Project E3: Educate, Empower, and Employ

Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center: Targeted Communities (VR-TAC-TC)

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**VA DARS E3 Influencers
Session 2: August 4, 2020**

VA DARS Project E3-Targeted Communities Rollout

Unit 2: Part 2: Partnership Development: Community Academy

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VA DARS E3 Influencers
Session 3: August 18, 2020

Training Agenda/Learning Objectives

- Welcome Back – Check-In

- Quick Recap/Review of Partnership Development from Session 2

  - Community-Based Participatory Research

  - Local Advisory Councils

- Merry Go Round

  - Group Discussion about homework activity

    - What did you find?

    - What's missing?

- Community Academy

  - Purpose

  - "How-To"

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Quick Recap:
Partnership Development
CBPR/Advisory Council

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Why Community Based Participatory Research?

- **Community-based**
  - Who is our community?
  - Whom do we serve?
- **Participatory**
  - Who participates
  - Why are the roles important?
- **Research**
  - https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/research
    - **Definition:** 1) careful or diligent search. 2) studious inquiry or examination; especially investigation or experimentation aimed at the discovery and interpretation of facts, revision of accepted theories or laws in the light of new facts, or practical application of such new or revised theories or laws.

Why a Modified Community Based Participatory Research Approach?

- Community-based participatory research (CBPR) has emerged as an approach designed to promote community well-being through the establishment and maintenance of partnerships.

- Rather than assuming what is best for a community, CBPR utilizes community partnerships to establish full and equal participation in research by community members, organizational representatives, and academics.

- ***Modification: We can use the framework or bones of CBPR in how we work with community, including to engage other agencies and our consumers.***

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Creating and Advisory Council

Local Advisory Councils

▶ Creating a local Advisory Council is key component of addressing the larger issues that are associated with the intersection of disability and poverty.

▶ An Advisory Council serves as a vehicle to garner input, solicit buy-in, forge new partnerships, and strengthen existing ones.

▶ A recommended first step is surveying the current landscape…

- ▶ Do any multi-stakeholder work groups or councils already exist in your area?

- ▶ If there are existing groups, is it one you could build from with additional invites to potential new members?

- ▶ Given the intersection of disability and poverty, how can you broaden an existing multi-stakeholder group?

Community Academy Nuts and Bolts

Purpose of a Community Academy

▶ Often times it is easy to get into the groove of our own work and forget that there are many other programs out there designed to support persons who need some extra assistance.

▶ Because many VR consumers are living at or below the poverty level, they have a need for resources that may be beyond what VR can provide, knowing where to find these resources is helpful.

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Purpose of a Community Academy (Cont.)

▶ Social programs designed to support persons who are living in poverty are numerous and often in flux.

▶ A Community Academy provides an opportunity for all participants:

　▶ to learn about programs and resources in their own community that may be helpful for their clients.

　▶ to meet other professionals who work with the same populations and establish contacts at other programs.

　▶ to learn about services of other agencies and programs so as to reduce duplication required by clients

　▶ to understand the outcomes of other programs and therefore find common ground.

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Community Academy Sample List

Sample List of Potential Participants for Community Academy

- Vocational Rehabilitation
- WIOA Title 1 – Adult/Dislocated Worker/Youth
- Adult Basic Education
- WIOA Title 3 – American Job Center
  - Wagner Peyser Staff
  - Business Services Specialists
  - DVOPs/LVERs
- Social Services Programs
  - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
  - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
  - WIC
- Work Incentive Specialist Advocate (WISA) and/or WIPA/CWI/CPWIC/BWIP
- Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Programs
  - Public Housing
  - Section 8 Housing
- Independent Living Centers
- Community Service Boards
  - Mental Health Case Managers
  - ID/DD Case Managers
- Behavioral Health Programs
- Community Mental Health Programs
- Community Rehabilitation Providers
- Re-Entry Programs
- Probation and Parole
- Local School Districts Special Education Coordinators
- Faith-Based Organizations
  - Church Volunteer Networks
- Volunteer Networks
- Cultural Center Programs
- Domestic Violence Programs
- Homeless Programs
- United Way
- Bank/Credit Union Community Reinvestment Coordinators
- Community Action Agency/Programs
- Drug Court
- Healthcare Discharge Coordinators

Community Academy Sample Invite

- Send invitation a minimum of 4 weeks in advance but not more than 6 weeks in advance

- Be sure to send a reminder 7-10 days and then again 1-2 days before the event

- Leverage existing listservs/distribution lists

- If an Advisory Council or multi-stakeholder group exists ask them to disseminate

DARS
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

You're Invited

What?
Do you ever feel like your agency/organization doesn't have enough resources to help the folks in your community that you are working with? Do you want to know more about what resources are available in your community for the persons your agency/organization serves and how you can help your clients access those services?

