

Suicide Prevention Coalition Academy

Missouri's first Suicide Prevention Coalition Academy was an incredible opportunity to bring together representatives from 7 community coalitions across the state, as well as members of the Missouri Department of Mental Health, the Missouri Suicide Prevention Network, and other local agencies. We had 44 attendees total between the various organizations, including our facilitators, Shawna -Hite Jones from EDC & Ryan Lindsay and Elizabeth Makulec from MSPN. A huge thanks to everyone who helped make this event possible including DMH as the funder for the event, MSPN and the Community Coalitions Support Subcommittee, the Education Development Center as the developers of the curriculum, and the staff of Missouri Partners in Prevention as the coordinators of the event.

Coalitions at the 2-day Academy utilized curriculum from the Community-Led Suicide Prevention Toolkit (CLSP Toolkit) to gain the knowledge, skills, and tools to help them further their suicide prevention efforts around 7 core elements for coalition building and suicide prevention including, unity, data, planning, fit, integration, communication, and sustainability. As this was a pilot project from the Education Development Center (the developers of the CLSP Toolkit) as well as the inaugural Academy for Missouri, the overall feedback from attendees was positive and coalitions indicated a desire for further opportunities to engage with other coalitions and access support.

Throughout the next year, coalitions will participate in monthly Community of Practice (CoP) sessions to gain further training and technical assistance and continue to connect with statewide partners and other coalitions in the cohort. We are working on determining topics for these sessions as we evaluate feedback from the Academy and determine what will be most useful and helpful for coalitions. We will also be launching a year-2 cohort application process and hope to reach new coalitions for the next Academy!

