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Small Town, Growing Problems, A Bold Team

- Close-knit town, rural farming community experiencing high poverty and high crime statistics
- Limited access to services, transportation challenging (1 bus going to and from larger city 1x/day)
- Highest suicide ideation/5150 calls and CPS calls to authorities in the county
- One of the lowest hold percentages in the county
- One of the highest non-compliance rates in social services: cash-aid, food stamps/CALWorks, voluntary family maintenance recommendations
- Significant increase in foster/homeless rates
- School district had increased in size year-over-year for 10 straight years


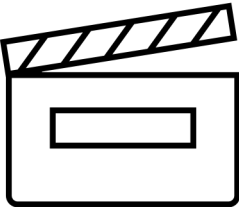
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- Create an Action Strategy
- Assess the Environment
- Be Adaptable
- Secure Community Support
- Integrate Programs and Services into Local Infrastructures
- Build a Team of Leaders
- Create Strategic Partnerships
- Secure Diverse Financial Opportunities



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- School Psychologist-Licensed MFT (current employee)
- PPS Counselor (MFT Intern)
- PPS School Counselor

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Child and Adult Resource Education, CARE



- provide counseling services to students and parents experiencing severe emotional and behavioral challenges
- ensure students and families access and maintain sustainable treatment with outside agencies
- provide training on topics to strengthen families and increase home school collaboration
- increase collaboration with community supports in order to improve communication, bring services to Sanger, and increase awareness and de-stigmatize mental illness
- provide services to foster and homeless youth to support school and home placement stability, improve school outcomes, and ensure students graduate with a transition plan ensuring continuity in housing and enrollment in college or work.

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- Licensed MFT/School Psychologist (current employee)
 - Goal was to eventually partner with local universities to create intern pool and supervise (cost effective layers of service providers, training for a field typically not considered, increase possible hiring pool)
 - ERMHS service delivery tightened and offered in-house
 - Mental health services defined, accessed and overseen

- MFT Intern/PPS Counselor
 - Parent engagement through parenting classes: Positive Parenting
 - Classes approved through Fresno County Court Services: if parents were being assigned parenting classes then they could take them in Sanger

- PPS School Counselor
 - Foster/Homeless Liaison
 - HOPE Sanger Board Member; non-profit that provides short-term services for homeless and at-risk families. Started as food boxes and grew to purchasing small local motel (18 rooms) and converting to short-term stay facility.

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Highlights

- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training: trained all school counselors, school psychologists, Student Advocates at middle and high school, county probation, open to all community members from pastors to our PD.
- Safe Talk Trained: teachers, administration, coaches, local fire fighters, and clergy
- Team helped to write our district suicide/ideation/attempt/completion response process
- Membership on Community Task Force: community member group devoted to meeting the spiritual, social and economic needs of the town
- Hired a 4th PPS Counselor pursuing her MFT licensure and being supervised by our current MFT
- 2 x's/year: Hosted mental health collaboration between all of the mental health providers and related service organizations

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Homeless/Foster Liaison

- Streamlined enrollment and identification process
- Trained all office staff, school nurses, resource officers, GLS's, transportation
- Worked collaboratively with community agencies to provide services for homeless/foster
 - HOPE Sanger
 - Boys and Girls Club
 - SAMS Academy (waived tuition for identified students)
 - Department of Social Services
 - Fresno County Superintendent of Schools
 - Child, Welfare and Attendance: sat on SARB team with School Nurse, School Psychologist, site Administrator, Probation officer, local police officer, Dept. of Social Services Educational Liaison
 - Assigned student and family intervention, services and support in lieu of punishment

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HOW DO WE
ADVOCATE
FOR
SOMETHING
DIFFERENT?



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Mental Health Interagency Coffee Hour



Community Wellness Fair

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Thoughts, Take-Aways & Padlet

- Important that CARE team members also served 40-50% of their time on sites as counselor/school psychologists to preserve connection to “boots on the ground” theory of service and action
- Maintain a goal of connecting students/families to ongoing and intensive support services....we go home in the summer!
- Taking local responsibility helped us build relationships with county and state supported agencies.
- Funding: grant \$ (building) and written into LCAP
- Replicable and scale-able; Central Unified: Maise Young

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If the highest aim of a captain is to preserve his ship, then he will leave it in port forever.

~ Thomas Aquinas

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Contacts

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