



Engaged Adults, Thriving Youth.

Welcome

Engage Douglas County Coalition Members

Mission/History

In 2019 the Community Health Plan, facilitated by Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health, identified a variety of data points indicating that substance use was an issue in the community. The plan placed an emphasis on behavioral health and focused on moving from crisis as a norm to prevention and recovery as a practice. Within the plan, prioritizing prevention emerged as a top issue, thus forming Engage Douglas County.

The mission of Engage Douglas County is to mobilize and empower Douglas County to reduce substance abuse and promote mental health primarily among youth through action, education, and collaboration.

Our coalition membership is drawn from various sectors within the county including education, law enforcement, health care, youth-serving organizations, civic/volunteer groups, and others. We meet as a coalition every other month.

DRUG-FREE COMMUNITIES GRANT

In 2020, Engage Douglas County was awarded the Drug-Free Communities Grant. This is a 5-year, \$125,000 grant for the purpose of reducing underage drinking and youth marijuana use. The DFC program is aimed at mobilizing community leaders to identify and respond to the drug problems unique to their community and change local community environmental conditions tied to substance use.

The DFC program goals are to:

- Establish and strengthen collaboration among communities working to prevent and reduce substance use among youth.
- Reduce substance use among youth and, over time, reduce substance use among adults by addressing the factors in a community that increase risk for substance use and promoting factors that minimize risk for substance use.

A Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Coalition is a community-based formal arrangement among community groups or sectors. Representatives from 12 sectors organize and meet to address local youth substance use. Together, as a coalition, they are driven by local conditions to implement local solutions that will build a safe, healthy, and drug-free community.

Coalitions' activities are guided by the Strategic Prevention Framework and the Seven Strategies to Affect Community Change. These frameworks acknowledge that environmental contexts impact the risk of youth substance use. Ultimately, these strategic frameworks help coalitions limit access to substances, change the culture and context within which decisions about substance use are made, and shift the consequences associated with substance use.

THE 12 SECTORS



Healthcare



Youth-Serving Organizations



State/Local Agencies



Law Enforcement



Youth



Parents



Other Local Organizations



Civic/Volunteer Groups



Religious Organizations



Business



Schools



Media

Coalitions work together with representatives from 12 sectors to ensure that a broad range of community expertise is included. The 12 sectors are youth, parents, business, media, schools, youth-serving organizations, law enforcement, religious or fraternal organizations, civic or volunteer groups, healthcare professionals, state or local agencies, and other local organizations. There are additional sectors beyond the 12 mentioned above and all are welcome to be part of Engage Douglas County.

STRATEGIC PREVENTION FRAMEWORK

Prevention professionals use SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) as a comprehensive guide to plan, implement, and evaluate prevention practices and programs. The SPF is a planning model to support coordinated, comprehensive, data-driven planning and accountability. The five steps and two guiding principles of the SPF offer prevention planners a comprehensive approach to understanding and addressing substance misuse and related behavioral health problems facing their states and communities.



7 STRATEGIES FOR COMMUNITY CHANGE

CADCA's Seven Strategies for Creating Effective Community Change is a framework for coalitions to identify appropriate and timely action steps to include in a comprehensive action plan for strategy/intervention implementation.

Providing Information

Educational presentations, workshops or seminars or other presentations of data (e.g., public announcements, brochures, dissemination, billboards, community meetings, forums, web-based communication).

Enhancing Skills

Workshops, seminars or other activities designed to increase the skills of participants, members and staff needed to achieve population level outcomes (e.g., training, technical assistance, distance learning, strategic planning retreats, curricula development).

Providing Support

Creating opportunities to support people to participate in activities/strategies that reduce risk or enhance protection.

Enhancing Access/Reducing Barriers

Improving systems and processes to increase the ease, ability and opportunity to utilize those systems and services (e.g., assuring healthcare, childcare, transportation, housing, justice, education, safety, special needs, cultural and language sensitivity). This can include identifying barriers and possible strategies to overcome.

Changing Consequences (Incentives/Disincentives)

Increasing or decreasing the probability of a specific behavior that reduces risk or enhances protection by altering the consequences for performing that behavior (e.g., increasing public recognition for deserved behavior, individual and business rewards, taxes, citations, fines, revocations/loss of privileges).

Changing Physical Design/Making Environmental Changes

Changing the physical design or structure of the environment to reduce risk or enhance protection (e.g., parks, landscapes, signage, lighting, outlet density).

Modifying/Changing/Developing Policies

Formal change in written procedures, by-laws, proclamations, rules or laws with written documentation and/or voting procedures (e.g., workplace initiatives, law enforcement procedures and practices, public policy actions, systems change within government, communities and organizations).

SHARED RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

SAMSHA's definition of risk and protective factors are characteristics at the biological, psychological, family, community, or cultural level that is associated with a higher or lower likelihood of problem outcomes.

A variety of risk and protective factors exist within multiple domains: at the individual, school, family, and community level. Different age groups also have specific risk and protective factors influencing their behavioral health at the given time.

Some risk and protective factors are the same for different problems. Existing research and data suggest that there are a number of common, or shared, risk and protective factors that impact both substance misuse and mental health outcomes. Strategies that are aimed specifically at reducing risk factors and increasing those protective factors will be most effective in reducing substance misuse, suicide, mental health disorders, violence, and more.

