

Peer Programs: Applications, Outcomes, and Challenges

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**SAMHSA 2008 Campus Suicide Prevention Grantee
Technical Assistance Meeting**

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Agenda

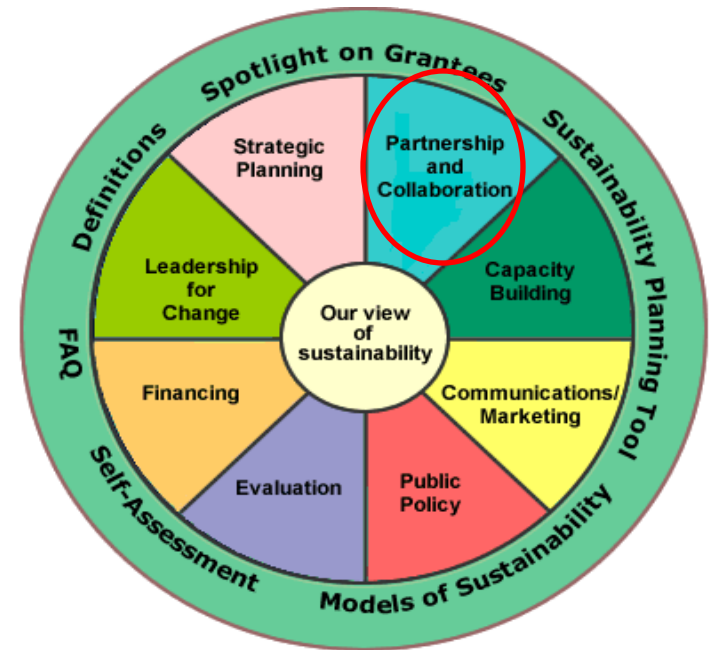
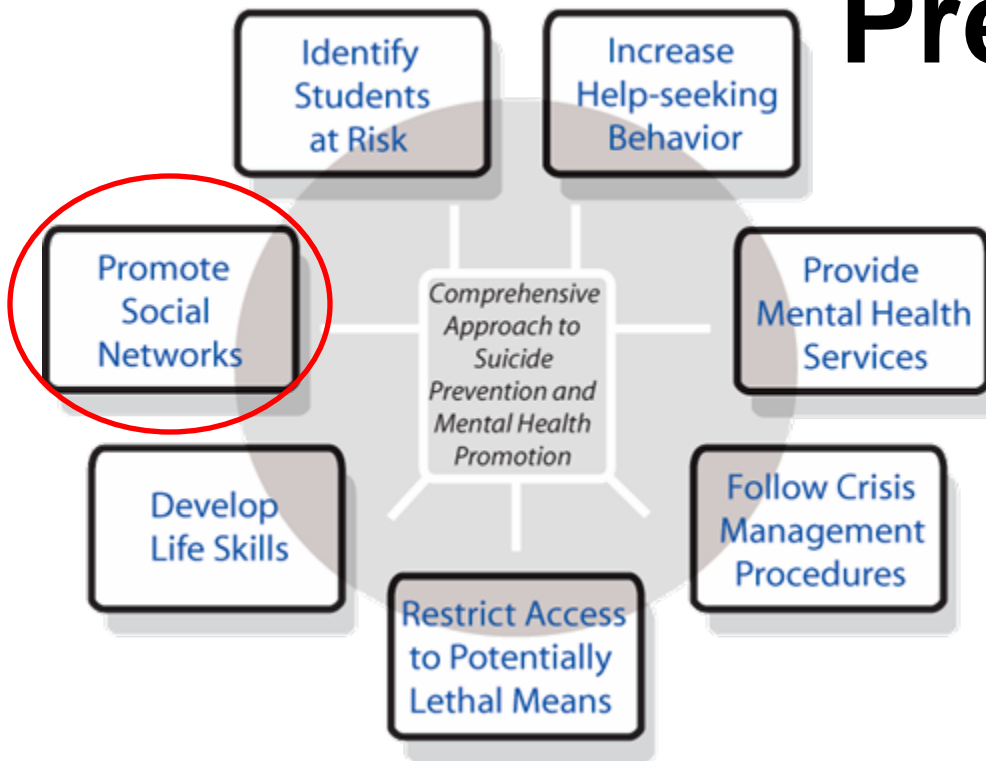
- Introduction/Overview- SPRC
- Active Minds on Campus- Alison Malmon
- University of Albany- Dolores Cimini
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute- Charles Morse
- Purdue University- Susan Prieto-Welch
- Discussion / Q & A- All Grantees

Definition of “Peer Education”

- PEER-----
 - Educator
 - Mentor
 - Advocate
 - Leader
 - Helper
 - Support
 - Paraprofessional

- ❖ What is the difference between these terms?
- ❖ What type of role is the best “fit” for your campus?

Why use a Peer Program strategy for Suicide Prevention?



Why use a Peer Program strategy for Suicide Prevention?

- What research / data supports this strategy?
 - Health Behavior Change Theory:
 - Ex: Social Learning Theory- “Modeling”
 - Chris Brownson, PhD- Report on Consortium Data:
 - Ideators first told- Partner/Spouse (30-41%); Friend (24-32%)
- What data challenges this strategy?
 - Empirical evaluations of these programs are quite limited
(Lewis and Lewis, 1996)
 - ACHA-NCHA (Fall 2006 National Reference Group):
 - “Believability” of the following sources of health information-
 - Campus Peer Educators (49.7%); Resident Assistants (40%)
 - Vs. Health Center Medical Staff (90.7%); Health Educators (90.4%)

Essential Questions

- Are peer educators “believable” sources of information?
- What is your strategy based on?
 - Research / Data
 - Health Behavior Theory
- Is managing a peer education group an effective use of professional staff time?
 - Recruitment
 - Training
 - Supervision

Essential Questions

- What are appropriate vs. inappropriate roles for your students?
 - Does this vary for Undergraduate vs. Graduate students?
 - Liability Issues?
- Are peer educators being used to substitute for a lack of professional staff?
- Are you evaluating your program (beyond workshop satisfaction)? If so how?
 - Knowledge/Presentation skills of educators?
 - Pre/Post test knowledge of participants?