

Statewide Initiatives for Campus Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Promotion



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Experiential Activity

- What are your hopes for forming a statewide initiative?
- What are the challenges you think might get in the way of forming a statewide initiatives?



Agenda

- What is a “statewide initiative”?
- History and examples
- Oregon grantee consortium
 - Description
 - Benefit
- Impact of statewide collaborations on campus practices
- Statewide/multi-campus efforts as sustainability strategy
- Resources

What is a Statewide Initiative?

A concerted effort by IHEs, state government officials, and community organizations in a state to address public health problems affecting college and university campuses and their surrounding communities.

Key Processes:

- Creating and mobilizing campus task forces and campus-and-community coalitions to local action
- Collaborating on state policy change

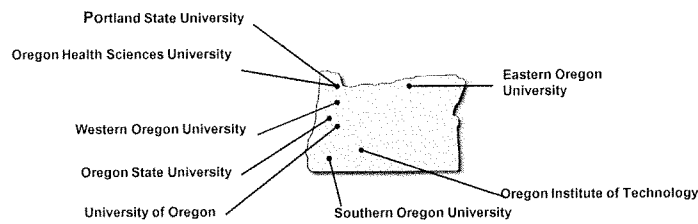
Key Elements of Statewide Initiatives

- Conduct problem analysis/needs assessment
- Recruit key players
- Plan statewide effort, including a plan to evaluate
- Mobilize presidential leadership
- *Develop capacity of campus teams and leaders: environmental strategies, coalition building, strategic planning*
- Evaluate statewide and local efforts
- Sustain momentum

History and Examples

- Alcohol, other drugs, and violence prevention
- Mental health promotion and suicide prevention
 - Missouri
 - Virginia
 - Grantees:
 - Daytona State College
 - University of Wyoming
 - University of North Dakota
 - Regis University

Oregon Consortium



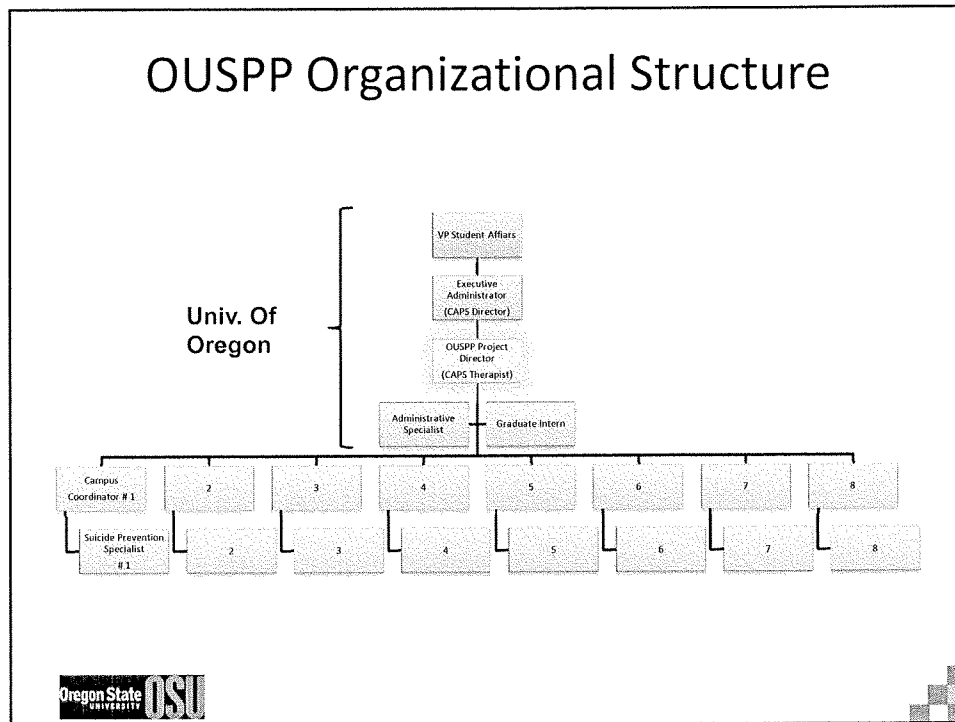
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Oregon University Suicide Prevention Consortium (OUSPP)

- 8 public universities in Oregon University System
- Enrollment Range (08'): 2,500 – 21,500
- Garrett Lee Smith Grant (2005 – 2008)
- Senator Smith = Oregon Senator



