

## Statewide Initiatives for Campus Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Promotion



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Campus Suicide Prevention  
Grantee Technical Assistance Meeting  
January 6-9, 2009  
Phoenix, AZ

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## Experiential Activity

- What are your hopes for forming a statewide initiative?
- What are the challenges you think might get in the way of forming a statewide initiatives?



## Agenda

- What is a “statewide initiative”?
- History and examples
- Oregon grantee consortium
  - Description
  - Benefit
- Impact of statewide collaborations on campus practices
- Statewide/multi-campus efforts as sustainability strategy
- Resources

## What is a Statewide Initiative?

*A concerted effort by IHEs, state government officials, and community organizations in a state to address public health problems affecting college and university campuses and their surrounding communities.*

### ***Key Processes:***

- Creating and mobilizing campus task forces and campus-and-community coalitions to local action
- Collaborating on state policy change

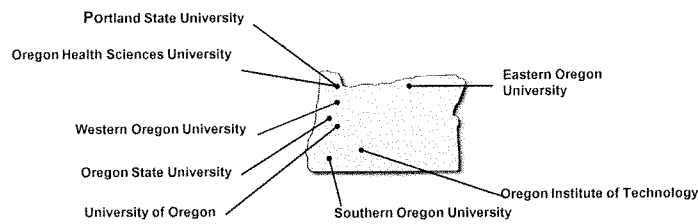
## Key Elements of Statewide Initiatives

- Conduct problem analysis/needs assessment
- Recruit key players
- Plan statewide effort, including a plan to evaluate
- Mobilize presidential leadership
- *Develop capacity of campus teams and leaders: environmental strategies, coalition building, strategic planning*
- Evaluate statewide and local efforts
- Sustain momentum

## History and Examples

- Alcohol, other drugs, and violence prevention
- Mental health promotion and suicide prevention
  - Missouri
  - Virginia
  - Grantees:
    - Daytona State College
    - University of Wyoming
    - University of North Dakota
    - Regis University

## Oregon Consortium



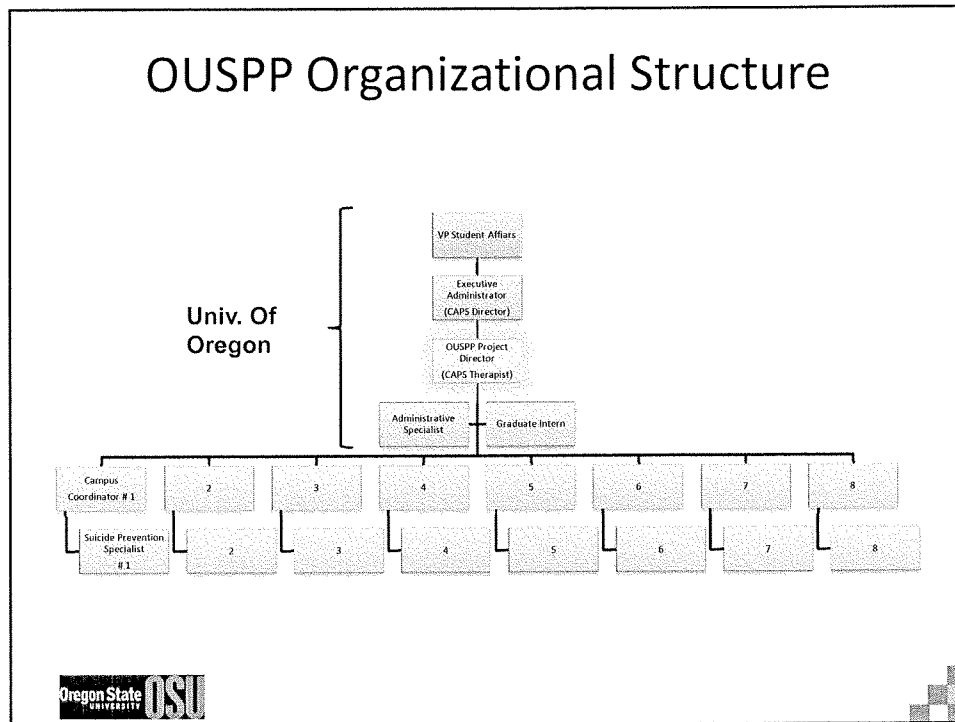
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## Oregon University Suicide Prevention Consortium (OUSPP)

- 8 public universities in Oregon University System
- Enrollment Range (08'): 2,500 – 21,500
- Garrett Lee Smith Grant (2005 – 2008)
- Senator Smith = Oregon Senator



