Uncovering the time capsule

Or...
Strategies, Challenges, and Story-Sharing From Rural California:

Advocating for School-Based Healthy Relationships Policy
THE OVERARCHING QUESTION:
Does informing dating abuse policy within the education system in Mariposa County Unified School District (MCUSD) promote school environments that support healthy relationships and thereby contribute to intimate partner violence (IPV) prevention?

HOW DO WE SUPPORT HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS?
Efforts to understand and prevent dating abuse utilize methods and strategies such as community outreach, community-based programs, health education, public awareness, and education campaigns.

Our strategy is to:
- Work with a coalition to address dating abuse and community and social change.
- Create and deliver messaging around the issue of dating abuse.
- Develop dating abuse prevention protocol and policy guidelines.

“Build from good; expect better; make great.”
—Brown et al. 1996

PROJECT DETAILS
A five year cooperative agreement funding 10 state domestic violence coalition grantees to engage in primary prevention of intimate partner violence.

Each state grantee supports one or two coordinated community response teams (CCRTs) to implement strategies at the local level.

The DELTA FOCUS project runs from March 2013 to February 2018.
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Travel back in time to Mariposa County
Messaging: Shifting from Old to New Messages

“Dating Violence”

--> Healthy Relationships
Messaging: Shifting from Old to New Messages

“Relationships happen at home”

-->relationships happen at school
Messaging: Shifting from Old to New Messages

“Policy = discipline and ‘just a piece of paper’”

--> policy is many things, includes practices
Question: What are some examples of old narratives you are trying to shift away from in your community?
Berkeley Media Studies Group: messaging themes to use throughout our work.

Students can’t learn if they’re hurting or don’t feel safe.

Schools have a responsibility to give students the skills they need to succeed in the classroom and in life.

Healthy relationships are the foundation for a strong and healthy community.

Together we can prevent teen dating violence.
The old adage:

“It takes a village”
Transmit messaging into outer space!

Social media, regular media, public meetings, any meeting
Youth-led Messaging!
Ladder of Youth Voice

8. Youth/Adult Equity
7. Completely Youth-Driven
6. Youth/Adult Equality
5. Youth Consulted
4. Youth Informed
3. Tokenism
2. Decoration
1. Manipulation

Adapted by Adam Fletcher (2011) from work by Roger Hart, et al. (1994)
Youth Voices Event Version 1.0
Youth Voices 3.0
Youth Voices 4.0

Rock 'N' Write

A musical inspired by lyrics

DEC 1st & 2nd
at 7p

All tickets just $5

Written and directed by MCHS students featuring young musicians trained by Adam Burns. Produced by Bryan Starchman in the Richard D. Fiester Auditorium
Evaluation:

Tracking messages/messengers

Data-to-action
{Sustainability:}

Keep transmitting messages into the atmosphere!
Policy Change

(not as exciting as space travel but does help to shape social norms)
Aiming for school district wide policy that includes many components

Tried to build on what was already working well

Many presentations to SB

Biggest achievement: training for all school staff
Question: How do school policies help to shape social norms?
Let's help our teens have healthy relationships!

Our schools should...

Provide staff with training on healthy teen relationships and preventing dating abuse.

Let students know there is a person they can talk to about having a healthy relationship.

Establish a plan to respond to dating abuse when it happens.

Teach and talk about healthy relationships.

Model and teach healthy communication skills.

Mountain Crisis Services
P.O. Box 2075
Mariposa, CA 95338

For more information, contact mountain@atlas7.org

Let's help our teens have healthy relationships!
Evaluation:

Pre/Post Surveys

Community Partner Surveys
Sustainability:

Make sure a policy is carried through

“Implementation Support” 😊
Schools, health services, law enforcement,* sports, YOUTH, media and arts
QUESTION: Who are some (un)usual suspects that you partner with?
Evaluation:

Partner building and tracking

Community Partner Interviews
{Sustainability:}

KIT

Ground control to partners in space
Evaluation Tip: Share Data!
Update: Efforts to promote healthy relationships at MCUSD

45% of school staff surveyed were unsure if the school has a way for students to make a confidential report about aggressive behavior from a romantic partner.

(19 respondents, Staff Pre-Training Survey)

How do we promote healthy relationships??

Model respect
Encourage trust
Listen
Discuss what makes a relationship healthy
Take the time to talk
Write
Ensure services (counseling!) are available

(32 respondents, MCUSD Staff Post-Training Survey)

MCUSD promotes healthy relationships by...

Training staff
Including healthy relationships in curriculum
Documenting incidents of abuse
Reaching out to parents

(21 respondents, Community Partners Survey)
So long for now!

Thank you!

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