Collaboration for a Comprehensive Approach to School Policy Development and Implementation

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Session Goals

Recognize what existing school policies are implicated by collaborations; and
Develop strategies to create policies that promote collaboration between:

Schools, Parent/Caregivers, Youth, Community Organizations, & Law Enforcement

- To support youth empowerment,
- Promote school safety,
- Comply with legal requirements,
- And, foster healthy relationships!

Work together to achieve something great.
“A safe school environment, free of... teen dating violence and sexual violence, is possible when all members of a community work together to affect change at many levels.”

-A Guide to Preventing Bullying, Teen Dating Violence, and Sexual Violence in Rhode Island Schools, pg. 6.

Why include School Influencers, Parents/Caregivers, Youth, and Community Providers in policy development and implementation?

So everyone is... prepared to prevent, recognize & respond and intervene effectively to incidents of abuse.
Collaborating with Parents/Caregivers

• Why is collaboration with Parents/Caregivers important?

• What does collaboration look like?

Collaborating with Parents/Caregivers: Pre-Policy Development

Provide opportunities for Parents/Caregivers to learn about healthy relationships, teen dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and how to build relationships with their children.

Help Parents/Caregivers make the connection!

Policy Development and Passage

• How can Parents/Caregivers be involved with policy development?
  – Policies that affect Parents/Caregivers?
  – Parents/Caregivers as policy champions?
  – Middle School vs. High School levels of involvement.
Developing Policies that Affect Parents/Caregivers

• Notice of Policy

• Prevention – craft flexible policies that recognize and support the importance of continued collaboration with and involvement of Parents/Caregivers as INFLUENCERS

• Response – certain policies must be in place to govern interactions with Parent/Caregivers while responding to incidents of violence

Question for later - How can you ensure that Parent/Caregivers continue to be involved in promoting healthy relationships while maintaining the school’s ability to change with the times?

Policy Implementation - Response

• Student-centered Parent/Caregiver involvement
  – When should Parents/Caregivers be involved?
  – What if students don’t want Parents/Caregivers involved?

• Intervention & response
  • Developmentally appropriate Referrals to service providers
  • What about confidentiality?
  • Parent/Caregiver rights and responsibilities
What does Parent/Caregiver Policy look like?

- Example of Parent/Caregiver Engagement Policy
  – See handout example

- Example of Notice to Parents/Caregivers
  – See handout example

**SMALL GROUP WORKSHOP**

20 minutes + report back

- Which policies are in existence that will be used when the school works with Parents/Caregivers anywhere along the collaboration spectrum?
  - If you have policies that discuss Parent/Caregiver collaboration, how do they read? Can they be improved?
  - If you do not have policies about Parent/Caregiver collaboration, begin to think about what those policies may look like.
Collaborating with Students

- Collaborating with students to support policy development and implementation
- Student collaboration within policies
- Again—Middle School vs. High School

What Does a Policy Look Like?

- Example of Prevention Education Policy for Students
  - See handout example
- Note: “Encourage” Policies

Site Specific Example:

Engaging Students
SMALL GROUP WORKSHOP
15 minutes + report back

• Which policies are in existence that will be used when the school works with students anywhere along the collaboration spectrum?
  – If you have policies that discuss student collaboration what do they say? Can they be improved?
  – If you do not have policies about student collaboration begin to think about what those policies may look like.

Collaborating with School Influencers

• Policies on training
• Prevention policies
• Bystander policies
• Response policies

What Does a Policy Look Like?

• Example of Policy on Training for School Influencers
  – See example handout

• Example of Policy on Response & Reporting Incidents
  – See example handout
**Site Specific Example:**

**Collaboration with School Influencers**

**SMALL GROUP WORKSHOP**

15 minutes + feedback

- Are there areas in your policies where you specifically **educate school influencers** on dating abuse, sexual assault, and stalking behaviors? If not, think about flexible ways to add this information to your policies.
- What **school influencers are responsible** to ensure action when abusive behavior is observed or reported and what are the next steps? How is this documented in your policies?
- What **existing policies are implicated** when school influencers become aware of abusive behavior? Can these policies be improved?

**Collaborating with Community-Based Service Providers**

- Health care providers
- Community mental health
- Domestic violence/sexual assault organizations
- Youth organizations
- Risk behavior organizations
- **Who else?**
Policy Development

• **Elements** to include in your policy
  – Using local agencies to inform school influencers, Parent/Caregiver, and youth education programs
  – Developmentally appropriate Student-centered referrals to local agencies
  – Complying with confidentiality and other requirements

Implementation

• **Agreements** on how referrals will be made
• **Maintaining** successful collaborations

**Who will the convener be for on-going collaborations?**

What does Policy look like?

• Example of Policy on Response
  – See example handout
• Note: “Encourage” Policies
SMALL GROUP WORKSHOP
15 minutes + feedback

- What community based service providers are you currently collaborating with – who is missing?
- Are there areas of your policies that already discuss collaboration with service providers? How can you implement collaboration with service providers into your policies?
- What existing policies are implicated when working with service providers (when specifically thinking about intervention/response)? Can these policies be improved?

Collaborating with Legal Professionals/Justice System

- School Resource Officer/Law Enforcement
- Courts (adult and juvenile, civil and criminal)
- Child Protective Services
- Probation/parole
- School District/School Board Attorney
Collaborating with Legal Professionals/Justice System

• **Good idea:** collaborate with certain agencies from *pre-policy development stage* to ensure *smooth working relationship and compliance* with laws when developing policy.

Policy Development & Implementation

• **Role of School Resource Officers** and other school-based law enforcement
  – Prevent & respond to *criminal incidents* that effect the overall safety of the school environment
  – Conduct *investigations* of criminal incidents
  – Make *arrests* of individuals committing crimes on campus or involving the school community

Policy Development & Implementation

• **Elements** to cover in policy
  – When *reports* must be made (LE or CPS)
  – How to *support students* during legal process
  – *Response* of school *regardless* of LE response
  – *Information sharing*
What Does Policy Look Like?

- Example of Policy on Response
  - See example handout

- Also, will likely be covered more so in school protocol and procedures

Site Specific Example:
Collaboration with the Justice System

SMALL GROUP WORKSHOP
15 minutes + feedback

- Which policies exist that govern interactions with law enforcement and the justice system?
  - Do your policies take into consideration what type of abusive behaviors will be reported to law enforcement and when?
  - Who will report or make that determination?

- Do you have areas in your policy where you outline how to share information with law enforcement and justice system professionals?
  - What other policies/laws are implicated when you share information with law enforcement/justice systems?
  - What if the request comes through a subpoena?
Wrap-Up

- Look for **creative** ways to incorporate healthy relationships training/curriculum into policy.
- **Collaborate with stakeholders** before policy, as a part of policy, and as an on-going evaluation of policy.
- Keep language specific, but **flexible** regarding collaborations.
- Develop **student-centered** response policy to ensure mental health and physical safety.
- Maintain federal and state **legal requirements** with collaborative partners.

Questions?

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