Engaging Leadership: A Learning Community Approach to Sexual Violence Prevention

The Safe States Alliance Annual Meeting
Aurora, CO
September 14, 2017
8:00-9:15am MST
About ASTHO

ASTHO is the national nonprofit organization representing public health agencies in the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia, and over 100,000 public health professionals these agencies employ.

ASTHO members formulate and influence sound public health policy and ensure excellence in state-based public health practice.
How ASTHO Supports Health Officials

Leadership Development and Network

Policy Support and Advocacy

Technical Assistance

Best Practice Sharing

State Health Agencies
ASTHO’s Sexual Violence Prevention Project

- Enhance sexual violence prevention big picture systems
- Strengthen the role of state health leadership and elevating sexual violence as a public health issue
- Provide technical assistance and capacity-building to State Health Officials, state leadership, and agency staff

☑️ Systems Change

≠ Program Implementation and Evaluation
Partners

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention

- Safe States Alliance

- Six Learning Community States
Support for Learning Community States

- In-state visits with leadership convening
- Virtual learning sessions
- In-person leadership meeting
- Needs Assessment
- Opportunities to learn from national experts
- Other tools/resources – Policy Scan, Strategic Framework
ASTHO Systems Change Approach

Communication

- Policy Change
- Data-Driven Action
- Complementary Sectors & Partners
- Financing

Leadership and Vision

- Evidence-Based Programs
- Community-Level Resources
- Engaged Individuals

Communication

Leadership and Vision
The Role of Leadership

- Link sexual violence prevention to an existing priority
- Leverage work that has the biggest impact across sectors
- Provide insight on return on investment for programs and policies
- Address stigma associated with sexual violence prevention
- Expand the narrative of public health to include sexual violence prevention
Engaging Leadership: A Learning Community Approach to Sexual Violence Prevention, A New Mexico Perspective

September 14, 2017
New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH)

• Introduction
• NM has a centralized health system
• NM DOH has eight divisions, five facilities and one community program.
• Our sexual violence prevention work is coordinated out of our Epidemiology and Response Division.
How I became involved...

• Personal Experience
• Bachelors Degree in Social Work
• Counselor
• Residential Support Worker
• Attorney/ Prosecutor
• Self Defense and Safety Instructor
How I became involved...continued

• While in DOH worked with state and private community partners to organize events for Sexual Assault Awareness and Domestic Violence Awareness months.
• Cabinet Secretary support and engagement
• A doorway- ASTHO project
The Doorway

The ASTHO project provided:

• An opportunity to talk with other states.
• An opportunity to broaden the scope of the parties involved and encourage their acceptance and ownership in creating solutions.
• An opportunity to broaden the scope of the discussion/ give the issue context.
• Multi-faceted approach to addressing the issue.
• An engagement of leadership.
Engaging Leaders

• Invite them to the discussion, continuously.
• Identify how the work/issue may resonate with them or their agency.
  What are their performance measures;
  What are their legislative initiatives;
  What divisions do they have within their organization;
  How does this fit in “their world”

• Have broad discussion, but also make it real!
  Talk about the larger context, but have an ask or a clear goal for their involvement.

• What can they do and how will you be a partner.
What is NM Doing?

ASTHO project:

• Internal Discussion/ Brainstorming
  Created a Sexual Violence Prevention Learning Community
  Identified new partners and potential initiatives
  Identified the need for internal discussions to assure connectivity within NMDOH.

• Participated in Calls and Discussions led by ASTHO

• Held Sexual Violence Learning Community forums
What is NM Doing?

Partners in the Learning Community include:

• Public Education Department
• Airforce
• Children, Youth and Families Department
• Developmental Disabilities Supports Division
• Department of Public Safety
• Domestic Violence and Sexual assault Coalition members
• Sexual Assault prevention service providers
• Sexual Assault service providers
• UNM
• Victims Rights Advocates
• NM Attorney General
• Tribal Entities
• State Personnel office
What is NM Doing?