OUSPP Organizational Structure



Why not to form a consortium

- Time and energy expenditure
 - Building shared vision
 - Organizational details
- Higher administrative cost (esp. in the beginning)
- Group decision-making (Ugh)
- Paying someone to direct it (need release time)
- Member turnover
- IRB Issues
- Reduced freedom/flexibility in programming

Why you need a consortium

- Legitimacy/power
 - On your campus (e.g. reaching academic faculty)
 - Outside agencies (e.g. Active Minds)
 - State Legislature
- “Don’t leave me out!” (motivating for straggler schools)
- Economies of scale
 - Financially (bulk order written materials, hiring trainers for professional development)
 - Higher “n” for program evaluation
 - Initiative planning



Why you need a consortium

- Shared wisdom & ideas
- Gain support with your administration through supportive administration at other schools (e.g. provost talks to provost).
- Motivation & support – a.k.a. the colleagues you don’t know are really fun & helpful!



Questions, Insights?

Impact of Statewide Initiatives

SWI Case Study -- 2003

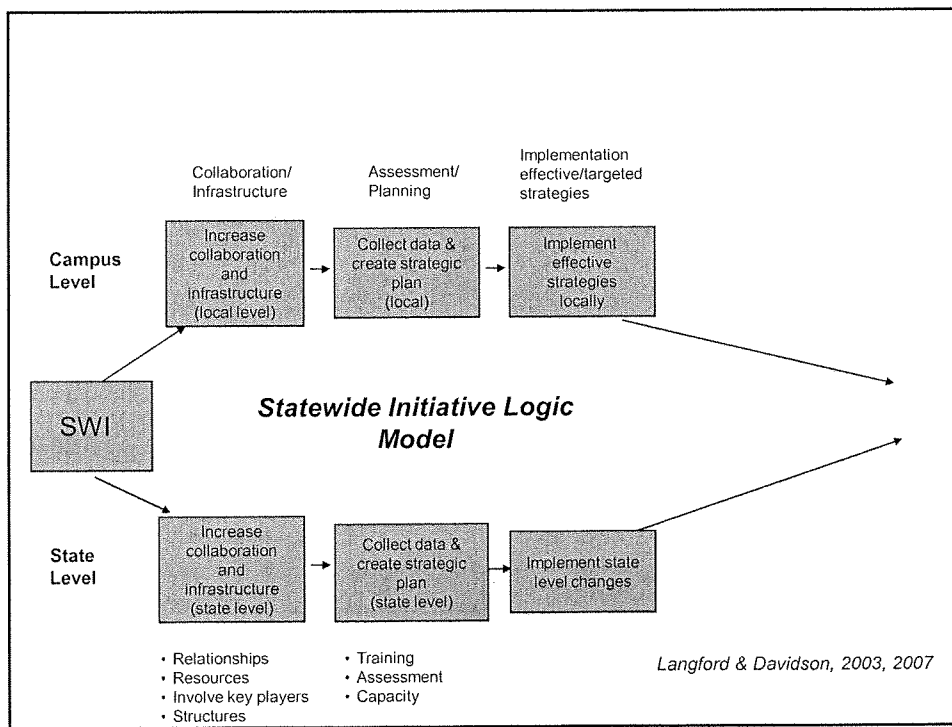
- Collaboration
- Strategic planning
- Evidence-based strategies