Shared Risk Factors for Substance Misuse and Suicide	Shared Protective Factors for Substance Misuse and Suicide
Individual: Adverse Childhood Experiences, behavior health problems, poor coping skills	Individual: engagement in positive, meaningful activities, positive self concept, cultural identity and connection, religious or spiritual beliefs, good coping skills
Family: family history of problem behavior, family management problems, family conflict, household access to substances or guns, bullying	Family: connected to family, higher parental expectations about school
School: lack of personal commitment to school	School: connected to school, caring school climate, early intervention services
Community: transitions and mobility	Community: connected to positive adults outside of the home, strong community infrastructure (services for those in need), local and state policies that support healthy norms and child-youth programs

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND PREVENTION (YEP!)



Youth Empowerment and Prevention! (YEP!) is the youth-led organization within Engage Douglas County and the goal is to promote positive change within local schools and communities. YEP! consists of youth chapters in Baldwin, Eudora, Lawrence, and Perry Lecompton middle and high schools. YEP! provides opportunities for youth to learn more about leadership development, substance misuse prevention, suicide prevention, and mental health promotion.

Youth get trained in substance misuse prevention, suicide prevention, mental health, and leadership. Chapters then develop and implement special projects to promote healthy lifestyles. Youth engage in several opportunities to connect with like-minded youth from other schools in the county throughout the year.

Chapters meet at least monthly at their school or organization. 1-3 representatives from each chapter attend a quarterly youth county meeting where chapters share what they've been working on and together they come up with the theme for a county youth project for fall and spring.

Current YEP! Chapters

- Baldwin High School
- Baldwin Junior High School
- Billy Mills Middle School
- Eudora High School
- Eudora Middle School
- Lawrence College and Career Academy
- Perry Lecompton High School
- Perry Lecompton Middle School

Recent projects: host events and activities to encourage peers to make healthy choices, advocate for policies designed to reduce youth substance use and promote health equity in Douglas County, promote stress reduction activities for peers, attend Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) conferences, and participate in Take Down Tobacco Day in Topeka at the state capitol.

SECTOR MEMBER & VOLUNTEER ROLES

- Attend coalition meetings and activities on a regular basis
- Read minutes, reports and other relevant information distributed to keep abreast of coalition decisions and activities
- Offer ideas/suggestions for potential projects and initiatives
- Disseminate relevant information to organizational members or employees through websites, social media, email, etc.
- Keep coalition informed of your organization's related activities
- Engage in coalition's workgroups and/or the strategies put forth by the workgroups
- Help measure community resources, strengths, and needs

COALITION WORKGROUPS

Engage Douglas County currently utilizes short term workgroups to accomplish specific tasks related to substance misuse and mental health. To volunteer for a workgroup, reach out at lfuqua@dcca.org or attend a coalition meeting.

TIME COMMITMENT

Coalition members should expect to commit 1-2 hours per month for participation in meetings and activities.



COALITION PROGRAMS AND STRATEGIES

PAX Good Behavior Game

The PAX Good Behavior Game (PAX GBG) is an environmental strategy used in the classroom to create a nurturing environment that is conducive to learning. PAX GBG is currently being implemented at Baldwin Primary Center.

Handle With Care

Handle with Care is a collaboration between law enforcement and schools to better support children exposed to trauma at the scene of a crime, violence or abuse. Handle with Care is currently being implemented at Baldwin Public Schools and Lawrence Public Schools.

Safe Medication Disposal

The Safe Medication Disposal program is a partnership between Engage Douglas County and local pharmacies, to provide our community safer options for medication disposal, as well as information regarding prescription overdoses. Partnering pharmacies include AuBurn Pharmacy Baldwin City, AuBurn Pharmacy Eudora, Jayhawk Pharmacy, Jayhawk Pharmacy West, LMH Pharmacy, and Watkins Health Services University of Kansas.

Reward & Reminder

Reward & Reminder is an effective research-based prevention strategy with the goal of reducing and preventing the retail sale of tobacco products, vaping products, and alcohol to those under the legal age to purchase. This strategy includes compliance checks in which youth visit the retailer and attempt to purchase.

Sources of Strength

Sources of Strength is an upstream, strengths-based prevention program designed to build protective factors and reduce the likelihood that vulnerable youth will become suicidal. Students who are trained in Sources of Strength are 4 times more likely to refer a peer to a safe adult. SOS is currently implemented in all 4 Douglas County School Districts.

Prevention Strategies

Engage Douglas County currently implements a variety of strategies designed to reduce youth substance misuse and suicide including media campaigns, trainings, presentations, YEP! youth chapters, Engaged in Action awards and more.

COALITION PARTNERS

- Baldwin City USD 348
- Baldwin City Police Department
- Baker University
- Boys & Girls Club
- Bert Nash CMHC
- #BeMoreLikeClaire
- Children's Advocacy Center of Douglas County
- Community Children's Center
- Create Uplift
- DCCCA
- Douglas County Extension Office
- Douglas County Government
- Douglas County Sheriff's Office
- Downtown Lawrence
- Eudora Police Department
- Eudora Schools
- Haskell Indian Nations University
- Greenbush
- Kansas Suicide Prevention HQ
- Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health
- Lawrence First Church of the Nazarene
- Lawrence Police Department
- Lawrence Public Schools
- LMH Health
- O'Connell Children's Shelter
- Perry-Lecompton USD #343
- Watkins Health Services (KU)
- The Willow DV Center
- University of Kansas

CONTACT INFORMATION

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