VA DARS invites you to participate in a one-day community event designed specifically for service providers and programs who serve clients with a wide array of resource needs to learn about other programs and resources available in the community and share information about the resources and services their own agency and/or program provides. **NOTE: This event is NOT intended for clients – it is an opportunity for networking among social support programs (including volunteer supported programs).**

Join us for a Community Academy! As part of the Community Academy, please come prepared to share in three minutes or less (No PowerPoint Allowed) the following information about your agency/program:
- Eligibility
- Services provided
- Goals of the program

This event is open to people from any potential or current community partner organizations and/or agencies. Additionally, it should be noted, that any agency, organization or community group who works with people who are living at or below the poverty line should participate in this event. While this event does include disability, it is not to the exclusion of poverty.

Where?

When?

Cost?
This is a FREE event

How to Register:
Please complete the registration, including requests for accommodations:

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Community Academy Registration Creation

Community Academy - Creating a Registration Form

As a means to ensure all of the info shared at the community academy is captured we recommend the use of Google Forms for registration. Using google forms allows you to create a registration form which can later be converted into a google sheet (i.e. spreadsheet) where all of the information you collect as part of the registration will live and can serve as the de-facto resource map.

To create a google form:

1. Go to: forms.google.com
2. Be sure to change the name of your form from "untitled form" to a name that will be easy to find in your google drive
3. Copy and Paste the Completed Detailed info below into the "form description" box

Do you ever feel like your agency/organization doesn't have enough resources to help the folks in your community that you are working with? Do you want to know more about what resources are available in your community for the persons your agency/organization serves? What about in light of COVID-19? Have your services or the way you deliver services and resources changed? Come share how your programs are working during the Pandemic and learn what others are doing at the same time. Make connections with others who are working with the same or similar populations.

Join us for a Community Academy! As part of the Community Academy, please come prepared to share in three minutes or less (No PowerPoint Allowed) the following information about your agency/program:
        Eligibility
        Services provided
        Goals of the program
This event is open to people from any potential or current community partner organizations and/or agencies. Additionally, it should be noted, that any agency, organization or community group who works with people who are living at or below the poverty line should participate in this event. While this event does include disability, it is not to the exclusion of poverty.

What:

        A Community Academy

- ▶ Google Forms Walk-Through

  - ▶ https://docs.google.com/forms/u/0/?tgif=c

- ▶ Examples

  - ▶ https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdn4WqmhA9j_PtllZ7Fc8gG8Ny1oG4RryHs_S8sLJn7gzoNoA/viewform?usp=sf_link

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Community Academy
Agenda

- Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Brief Overview of and Purpose of Community Academy

- Introductory Activity (Speed Dating)

- Agency/Organization Presentations (3 Minutes per Agency/Program – no PPTs.)

- Wrap-Up

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Community Academy
Event Logistics - In Person

▶ Preferably Large Space

▶ Space needs to be accessible

▶ Look for free space (i.e. social service programs with large spaces) and/or negotiate with entity for free space by explaining how Community Academy can benefit them

▶ Make sure space is some place where a level of noise is acceptable (the speed-dating tends to get loud)

   ▶ Speed-Dating

      ▶ Two lines facing each other so people are paired off

      ▶ Each person introduces themself and shares what agency/program they are from and why they decided to attend the community academy to the person across from them

      ▶ Each pair gets approximately 3 minutes for the exchange

      ▶ One line consistently stays still. Other line moves one person to the right, person at front end of line peels off and goes to back of same line.

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Community Academy
Event Logistics - In Person

- Speed Dating accomplished 2 things:
  - Chance to network
  - Helps ease nerves of speaking to a group of folks you don't know

- No PowerPoints – folks should be prepared to present on their agency, that was communicated in the invite and you should remind folks when you send a reminder as well, you can also remind them of this when you give the overview and opening remarks.

- Oscars Music is key (smart phone and portable Bluetooth speaker are great)
  - https://youtu.be/hA5YwVzFzR8

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Community Academy
Event Logistics - Virtual

▶ Accessible Web Platform

▶ Zoom is optimal because it includes breakout room feature

▶ Create a PowerPoint with the key information for each agency/program with one slide per agency/program.

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