Engaging New Gatekeepers: The Faith Community and Parents

Life is Precious: Faith Community Partnerships in Suicide Prevention
Religion Among the Millennials
Less Religiously Active Than Older Americans, But Fairly Traditional In Other Ways

Religious Affiliations (18 to 29 year olds)
75% affiliated religious tradition
68% identify with Christian faith
25% are unaffiliated
(identify with atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular”)

February 17, 2010
Virginia Tech Tragedy is a Wake-Up Call to Parents

Make their way through an increasingly complex life **without** the traditional safety net comprised of:

– family
– supportive peers
– teachers
– community of faith
– sense of **belonging**.

April 23, 2007
Barna Group
Examine. Illuminate. Transform.
http://www.barna.org
Virginia Tech Tragedy is a Wake-Up Call to Parents

Most young people admit that they feel as if they do not:
- sufficient attention from parents
- enough good friends
- unsettled about future
- have personal spiritual perspectives but lack spiritual community
- role models
- intrinsic value
“Research indicates that more than twice as many people with diagnosable mental health problems will see a cleric rather than a psychotherapist”

- Comfort level
- Less stigma
- Affordability
National Strategy for Suicide Prevention

Identified clergy

“Key Gatekeepers”
trained to recognize risk for suicide
equipped for preventive intervention

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2001
What the Faith Community Brings to the Table

Factors that promote:

Sense of community/belonging
Spiritual practices and rituals
Hope & solace
Understanding of mental illness & psychiatric disabilities
Cultural competence
What the Faith Community Brings to the Table

Factors that hinder:

- Discrimination & stigma
- Lack of outreach to persons
- Lack of openness
- Historical schism
- Lack appreciation of the role of faith, spirituality, religion & mental health
What Can We Do to Help?

As GLS Grantees

– Provide education Faith Community
– Enhance education Service Community
– Organize & foster dialogue
– Create partnerships
– Promote best-practice models
Collaboration & Partnership Building

Sources

• Interfaith/Ecumenical Groups
• Area Faith Leadership
• Faith-Based Initiatives
• Faith-Based Counselors
• College Driven Partnership
• Student Religious Organizations
Factors Affecting Collaboration

Hinder
- Lack of existing relationships
- Lack of information & misinformation
- Lack of trust

Promote
- Common interest - well being of student
- Ability to address each other’s need
- Improvement of services to students
- Overall reduction in suicides
Case Study

Life is Precious

Suicide Prevention Training for the Faith Community

Saturday
September 11th
10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Daytona Beach Police Headquarters
129 Valor Blvd. Daytona Beach, FL 32114
open to all clergy, ministry leaders, counselors, and church/ministry groups
Admission & Lunch are Free
for more information or to register contact:
tony deobil (386) 506-4218 or by email
deobila@DaytonaState.edu or
check us out on facebook @ projectspeak

Brought to you by:
Project SPEAK-Daytona State College &
a partnership of local ministries under
SAMHSA Grant # 1U79SM058975-01

lunch provided by our local florida
recovery month and other sponsors
www.floridarecoverymonth.com
registration for the event is also available online
Contact Information

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