

Share The Vision Evaluation Report

Prepared by the West Virginia Prevention Resource Center Accountability & Evaluation Team for:
WV Department of Health & Human Resources-Bureau for Behavioral Health & Health Facilities-Office of Behavioral Health Services-
Division on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse

Conference Overview

The 2003 Share the Vision Prevention Conference was held October 27-29 at the Charleston Marriott. This year's conference showcased multiple Model Programs including Keep a Clear Mind, Life Skills, Project Toward No Drug Abuse, Second Step and Strengthening Families. Skill Building Workshops presented a variety of prevention education topics. Workshops were also available to sharpen participant skills in technology and communication. The conference promoted networking and collaboration on the community level to enhance the delivery of services and decrease overlapping of services.

Partners included: WV Department of Health & Human Resources-Bureau for Behavioral Health & Health Facilities-Office of Behavioral Health Services-Division on Alcohol & Drug Abuse; Division of Criminal Justice Services-Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency & Correction; the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP); and the Central Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies (CCAPT).

The Share the Vision Prevention Conference is coordinated and evaluated by the West Virginia Prevention Resource Center (WVPRC).

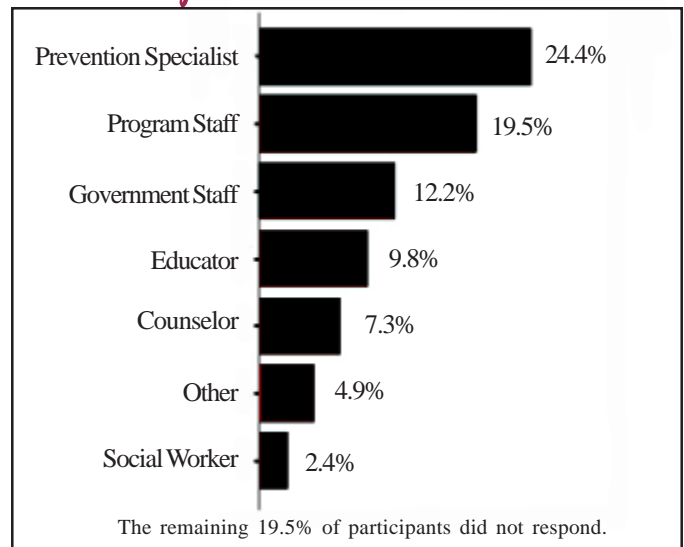


The WV State Police were recognized for their prevention work in the Organization/Business category at the Community Awards Luncheon. Pictured are: Lt. Col. David G. Williams, Deputy Supt; Col. Howard E. Hill, Jr., Supt; Major Kirby S. Stickler, Chief of Field Operations.

Evaluation Methodology

Evaluation of the conference consisted of two components. An overall, post survey of participants was administered the last day of the conference. Workshop surveys were completed at the conclusion of each workshop and submitted to WVPRC staff. Analysis of this data is presented in this report.

Participant Career Fields



Overall Findings

Participant Characteristics

While the conference had approximately 100 participants, only 41% returned a completed overall survey. Of those respondents, most (83%) had attended Share the Vision in past years. Nearly all (93%) of those surveyed said they would return in the future and would recommend the conference to peers.

The conference audience represented professionals from many areas of the prevention workforce. Of those who responded to the overall survey, 24% were prevention specialists and another 20% were staff of a prevention program. The participants are represented in the chart above.

Overall Evaluation Results

Participants in the Overall Survey rated various aspects of the conference as excellent, good, fair, poor, or terrible. This was done on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being the highest score of excellent. The following table displays the average scores for the various aspects.

	Average	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Did Not Attend
Model Program Overviews	1.5	35.0%	42.5%	7.5%	2.5%	12.5%
Keynotes	1.4	52.8%	33.3%	8.3%		5.6%
Skill Building Workshops	1.5	38.5%	51.3%	2.6%		7.7%
Networking Opportunities	1.7	31.6%	57.9%	7.9%		2.6%
Facilities (Overall)	2.0	29.3%	46.3%	22.0%	2.4%	
Community Awards	1.5	42.5%	45.0%	2.5%	2.5%	7.5%
Food	1.7	32.5%	57.5%	7.5%		2.5%
Overall Quality of the Conference	1.7	46.2%	41.0%	12.8%		

Conference Quality

Eight aspects of the conference were ranked from 1-5 (representing excellent to terrible, respectively). Each of the ten criteria averaged a score between good and excellent as presented in the table above.

Participants were the most satisfied with the keynote speakers, averaging a score of 1.4. Model program overviews, skill building courses, and the community award luncheon were also widely accepted with average rankings of 1.5. Networking opportunities and food accommodations both scored an average of 1.7. The facilities averaged a good rating (2.0).

The success of each of these aspects contributed to the conference's overall impact, accomplishing an average of 1.7.



Shay Bilchik of the Child Welfare League of America was featured as a keynote speaker during the conference.

How Participants Found Out About the Conference

Participants were informed about the conference through a variety of means including: by their Community Development Specialist (20%), via colleagues/friends (17%), mass mailings (17%), their funding agency (12.0%), announced at a meeting (10%), by the WVPRC Internet website (www.prevnet.org) (10%) and other means (12%).

