. The post-it had subjects on them such as “popular dances, favorite dances, popular songs, popular shows, what comes to mind when you think of sex or drugs & alcohol, words that describes your parents, biggest fear, what was most important to you, etc. The participants walked around the room and discussed with their table what they experienced with trends at 14 years old. After sharing as a group Ambi B. shared that this exercise was to show that youth trends do matter, and they influence what we do and what we are exposed to. Everyone was challenged to think about the difference between when they were 14 and what 14-year olds in today’s world are exposed to. There was also a stat shared that stated, recent statistics are showing that youth age 14-19 are dying 3 to 4 deaths week from overdose involving fentanyl.

HRSA RCORP Introduction

Heather Peebles, Special Projects Coordinator with the Southeast Health District, shared that through the grant we have been brainstorming how to set up an RCO in Ware County. Heather P. introduced Ann Wing who is the Technical Expert Lead with JBS for the RCORP Implementation grant.

Introduction to ROSC

Ann W. presented on Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC) and how to become a ROSC community. The information that she presented included defining recovery and focusing on the needs of the individual as well as outlining what ROSC is and what it is not. Ann W. used the analogy of a person who has an acute illness and compared that to a person in recovery to explain that symptoms can come back and treatment that works for one person may not work for another. Ann also emphasized the importance of giving an individual choices and letting them choose their treatment.

Ann W. shared that ROSC is a framework, and in order to be a “ROSC” community it is important to wrap your community around the ROSC philosophy. Ann W. shared that a having a ROSC community means having a community that is aware and working together to meet the needs of the community. She encouraged everyone to really be a ROSC community it is important to reach out to the people that are

missing from the table. One of the main goals is to make sure that no matter where the person enters, they are received and connected to the right level of care.

In this presentation, Ann W. also shared information about the different types of stigma (external, structural, and internal), prevention, early intervention, and treatment. With community integration the central concern shifts from “how to we get the client into treatment to how do we nest the process of recovery within he natural environment...because recovery does not happen it institutions, it happens in the community in which they live.”

McKinney Medical Center

Alta Lowman, Nurse Manager at McKinney Medical Center, presented on the resources that are provided at their clinic. McKinney is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). They are primary care and have 5 sites from Waycross to Kingsland (Ware, Alma, Nahunta, Folkston, and Kingsland). Alta L. shared that they currently have 3 providers who are MAT providers and can prescribe suboxone. She shared that their MAT program began about 3 years ago. Each provider that they have can take up to 100 participates on the MAT program. Alta L. shared that McKinney also an LCSW on staff that works with the patient once they have started on medication. With the MAT program the intake is done, they get the patient started with medication and therapy, and the patient is seen once a month depending on the individual needs. With the MAT Program at McKinney Center she shared that the initial goal is to be on the medication for around 18 months, but they do have some patients who need the medication longer or graduate off sooner. The MAT program is also able to do some telehealth visits if needed. Alta L. shared that in with the program they are also able to provide primary care services as well.

New Drug Talk

Emily A. shared that Tuesday, May 7th was the third National Fentanyl Awareness Day, and the organization that that started that created a documentary and challenged people to show it in their communities and host a panel. Participants watched this documentary:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0tJOgs2d7Tw>

New Drug Talk Panel

After the documentary, Emily A. and Ambi B. hosted a panel that consisted of Michelle Hinds (First Responder), Jeannine Watts (Substance Use Counselor at Garden Gate with Unison Behavioral Health), and Sarah Jumper (harm reductionist, person in recovery, and soon to be certified peer support specialist). The panelists were asked the following questions:

- Introduce yourself and if comfortable, share your “why” for doing what you do and being a part of the TRUST.
- This film is a big picture of what is happening nationally. Can you shed light on what is happening our community, in the field you work in, or in your personal life related to this crisis and/or substance use disorder in general?
- Many people, specifically parents/caregivers, may be alarmed after watching this film. What would you want them to do now that they know more about the fentanyl crisis?

- The film touched on mental health and how that can factor in one's decision to try or experiment with substances or to self-medicate. What can we as professionals, friends, family members, etc. do to address that?
- Is there anything else you would like to share related to the film we watched or anything you feel is important to share related to opioid use or substance use disorder?

Subcommittee Updates

Education Committee- Maggie Santana shared about the upcoming committee meetings May 14th at the Library in Ware County from 10:00am to 11:00am where Share Health will be sharing information regarding the Drug Free Communities Grant.

Peer Support Committee- Sarah Jumper shared that she has started working at OATH and providing All Recovery meetings on Tuesdays and Wednesday from 1:00pm to 2:00pm, as well as handing out safe use kits, hygiene bags, and other harm reduction supplies. Sarah also shared that she will be getting her peer support certification in the coming weeks. It was also shared that Sarah was able to get these supplies because of the mini grant the peer support committee received through Share Health.

Emergency Care Team- Michelle Hinds shared that she is trying to work with the Sheriff's offices that put in overdoses to give her a report out. Hopefully there will be another meeting once school is out.

Communications Team- Chandler McGee and Katie Douberly shared that they will be doing a media training on Thursday, June 27th at Southern Georgia Regional Commission from 9:00am to 12:00pm.

Advocacy Team- Heather P. announced that they meet once a month to discuss sustainability for the efforts that are being done through the grant

Photovoice Update

Tobi Oloyede, photovoice consultant with Share Health Southeast Georgia, gave an update on the photovoice project which is called, "The Recovery Lens" with the purpose to walk with people who are on their recovery journey and allow them to share their story through photos. Tobi shared that photovoice has 3 goals:

1. To give a "voice" to people whose voices have been minimized or not prioritized
2. To increase their critical consciousness
3. Putting action to the photos and push for change through their stories

Tobi O. showed a short clip of some of the participants photos and the progress they have made so far. She then shared the meaning behind a few of the photos shared. Lastly, Tobi O. shared that they are now in the last phase of the project.

Acknowledgments/ Celebrate Recovery

- Jill Aldridge, Michelle Garrett, and Donna York with the Southeast Health District were recognized for helping respond to an overdose in the community

- Roger Gillis with Unison Behavioral Health was recognized for responding to an overdose in the community
- Sarah Jumper was recognized for being accepting in to the CARES academy and going to complete her training to become a certified peer support specialist
- All participants celebrated recovery

Closing Remarks

Dawn D. 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