

Overcoming Substance Use Disorder and Overdose Together



LESSONS LEARNED FROM 5 YEARS OF NATIONWIDE
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY SAFE PROJECT

How did this session come to be?

Learning from each other's experiences separately. Great minds think alike.

Session Overview

- Overview for the session
- Case studies shared by employees and Communities of Interest
- Success stories since SAFE Project was founded.
- Application + Discussion
- Q&A



SAFEProject
Stop the Addiction Fatality Epidemic



SAFEProject

Stop the Addiction Fatality Epidemic

Our mission is to contribute in a tangible way to overcoming the addiction epidemic in the United States.

**SAFE
Campuses**

**SAFE
Communities**

**SAFE
Workplaces**

**SAFE
Veterans**



**PUBLIC
AWARENESS**



**FULL SPECTRUM
PREVENTION**



**PRESCRIPTIONS &
MEDICAL RESPONSE**



**LAW ENFORCEMENT &
CRIMINAL JUSTICE**



**TREATMENT
& RECOVERY**



**FAMILY OUTREACH
& SUPPORT**



Let's chat!

*Reflections to set the
stage.*



**What makes SAFE Project
uniquely effective?**



**How do you want your audiences to
feel after your work with them?**



6

Lessons Learned

from 5 Years of Community and
Campus Technical Assistance



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What We Notice

Lessons 1-4

Lesson

1

There's often a lack of knowledge about (or a resistance to) the relationship between our audiences and SUD/overdose risk.

And where may stigma underscore this lack of awareness?

This is an off-campus problem. We don't have those students here.



1



**There's often a lack of knowledge about
(or a resistance to) the relationship between
our audiences and overdose risk.**

Those things just don't happen here.
Not in our part of town, at least.





**There's often a lack of knowledge about
(or a resistance to) the relationship between
our audiences and overdose risk.**

**Solution: Develop "feedback loops" and equip
groups with effective tools for advocacy rooted
in destigmatization.**

Lesson

2

There are many models for overdose prevention/recovery support/prevention, and their differences matter

Who does a model serve or not serve?



There are many models for overdose prevention/recovery support/prevention, and their differences matter

Common Naloxone Approaches

Public Defibrillator/Nalox-Box



Public/Private Training Sessions



Police-Focused Availability



Pharmacy-Based Distribution



Community Partner Training & Distribution



Who does a model serve? Who does it not serve? How can we utilize multiple?



There are many models for overdose prevention/recovery support/prevention, and their differences matter

Solution: Offer co-creation of a multi-pronged approach. Balance idealism and pragmatism.

Lesson

3

**It's harder for stigma to get in the way when we do
this work through coalitions**

Strength in numbers. There's common ground to be built and discovered.



**It's harder for stigma to get in the way when
we do this work through coalitions.**



**It's harder for stigma to get in the way when
we do this work through coalitions.**

**Solution: Cover all of our bases. We are the uniters,
the listeners, the strategists. We are deeply holding
them accountable to their own aspirations.**

Lesson

4

People are tired of their loved ones dying & are desperately grasping for solutions.

This is often reactive rather than proactive.

Every AED needs Narcan NOW!
Testing strips, too!



4



People are tired of their loved ones dying & are desperately grasping for solutions.

We need to get *tough* on fentanyl
and fentanyl dealers!



Solution: Trauma-informed solutions that center

Tools over Fear



1. SAFETY



2. TRUSTWORTHINESS
& TRANSPARENCY



3. PEER SUPPORT



4. COLLABORATION
& MUTUALITY



5. EMPOWERMENT
VOICE & CHOICE



6. CULTURAL, HISTORICAL,
& GENDER ISSUES

Source: CDC &
SAMHSA



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1

Lack of Knowledge

2

Differing Models

3

Stigma

4

**Desperation and
Exhaustion**

**How do you all see these in
your community?**

1

Lack of Knowledge

2

Differing Models

3

Stigma

4

**Desperation and
Exhaustion**

**What else do you see in your
community?**

What we do

Lessons 5-7

Lesson

5

FAIL = First Attempt In Learning

Failing makes your next shot quicker, easier, and surer. Failing allows you to build resources and programs that are more reflective of your community.