Conference Favorites

When asked what they liked best about the Share the Vision conference, 39% of survey participants responded the workshops were their favorite events. The most highly recognized workshop was "What Do We Do With the Kids?" with comments from six participants. Networking and information sharing were two other successful areas of the conference according to survey results. Staff and presenters were also well complimented. Other responses are displayed in the table below.

What Participants Liked Best

Category	Total Responses
Workshops	13
Information Sharing	8
Networking	8
What Do We Do with the Kids? Workshop	6
Presenters/Staff	6
Awards Luncheon	2
Keynotes	2
Methamphetamine Workshop	2

What Participants Would Like to Change

Category	Total Responses
More TOTs	9
Facility/Temperature Control	6
More Materials to Take Home	4
More/Better Variety of Speakers	3
Nothing	3
More/Better Sessions	3
Award Nominations Explained	1
CEUs Available	1
More Breaks	1
Location	1

Recommendations for Improvement

Participants also pointed out some areas in need of improvement. When asked what they would like to change about the conference, workshop content was the most discussed. Several respondents wanted Training of Trainer (TOT) sessions rather than Program Overviews. Another thought Continuing Education Units (CEUs) should be available. The accommodations at the Marriot were unacceptable for some, with one participant stating, “I stayed cold the whole time.” Other complaints included the need for more informational materials and a better variety of speakers. One participant made a suggestion for improvement of the awards luncheon stating “Each award nominees sheet should be read so people know why they were nominated.” A tally of proposed changes is provided in the chart above.

Knowledge Gained

Part of the value of a conference is the knowledge an individual gains from participating. This value was measured by asking what participants learned from the Share the Vision Conference that will assist them in their work. The most frequent response was the improvement of community development skills, including coalition building. Others took the opportunity to learn about Family Centered Practice and other model programs. The information on methamphetamine was the most valuable to some respondents. Other knowledge gained included communicating with children, ethics, presentation skills, and facts about fetal alcohol syndrome.

Ideas for Future Course Topics

Participants contributed many ideas for future conference workshops. Some specific topics included incorporating sessions on “securing buy-in for prevention programming” and “cross discipline trainings.” Several participants recommended coursework on violence, anger management, suicide, and drug and alcohol prevention. Training of trainer programs were requested, as well as mediation instruction. A list of responses is included in the table below.

Participants Ideas for Future Course Topics

Category	Total Responses
Drug & Alcohol Prevention	6
Additional TOT Courses	5
Grant Writing	3
Suicide Prevention	2
Violence Prevention/Anger Mgt	2
Evaluation Techniques	1
Gender Related Issues	1
PATHs Training	1
Other	9

Recommendations

Based on the overall evaluation findings, the WVPRC Evaluation Team recommends the following to continue to improve the quality and comfort of the Share the Vision Prevention Conference for participants:

- Provide more detailed and more widely distributed information for pre-registration.
- Provide TOT sessions on various model programs or offer CEUs for other courses.
- Provide informed staffing of the registration table and at all session areas during all conference hours.
- Consider a better variety of presenters with various expertise and backgrounds.
- Discuss temperature control expectations with facility staff prior to conference.
- Provide information on award nominees printed in a booklet so prevention activities happening across the state could be referenced for future networking.
- Provide each participant with personalized schedule with time and location detail to ensure better attendance at off site courses.

Workshop Findings

As exhibited by the participants' ratings below, all responses regarding the individual workshops were favorable. All workshops' overall ratings were good to excellent, with six rated exclusively as excellent.



Prince Covington, of South Bend, Indiana, held a session on Youth as Leaders. He is the Program Director of the Sunshine Acres "U Can", an organization providing direct prevention services to youth.



Julia Haines and Alice Linger's workshop "What do we do with the Kids?" generated excellent scores and positive comments from all participants.

Workshop Results

Participants rated various aspects of the individual workshops/keynotes as excellent, good, fair, poor, or terrible. This was done on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being the highest score of excellent. The following table gives the averages for each workshop.

	Knowledge	Clarity	Organization	Method	Responsive	Usefulness	Overall
Accessing Local Demographics	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Building Coalitions	1	1.1	1	1	1.1	1.2	1
Changing Public Opinion	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.1
Community Awards Luncheon	1	1.2	1.2	1.4	1	1	1.2
Effective Merchant Education	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Effective Presentations	1.3	1.4	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.6
Ethics in Addiction and Prevention	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.1
Excel	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Family Centered Practice Overview	1	1	1	1	1	1.4	1
Family Center Practice TOT	1	1.1	1.1	1.3	1	1.1	1.1
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Workshop	1.1	1	1	1.1	1	1.1	1
Keep a Clear Mind Overview	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.3
Let's Talk About Youth Leadership	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.6
Life Skills Overview	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.7	1.5
Meth: ID & Prevention	1	1	1	1	1	1.3	1
Power Point	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Project Toward No Drug Abuse Overview	1.6	1.9	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.6	1.9
Putting MS Word to Work for Your Organization	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Second Step Overview	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.0	1.5	
Strengthening Families Overview	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Stress Management	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
The Power of Community Dialogue	1	1	1	1	1	1.3	1
What Do We Do With The Kids?	1	1	1	1	1	1.1	1
Youth as Leaders	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.6
Total	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3