

Presenter Disclosures

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The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months: No relationships to disclose.

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Joining Forces with the Community to Promote Student Wellness

National Assembly on School-Based Health Care
Convention
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From:
Granville High School, Granville, OH

Session Objectives

- To emphasize the need for all schools/communities to address and promote student wellness and its impact on academic success
- To understand how to build a school/community collaborative
- To identify student needs and select programs/interventions to address those needs

GHS Demographics

- Two-time National Blue Ribbon Award Winner
- Excellence ratings on Ohio Report Card
- High academic/achievement...92% 4-year college matriculation
- Upper middle class community
- BUT...

GHS Student Needs

- Identified students with social/emotional needs
- Student suicide in Sept. 2005 prompted our move to engage the community
- High stress of students, staff and community
- Wanted to change our approach from reactive to proactive

Created Action Plan

- Attended National School Based Mental Health Conference
- Attended session addressing non-academic barriers to student success
- Identified leadership team—principal, school counselor, consultant/coach
- Based direction off of the Ohio Department of Education's Comprehensive System of Learning Supports
- Decided to form a community collaborative to approach concerns
- Developed a needs assessment (student survey)
- Created intervention plan based on data from student survey

Developing a Community Collaborative

- Map out resources
 - What are you already doing?
 - What school/community resources are available?
 - What needs are addressed by those resources?

Developing a Community Collaborative

- Identify students' needs
 - Based on your own experience and observations, what are the areas of need that you suspect?
 - Where are there gaps between students' needs and resources?

Developing a Community Collaborative

- Form a school/community table
 - Who do you want to be part of your table?
 - Choose people from different sectors in the community
 - Invite them to a meeting to discuss vision
 - For example: To address students' social/emotional needs to improve academic success
 - Share identified needs with them
 - Discuss how they will be utilized in the collaborative

Developing a Community Collaborative

- Develop and conduct a needs assessment
 - Use identified needs to develop assessment to verify observations
 - Use valid and reliable assessment questions (We worked with a consultant on this process.)
 - Relate questions to your school specifically

Developing a Community Collaborative

- Review results
 - Meet with your school leadership team to review results
 - What does the data show?
 - Were the identified needs accurate?

Developing a Community Collaborative

- Brainstorm interventions
 - Meet with community collaborative members
 - Consider forming subcommittees to address the different areas of need corresponding with areas of expertise (i.e., depression, stress)
 - Brainstorm interventions with subcommittees
 - Refer to “Key Questions for Selecting an Evidence-based Practice”
 - Vote collectively on which interventions will be implemented (Keep it to a 1-2 interventions per area of need in order to evaluate.)

Developing a Community Collaborative

- Implement interventions
 - Identify leader(s) responsible for implementation
 - Identify area of need that the intervention addresses
 - Collect formal and informal data while implementing intervention
- Actions implemented at Granville during the 2008-2009 school year

Developing a Community Collaborative

- Evaluate and revise interventions
 - Meet with community collaborative members
 - Evaluate data collected regarding interventions
 - Revise or discard ineffective interventions
 - Identify new interventions or areas of need if necessary
- The evolution of Granville's interventions
 - "GHS Community Collaborative Action Plans Implemented from August 2006 to June 2009"
 - Copies available upon request

The Impact of a Community Collaborative—Student Feedback

- Seniors rate the following interventions as somewhat to very helpful:
 - Peer tutoring—77%
 - College application process improvements—68.8%
 - Teacher help sessions—67.8%
 - Depression/suicide prevention education—68.4%

The Impact of a Community Collaborative—Student Feedback

- Seniors rate the following interventions as somewhat to very helpful:
 - Drug and alcohol prevention education—59.2%
 - Overall rating of GHS's effort to promote wellness—**82.8%**

The Impact of a Community Collaborative—Student Feedback

- Freshmen rated the following interventions as somewhat to very helpful:
 - 9th grade orientation—75.5%
 - Teacher help sessions—70.1%
 - Peer tutoring—68.7%
 - Freshmen mentoring—61.7%
 - Overall efforts of GHS to promote wellness—**78%**

The Impact of a Community Collaborative

- What members of the community collaborative shared:
 - “Schools belong to the community not to the educators. Therefore, synergy, the interaction of two or more so that their combined effect is greater than their sum of their individual effects, demands creating and utilizing collaboratives.”
 - Dr. Lewis Mollica, Community Impact Coordinator, Community Mental Health Recovery Board

The Impact of a Community Collaborative

- "The collaborative helped me as a pastor become more aware of what young people in our community are experiencing, and thereby consider how we as a church might help these young people deal with their stress in their life...as well as support the school in their efforts."
 - Steve Cramer, Pastor, Centenary United Methodist Church

The Impact of a Community Collaborative

- "The Granville Recreation Commission was pleased to be invited to participate in the community collaboration project. The group was able to prioritize issues, creating working committees to further evaluate detailed concerns and develop possible resolutions. The school and community are beginning..."

The Impact of a Community Collaborative

- "...to see the results of these actions, and an environment with increased openness is developing. The Granville Rec Commission looks forward to the continued work of this collaborative group and its contributions toward enhancing the quality of life for our students and for our community."
– Dena McKinley, GRC President

The Impact of a Community Collaborative

- I think the consistency of the people involved in the collaboration has been key for Granville. It's amazing how many people show for the meetings and participate. I think the success of the students speaks volumes for how important this collaboration has been. I think having student input has been key and the community members listening to those concerns. The importance of community collaboration is so students know about services and opportunities in their communities. Instead of students and agencies living in their "own little worlds," they can now live in the "same world."
– Lori Wenner, Synergy, Drug and Alcohol Counselor

The Impact of a Community Collaborative

- It's simple.....it goes back to the old saying, "It takes a village to raise a child". Unless we all join forces and we all put our ideas in the pot, the kids will get short changed. By having so many different angles (education, business, agency, etc) giving input, it's bound to be great dialog and as a result, great solutions to the problems. We have attacked this from so many angles. We have the research (first step in the process) to show us what the specific problems are in our school (other schools would likely be very different), so we know what the issues are that need to be addressed. It works because we have many heads brainstorming the issues from many different angles....."The Village Mentality".
 - Cindy Shaffer, Work and Family Life Teacher, GHS

Suggestions/Reminders

- We feel that this process is important for your school to promote student wellness:
 - Evaluate non-academic barriers to student success
 - Get support from school administration
 - Create a school climate that reminds students they are in a supportive environment with adults that care about them
 - Let data drive your programming/interventions

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