

Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities

Grantee Profile

Governor's Program

San Benito County

Safe and Drug Free Schools Substance Abuse Program

San Benito County Substance Abuse Program, along with its contracted partners, plans to administer a program with two major components. These include a youth development program to involve Hispanic youth in their community and a classroom-based program for students in grades K-3 using the SAMHSA model program *Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies* (PATHS). The PATHS program will enable youth to identify feelings within themselves and display less aggressive/violent behaviors at school.

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Program Component 1

Youth participants from the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) will develop stronger community connections and increase their leadership skills through interactions with community leaders and through participation in cultural events in the county.

- Youth participate in the California LULAC Convention and Leadership retreat.
- Other activities included Hollister Downtown Festival, National Night Out, and Lights on for Life.
- Youth had opportunities to speak with community representatives from the Sheriff's department, the Board of Supervisors, and legal system representatives such as judges.

Population(s) Served

- Latin American youth in San Benito County.

Program Component 2

The Substance Abuse Programs will collaborate with the San Benito County Office of Education (LEA) to implement the Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS) program for K-3 youth in two schools.

- Kindergarten teachers trained with PATHS program and implemented programmatic principles.
- PATHS program designed to develop positive self-esteem, self-control, emotional awareness and interpersonal problem solving skills.
- Ultimate goal to expand services to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders.

Population(s) Served

- Students in grades K-3 of two elementary schools in San Benito County.

Science-Based Criteria

- *Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS) curriculum (SAMSHA Model Program)*

Program Settings

- School-based, during school (Primary)
- School-based, after school (Secondary)
- Community-based (Secondary)

Program Strategies

- Youth Development (Primary)
- Mentoring
- Academic Support
- Violence Prevention

San Benito County

Risk Characteristics of Target Population

- Risk is identified at three levels, the community, school, and individual level.
- At the community level, the targeted service communities have high levels of ATOD use among youth, high levels of violence among youth, and favorable attitudes toward ATOD use and abuse by adults.
- At the school level, risk was identified by CHKS data and CA Dept of Justice Report of Criminal Statistics data.
- At the individual level, youth referred from the Probation Department will be targeted for services.

Planning and Collaboration

- A collaboration was formed between the San Benito County Substance Abuse Program, the County Office of Education (COE), and two community-based organizations (the League of United Latin American Citizens and the Red Cross).
- A successful relationship was formed with COE and the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC).
- The program also benefits also from the pre-existence of a collaborative body including the COE, probation department, and the United Way.

Evaluation

- Process data to be collected include: attendance for LULAC activities and the number of youth enrolled in the 3 kindergarten classes receiving the PATHS program.
- Outcome data to be collected include locally developed pre/post surveys for the kindergarten youth and annual assessment reports by teachers (that will focus on aggressive behavior) for the PATHS program.
- Outcomes measured include self-esteem, sense of belonging, and level of aggressive behavior for the elementary students and number of repeat offenses for the mentoring group.

Sample Performance Indicators

- Long-Term:
 - Improve self-esteem
 - Less aggressive/violent behavior
 - Decrease ATOD use
 - Increase sense of belonging to community
 - Increase empathy skills
 - Develop better understanding of community