



Colorado Prevention Partners- Garfield County

LOCAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

Developing a Needs-Based Strategic Plan for Reducing CMC Student Alcohol/Drug Abuse

The Unmet Community Need

Events on campus, observations by Colorado Mountain College administrators, faculty, and staff, and student surveys all point to a high prevalence of substance abuse by underage and adult students living on campus and that this abuse can have an adverse effect on their positive development and become an obstacle to learning, the primary goals for young persons enrolled at CMC. “Commuter campuses” like CMC’s Rifle campus have less visible, but still significant substance use issues. A strategic plan showing how substance abuse prevention and intervention could improve these conditions is the first-year goal of this collaboration between Community Prevention Partners of Garfield County and the college.

Committed, Existing Substance Abuse Prevention Resources

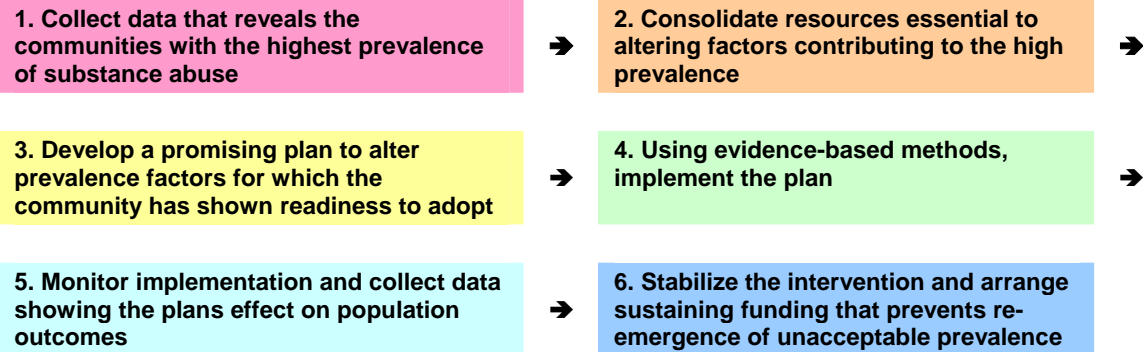
CMC recognizes the need for further action, however, staff members are limited in availability because they are already committed to existing activities and budget limitations restrict development of new technologies that might contribute to a solution. Without the infusion of new resources, the prevalence of abuse may continue, along with the undesirable consequences for youth development and learning.

New Resources with the Community Prevention Partners Grant

Fortunately, there is an excellent match between the purposes of the CPP-Garfield County initiative and the needs and resource limitations at CMC. The initiative can provide technical assistance and staff support to achieve measurable substance abuse outcomes within “communities”, in this instance, student residents at CMC’s Spring Valley campus, and those who have a significant influence on the community either directly (college employees) or indirectly (e.g., state regulatory agencies, nearby law enforcement, and hospitality or liquor sales businesses).

The Colorado Prevention Partners Model

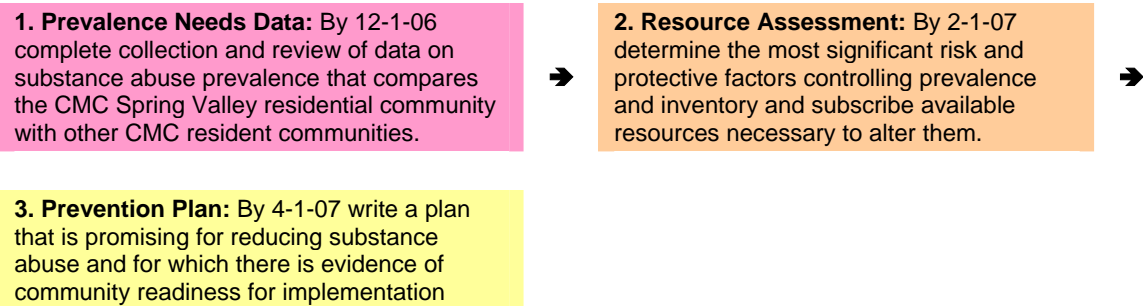
The Garfield County substance abuse prevention initiative requires application of this framework for action:



The framework represents current thinking on achieving and sustaining reductions in substance abuse in high-prevalence communities.

Strategic Planning Goals for 2006-2007

These are the framework goals and timeline:



CPP-Garfield County consists of a Prevention Policy Board, endorsed by the County Human Services Department, and a CPP Network, consisting of persons with an interest in preventing substance abuse. CMC will distribute its prevention plan to these groups, seeking ideas and offers of assistance that did not emerge during planning.

See more about the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division
<http://stateboard.cdhs.state.co.us/ohr/adad/index.html>

See more about the Garfield County Human Services Department
<http://www.garfield-county.com/home/index.asp?page=573>

See more about Colorado Prevention Partners
http://www.nhwa.org/Handle_preventionframework.pdf

See more about Community Health Initiatives
<http://www.chi-colorado.org/chi-index.html>