## OUSPP Organizational Structure



## Why not to form a consortium

- Time and energy expenditure
  - Building shared vision
  - Organizational details
- Higher administrative cost (esp. in the beginning)
- Group decision-making (Ugh)
- Paying someone to direct it (need release time)
- Member turnover
- IRB Issues
- Reduced freedom/flexibility in programming

## Why you need a consortium

- Legitimacy/power
  - On your campus (e.g. reaching academic faculty)
  - Outside agencies (e.g. Active Minds)
  - State Legislature
- “Don’t leave me out!” (motivating for straggler schools)
- Economies of scale
  - Financially (bulk order written materials, hiring trainers for professional development)
  - Higher “n” for program evaluation
  - Initiative planning



## Why you need a consortium

- Shared wisdom & ideas
- Gain support with your administration through supportive administration at other schools (e.g. provost talks to provost).
- Motivation & support – a.k.a. the colleagues you don’t know are really fun & helpful!



**Questions, Insights?**

**Impact of Statewide Initiatives**

## **SWI Case Study -- 2003**

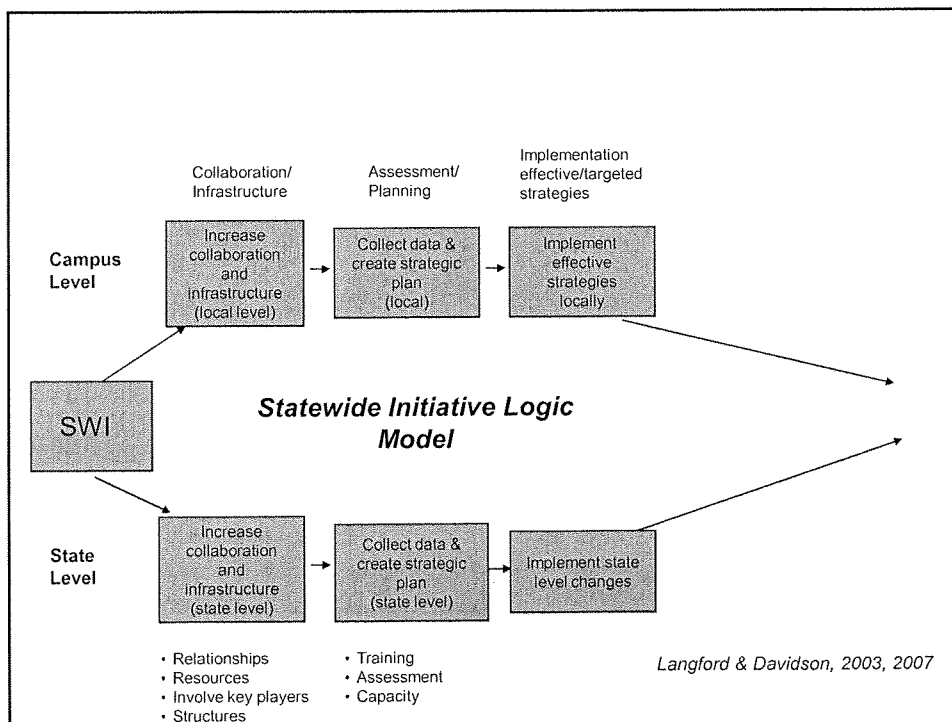
- Collaboration
- Strategic planning
- Evidence-based strategies