INDIVIDUAL and RELATIONSHIP LEVEL ACTIVITY

- Participation in Rape Prevention and Education activities in collaboration with the CDC. Largely through contract work for evidence based or evidence informed school based prevention programs.

RELATIONSHIP AND SOCIETAL LEVEL ACTIVITY

- Funding the creation of a media campaign and informational materials/ resources for sexual violence prevention. (Grass roots – branding plan)
What is NM Doing?

COMMUNITY AND SOCIETAL LEVEL ACTIVITY

• Contract work – policy work in schools and agencies
• Continued Conversations with partners through the Learning Community and otherwise
• Examining training and other initiatives for people that work with individuals with developmental disabilities
What is NM Doing?

SOCIETAL LEVEL ACTIVITY

• Examining a partnership with the NM State Personnel Office, to create policies for state agencies.
• Collecting, sharing, and using data to inform choices
• Engaging and strengthening relationships with other state agencies
IT STARTS WITH US

It starts with us and it impacts all of us

We all can be a part of the solution!

• Inform yourself
• Model what you learn
• Have a conversation
• Look for red flags
• Engage on all levels
THANK YOU

J. Gabrielle Sanchez –Sandoval, BSW, J.D.
Deputy Secretary, NMDOH

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Minnesota Sexual Violence Prevention RPE Program
ASTHO Convenings

MN is a 2-year demonstration site

- 2-day site visit (small group and large group conversations)
- Survey/assessment of key stakeholders
- TA/Phone Calls
- Action Plan Worksheet
- Learning Community Session calls/web meetings
- Leadership Meeting
- Synthesis from ASTHO- SVP Framework
Determining Priorities

Areas for Priority Development:
1. Data
2. Policy
3. Financing
4. Partnerships
5. Communications (added this)
### Priorities

**Data**
- Strengthen currently available surveillance data
- Develop new questions and new sources of data
- Disseminate, communicate, and translate data better
- Evaluation capacity building

**Policy**
- Focus on organizational policy and practice

**Financing**
- Focus on funding that increases our priority work
- Seek funding that “connects the dots”
- Funding for local-level/community organizations

**Partnerships**
- Partner with and listen to organizations serving populations most impacted (experiencing disparities), in addressing connected health issues including sexual violence

**Communications**
- Proactive communication planning
Involvement of Leadership

Leaders involved in our work and in the Demonstration Site project included, for example:

- Health Department Commissioner
- Director of Center for Health Equity
- County Attorney
- County Commissioner
- Foundations
- Businesses
Key Accomplishments

**Data:**
- RPE Supplement grant
- Data brief - press conference and press training

**Policy:**
- Organizational policy and practice focus area development with stakeholders
- Campus Sexual Assault Legislation

**Financing:**
- Providing mini-grants to community organizations to support key focused projects
- Developing capacity to seek funding with key partners to address “connected dots”

**Partnerships:**
- Naming health equity/anti-oppression as a focus in our work (i.e. top of our Program Priorities)
- Campus Summits
Minnesota Sexual Violence Prevention RPE Program priorities:

- Health Equity/Anti-oppression
- Program Development and Implementation
- Partnerships/Network Building
- Policy, Systems, and Environment
- Funding and Sustainability
- Data and Evaluation
- Opportunity Readiness
- Communications
Challenges and Lessons Learned

- Build unity across silos (and the power of a health equity focus to help do this).
- Seeking stakeholder input is key.
- Use projects and products to their full extent.
- Be ready for unplanned opportunities.
Sexual Violence Prevention in Iowa

Tiffany Conroy, MSW, LISW
Violence Prevention Coordinator

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Protecting and Improving the Health of Iowans
Iowa’s Plan for Sexual Violence Prevention 2009-2017

- Reducing the Incidence of Sexual Violence in Iowa
- Increasing Prevention System Capacity
- Data & Surveillance
- Partnership Development
- Building Leadership Support
1. CAASA, Spencer
2. CIS, Mason City
3. Riverview
4. Safe Path (Family Services, Inc.)
5. RVAP
6. CIS, Oskaloosa
7. Monsoon
8. Catholic Charities
Thank you!

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