

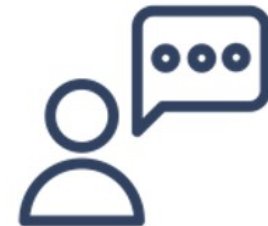
OMNI TA Newsletter

Volume 16 | April 15, 2020

Our entire OMNI team wishes you all - your coworkers, your families, your communities - good health and safety amid our current pandemic. We are here to support your prevention work as it has shifted over these last several weeks in whatever way we can.

Learnings from the COVID-19 Virginia Prevention Impact Survey

Thank you so much to everyone who took the time to respond to the COVID-19 Virginia Prevention Impact Survey sent by our team a few weeks back. We are actively looking at the data and finding ways that we can support your work during this time. In the meantime, we wanted to share some basic findings.



Impact & Readiness:

- Almost everyone has had to cancel trainings or meetings.
- Half of respondents are continuing to focus on their prevention work as before.
- Some have had staff members redirected to COVID-response.
- Most feel equipped and able to facilitate virtual meetings/trainings and remote work.

Challenges:

- Technology is the primary barrier for continued remote work, with challenges ranging from lack of proper equipment to internet connection issues (especially for rural communities) or lack of know-how. These challenges are faced by both CSB staff as well as the communities they serve.

Communities shared the following opportunities that they are taking advantage of:

- Ramping up information dissemination efforts, with a particular focus on mental health. Some communities are taking advantage of live stream features on social media to distribute messaging, while one community is even taking advantage of increased TV viewership to push TV ads to a larger audience!
- Many communities are busy developing infrastructure for improved communication by setting up and improving their social media platforms, doing website enhancements, and newsletter development.
- Many communities are taking the time to catch up on data entry, ensure data accuracy in PBPS, and pull reports, as well as doing research for grant applications.

Needs:

- Over half of respondents were interested in receiving TA and best practice tips around using Zoom Meetings, Google Hangouts, or GoToMeeting - look for more info from the OMNI TA team on these! Continued sharing of resources during the pandemic. Check out the [Google Sheet](#) with all the resources that have been shared in emails and the portal over the past few weeks as a starting point. Also, in the portal under "Posts" you can select "View All Posts" for a chronological listing; there is also a "COVID-19 Related Posts" section.

News You Can Use!

OMNI's TA Team has identified a few ways that you might make the most of your new "remote" work time, given all the recent changes and inability to meet with others in-person. CSBs shared a few great ideas, too, in our recent COVID-19 survey. Here are a few suggestions to consider:



- Craft a success stories or two (submit [here](#))
- Explore PBPS data and run some reports
- Explore the [VASIS dashboard](#) and data sources
- Practice your new data visualization skills
- Maintain relationships with coalition members and other stakeholders, virtually, using web-based meeting platforms
- Develop new prevention campaigns or messaging
- Explore professional development opportunities
- Investigate new funding opportunities
- Plan for the new fiscal year ahead
- Connect with other CSBs across Virginia or in your region

Community Spotlight:

Rappahannock-Rapidan prevention specialist Alan Rasmussen featured in Rappahannock News!

Alan's QPR Gatekeeper suicide prevention program trains community members to recognize the signs of suicide and connect people to care. The program collaborates with community partners, coalitions and young people to address high rates of depression and anxiety reported in the PRIDE survey. There is a need for young people to be trained in order to better support their peers ***“because when there is a young person in distress somebody knows. It’s not always the adults. It’s not always the parents. But definitely another group that would know is the young people. So we need them. That’s why we do this program.”***



Important Dates

April 15th, 2020

- COVID-19 Impacts on VA Prevention Work: Virtual Learning Session at 2pm ET

April 22nd, 2020

- For PFS - COVID-19 Impacts on VA Prevention Work: Virtual Learning Session at 2pm ET

July 15th, 2020

- PBPS Data Entry Deadline for Block Grant Activities

Coming Spring/Summer 2020

- SABG Evaluation Planning
- SABG/SOR FY2020-21 Data Entry Planning

Quick Links:

Demographics
Calculator

VA Prevention
Works! Portal

VASIS
Dashboard

CPG's PBPS
System



Data Entry
Guidelines

OMNI Support
Email

Success Story
Survey

BG/SOR Master
DEP

