



March 27, 2020

Dear Prevention Colleagues:

During this unprecedented time of the COVID-19 public health emergency, prevention work is more important than ever. As a prevention professional, you know that stress and trauma are risk factors and precursors to subsequent substance misuse. NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) is here to encourage and provide technical assistance so your program will continue to engage youth, families and communities through prevention efforts.

To continue your efforts, it may require you to navigate a new virtual world through videoconferencing, webinars, social media use, and other avenues that you may not be accustomed as in-person services are suspended. Below are resources and ideas that your program may reference to continue your prevention efforts.

NYS OASAS CERTIFIED AND FUNDED PREVENTION

- Refer to Guidance for [OASAS Residential and Community-based Providers Regarding Workforce Reductions Ordered by Executive Order 202.6](#)
- Attend Web based training available on OASAS, Substance Abuse and Mental Health System Administration (SAMHSA), Prevention Technology Transfer Center (PTTC), or the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) websites:
 - [OASAS Professional Training: CPS, CPP, CASAC, CPGC, CASAC-G](#)
 - <https://www.samhsa.gov/practitioner-training>
 - [Prevention Technology Transfer Center Network](#)
 - <https://www.cadca.org/resources>
- Continue to meet virtually. Refer to OASAS guidance on telepractice (<https://oasas.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/03/telepractice-faqs.pdf>). Here are some options for virtual meetings with hyperlinks:
 - [join.me](#)
 - [zoom](#)
 - [8x8](#)
 - [JitsiMeet](#)
 - [OpenMeetings](#)
 - [Google Hangouts](#)
 - [Big Blue Button](#)
- The Prevention Technology Transfer Center (PTTCs) network has created a page on their website to provide quick access to Pandemic Response Resources focused on Prevention. You

can access this page via the PTTC website (<https://pttcnetwork.org/>) or by clicking on the following link: <https://pttcnetwork.org/centers/global-pttc/pandemic-response-resources>

- Contact program developers to see if there are resources for virtual implementation of Evidence Based Practices. Keep track of program modifications and implementation.
 - [LifeSkills Training](#)
 - [Too Good Programs](#)
- Reach out to key stakeholders via phone or email (i.e., Teachers, Principals, Youth Clubhouses) to see how you can be helpful.
- Think about the possible impacts of this social distancing and quarantine on different stakeholders as well as the overall community across the lifespan. What prevention strategies may your program implement? Who might you be able to engage to provide you with resources in this new and uncertain time?
- Revisit Needs Assessment – Ask yourself these questions: are there any available data you can get virtually to analyze? Any data that still need to be analyzed? Where do you need updated data?
- Review Risk and Protective factors from the Needs Assessment: Are your programs addressing them? What “new” or different needs might emerge from this pandemic?
- Refine goals: Reflect on what was achieved last year and what is possible for the coming year. Create or revisit the Logic Model and refine it:
 - [Using Logic Models to Bring Together Planning, Evaluation, and Action Logic Model Development Guide](#)
 - [Developing Your Logic Model: Worksheet](#)
 - [Developing a Logic Model or Theory of Change](#)
- Develop an evaluation plan and start gathering possible resources.
- Create messaging and develop strategies for engaging with schools you have not been able to serve, etc.
- Brainstorm strategies with your staff and other prevention providers in your community to make contact with hard to reach groups.
- Maintain a social media presence using messaging materials from OASAS, SAMHSA and CADCA’s websites. OASAS has developed social media messaging regarding SUD and COVID-19 – make sure you follow us on social media.
 - <https://oasas.ny.gov/prevention/conversational-resources>
 - <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/tay-infographic.pdf>
 - <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/tay-conversation-starters.pdf>
 - <https://www.cadca.org/campaigns>
 - Recycle messages from Talk2Prevent’s webpage for redistribution:
<https://www.facebook.com/Talk2Prevent/>

PREVENTION COALITIONS

- Create/Update a member orientation packet.
- Create/update a 1-page flyer or handout specific to each of the 12 sectors of the Strategic Prevention Framework. Each flyer can explain the coalition; community prevention efforts of the Coalition; list three (3) reasons joining the coalition will be mutually beneficial (i.e., change the reason for each sector), and coalition contact information.
- Attend Web based training available on OASAS, Substance Abuse and Mental Health System Administration (SAMHSA), Prevention Technology Transfer Center (PTTC), Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) websites:
 - [OASAS Professional Training: CPS, CPP, CASAC, CPGC, CASAC-G](#)
 - <https://www.samhsa.gov/practitioner-training>
 - [Prevention Technology Transfer Center Network](#)
 - <https://www.cadca.org/resources>
- Work on a coalition sustainability model.
- Review your [Community's Readiness for Prevention Plan](#).
- Visit the OASAS Prevention webpage www.oasas.ny.gov/prevention and follow OASAS on Facebook and Instagram. COVID-19 and Prevention messaging is available to re-post on your coalition webpages.
- Work on building coalition capacity:
 - Use questions from (or a short form of) the [Coalition Capacity Checklist](#) to examine member perceptions of coalition functioning. Choose constructs that you're unsure about or even ones that you are sure about. Do member perceptions match your beliefs about their perceptions of the coalition?
 - Visit Online [Coalition Work Tools](#)
 - Do a massive service area search and create a list, categorized by SPF sector, of all potential partners. Create a list of email and phone contacts and create a 'pitch' to get them interested in coalition work (related to bullet #2). Step 2: Start calling these places or assign staff/members to contact them (when the COVID-10 pause is concluded).
- Continue to refine a Logic Model and Action Plan
- [National Take Back Day](#) is postponed. Are there alternatives for your community? OASAS is working to make medication disposal bags to your programs available. Provide targeted messaging for Rx drug safety, such as "Secure, Monitor, and Dispose."

- Contact the regional Prevention Resource Center (PRC) for further training and technical assistance