FAIL = First Attempt In Learning

Solution: Feedback is critical. Try, fail, edit, try again = success.

Lesson



The Approach Matters

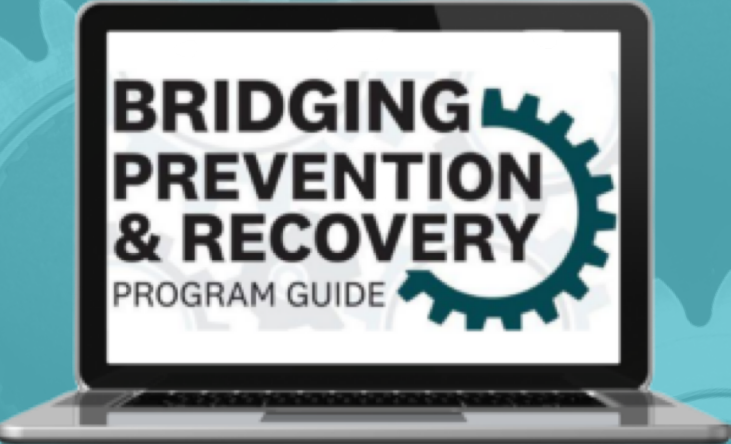
*We don't give answers. We empower solutions, ground ourselves in systems,
and then gather tools/shortcuts as we go.*



The Approach Matters.

Solution: Our solutions and projects are always unique to the partner, but we remain dedicated to a full process of development, implementation, and continuous feedback/evaluation.

Our systems make us trustworthy, and provide a safe foundation for innovation.



Lesson

7

Keep it simple, innovate, and remain flexible.

What are our core offerings? Are we willing to take on the risks that come with true empowerment (and be able to fail forward)?



Keep it simple, innovate, and remain flexible.

**Solution: Empower, Guide, Evaluate,
Succeed/Fail, Adjust, Empower.**

Are there any examples of programs we've held onto
for far too long?

5

**First Attempt In
Learning**

6

The Approach Matters

7

**Keep it simple, innovate,
and remain flexible**

**What techniques have worked
best for you?**

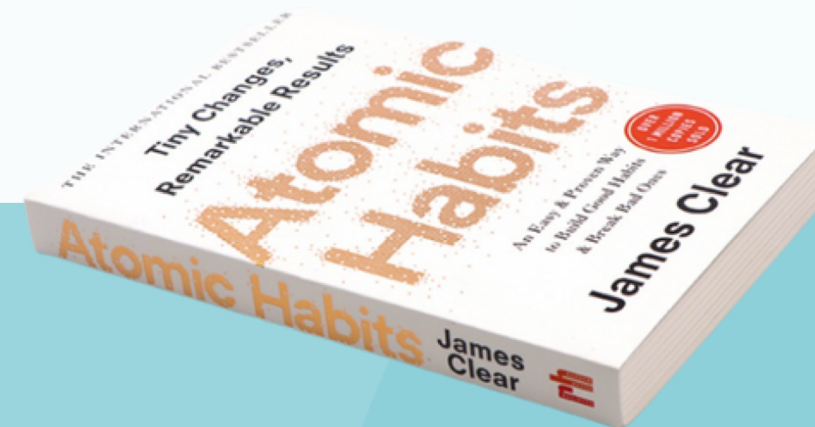
**But wait, this isn't
really all that
groundbreaking,**

right?



**With all of this in mind, why is
collaboration so hard?**

**"You do not rise to the level of your goals.
You fall to the level of your systems.
Your goal is your desired outcome. Your
system is the collection of daily habits
that will get you there."**



Questions?



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Thanks!



References

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