

Addiction Prevention Services



Warren
Forest
306 Hazel Street
Warren PA 16365
814 584-1140 (office)
814 584-1141 (fax)



BEACON LIGHT
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM



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What Types Of Services Are Offered Through Prevention Services?

Delivered prior to the onset of a disorder, these interventions are intended to prevent or reduce the risk of developing a behavioral health problem, such as underage alcohol use, prescription drug misuse and abuse, and illicit drug use.

Prevention programming will be used to develop and implement a comprehensive system of resources directed at individuals not identified to be in need of treatment that include:

- A broad array of prevention programs
- Strategies
- Policies
- Practices

Prevention program activities are provided in a variety of settings to targeted populations who are affected by risk factors associated with:

- Substance abuse
- Gambling
- Tobacco use

Who Is Eligible?

Anyone is eligible to receive or participate in the prevention programs that are offered throughout Warren and Forest Counties. The prevention program is paid for through funding from the Forest-Warren Dept. of Human Services and The Erie County Dept. of Health through a contract with the PA Dept. of Health.

Types Of Activities

Currently, we offer services in Drug and Alcohol, Tobacco, Gambling and Bullying.

Each type of program that the Prevention Program offers falls under one of the following service type categories.

Single Service Type-Single prevention services are one-time activities intended to inform general and specific populations about substance abuse, tobacco, and gambling.

Recurring Service Type- Recurring prevention services are pre-planned series of structured program lessons and/or activities. These types of services are intended to inform, educate, develop social skills, and identify/refer individuals who may be at risk for substance abuse, tobacco, and gambling addiction. A recurring prevention activity needs to have an anticipated measurable outcome, to include but not limited to Pre/Post Tests and/or surveys.

Six Prevention Strategies

1. DISEMMINATION OF INFORMATION

This strategy provides information about the nature and extent of drug use, abuse, addiction and the effects on individuals, families and communities. It also provides information of available prevention programs and services. The dissemination of information is characterized by one-way communication from the source to the audience, with limited contact between the two. Examples of methods used for this strategy include the following:

- Clearinghouses and other information resource centers
- Resource directories
- Media campaigns
- Brochures
- Radio and television public service announcements
- Speaking engagements
- Health fairs

2. PREVENTION EDUCATION

This strategy involves two-way communication and is distinguished from merely disseminating information by the fact that it's based on an interaction between the educator and the participants. Activities under this strategy aim to affect critical life and social skills, including decision making, refusal skills and critical analysis (e.g. of media messages). Examples of methods used for this strategy include the following:

- Classroom and small group sessions
- Parenting and family management classes
- Peer leader and peer helper programs
- Education programs for youth groups
- Groups for children of substance abusers

3. ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES

This strategy provides for the participation of target populations in activities that exclude drug use. The assumption is that because constructive and healthy activities offset the attraction to drugs, or otherwise meet the needs usually filled by drugs, then the population would avoid using drugs. Examples of methods used for this strategy include the following:

- Drug-free social and recreational activities
- Drug-free dances and parties
- Youth and adult leadership activities
- Community drop-in centers
- Community service activities
- Mentoring programs

4. COMMUNITY-BASED PROCESSES

This strategy aims to enhance the ability of the community to more effectively provide prevention and treatment services for drug abuse disorders. Activities in this strategy include organizing, planning, enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of service implementation, building coalitions and networking. Examples of methods used for this strategy include the following:

- Community and volunteer training (e.g. neighborhood action training, training of key people in the system)
- Systematic planning
- Multi-agency coordination and collaboration
- Accessing service and funding
- Community team building

5. ENVIRONMENTAL APPROACHES

This strategy seeks to establish or change community standards, codes and attitudes, thereby influencing the incidence and prevalence of drug abuse in the general population. Examples of methods used for this strategy include the following:

- The establishment and review of drug policies in schools
- Technical assistance to communities to maximize local enforcement procedures governing the availability and distribution of drugs
- The review and modification of alcohol and tobacco advertising practices
- Product pricing strategies

6. PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL

This strategy aims to identify those who have indulged in the illegal use of drugs in order to assess if their behavior can be reversed through education. It should be noted, however, that this strategy does not include any activity designed to determine if an individual is in need of treatment. Examples of methods used for this strategy include the following:

- Driving-while-intoxicated education programs
- Employee assistance programs (EAP)
- Student assistance programs (SAP)