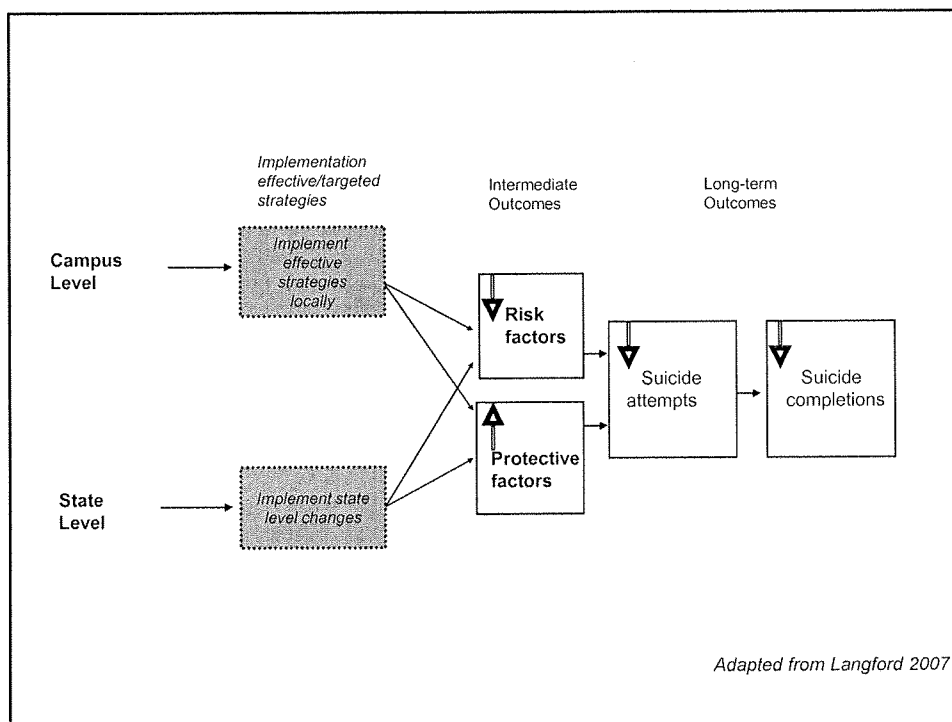
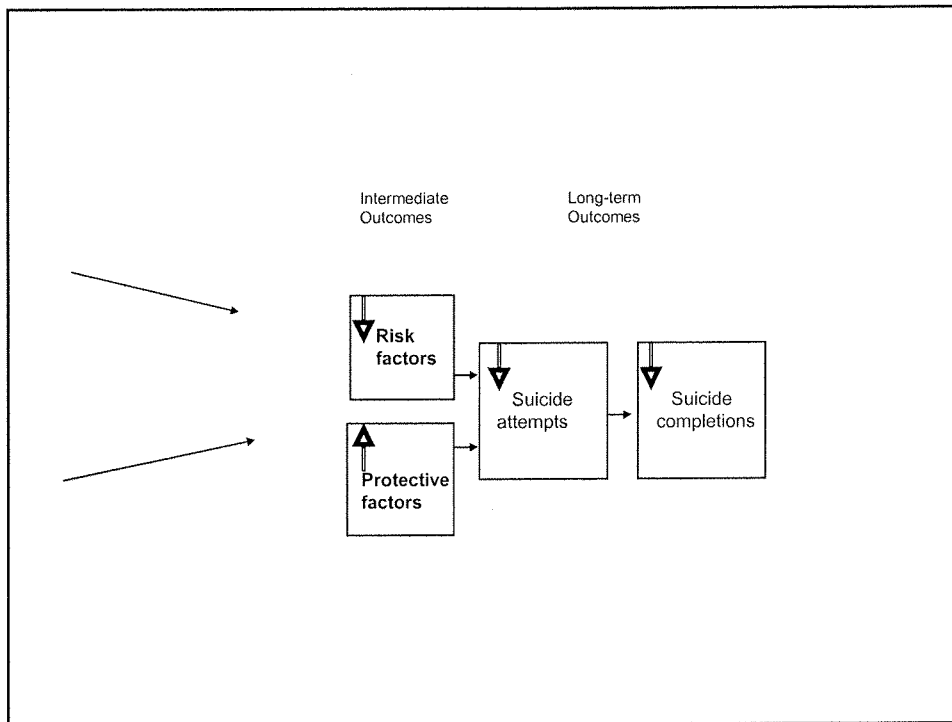
SWI Case Study -- 2003

- Benefits
 - Networking
 - Funding
 - Training and technical assistance
 - Access to resources
 - Guidance and support
 - Credibility

SWI Case Study -- 2003

- Sustaining SWI
 - Consistent leadership at state level
 - Active campuses
 - Funding
 - National support





Lessons Learned

- Start with visioning to build consensus
- Create written mission, goals and objectives
- Face-to-face meetings matter (min 3 / year)
- The paradox of freedom
- Decide how to decide



Lessons Learned

- Make your VP of student affairs your advocate
- Advocate for reduced workload - don't let prevention come "out of your hide."
- Numbers matter – the power of assessment
- Program evaluation – less is more
- An education focus has limited impact on cultural transformation yet is the orientation of most university personnel.



After the Grant...

- Oregon College and University Suicide Prevention Project (OCUSPP)
- 7 public universities in Oregon University System
- 3 private colleges in the Portland area.
- Funded by Student Affairs buy-in. Cost based on size of school.

SWIs to Sustain Suicide Prevention

- Your thoughts

Questions, Insights?

Resources

- Grantee private pages – conference call notes (9/29/08)
- Ross, Mark Evans
- Joan Masters – Missouri
- Higher Education Center website – www.HigherEdCenter.org