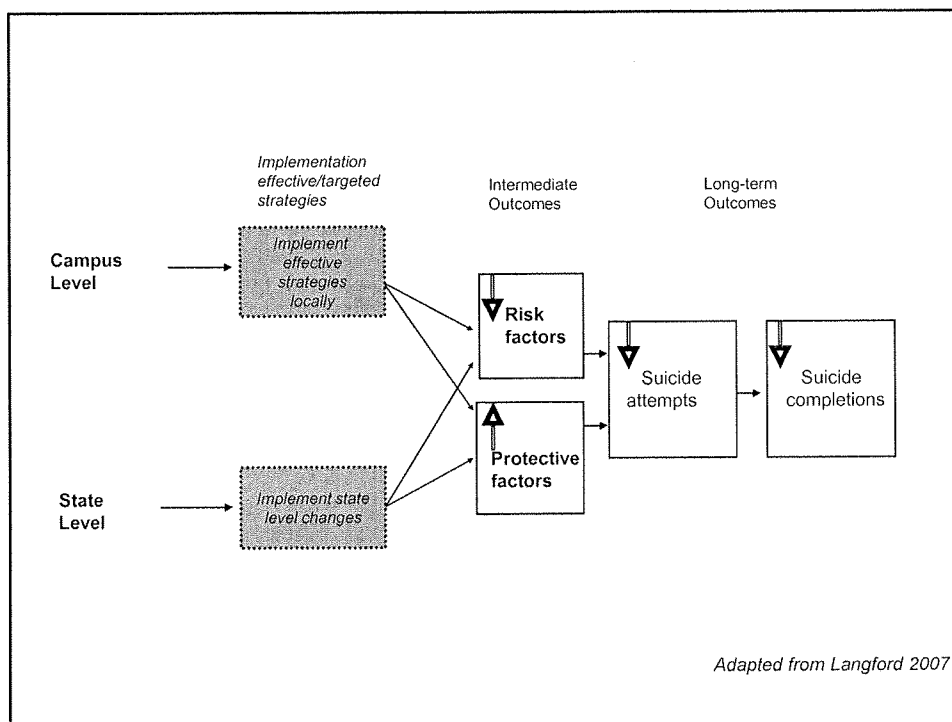
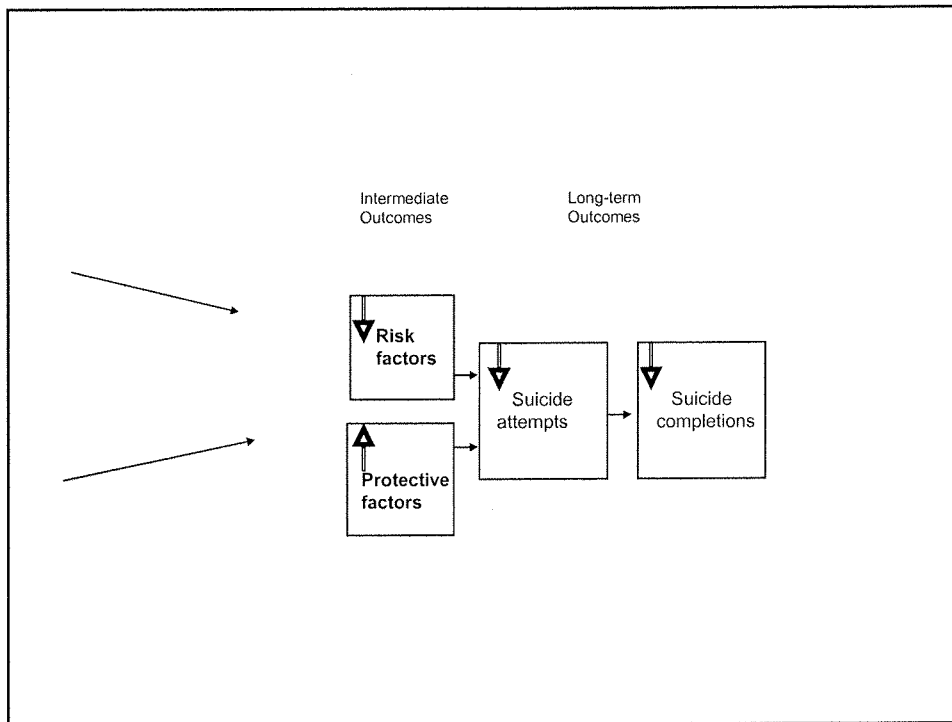
## **SWI Case Study -- 2003**

- Benefits
  - Networking
  - Funding
  - Training and technical assistance
  - Access to resources
  - Guidance and support
  - Credibility

## SWI Case Study -- 2003

- Sustaining SWI
  - Consistent leadership at state level
  - Active campuses
  - Funding
  - National support





Adapted from Langford 2007

## Lessons Learned

- Start with visioning to build consensus
- Create written mission, goals and objectives
- Face-to-face meetings matter (min 3 / year)
- The paradox of freedom
- Decide how to decide



## Lessons Learned

- Make your VP of student affairs your advocate
- Advocate for reduced workload - don't let prevention come "out of your hide."
- Numbers matter – the power of assessment
- Program evaluation – less is more
- An education focus has limited impact on cultural transformation yet is the orientation of most university personnel.



## After the Grant...

- Oregon College and University Suicide Prevention Project (OCUSPP)
- 7 public universities in Oregon University System
- 3 private colleges in the Portland area.
- Funded by Student Affairs buy-in. Cost based on size of school.

## SWIs to Sustain Suicide Prevention

- Your thoughts

## Questions, Insights?

### Resources

- Grantee private pages – conference call notes (9/29/08)
- Ross, Mark Evans
- Joan Masters – Missouri
- Higher Education Center website – [www.HigherEdCenter.org](http://www.HigherEdCenter.org)