



Questions to Consider Multilevel Leadership

Instructions

When considering what your community needs to prioritize to strengthen its approach to the intersection of suicide, overdose, and ACEs, it's important to understand the identified needs, as well as internal and external leaders' readiness to address those needs. A shared understanding of the level of interest, level of influence over the proposed change, and contextual factors are all important first steps to successful prevention initiatives.

Gather the leaders involved in suicide, overdose, and ACEs prevention. You may decide to discuss these questions with internal LHD leaders, a network of community leaders, or both. Use the following questions to guide your discussion. Assign a notetaker to capture the answers. By the end of this conversation, the group should be able to:

- Identify high priority areas of focus to support suicide, overdose, and ACEs prevention,
- Understand local readiness to address these priorities
- Articulate possible next steps.

Focus The Conversation

Start by understanding the information you have from the SPACECAT and from other sources.

1. What information do we have related to suicide, overdose, and ACEs in our community?

2. Looking at our local health department's SPACECAT results, what caught your attention?





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3. What is currently going on in our community and agency that would support more intentional work in this area? What is going on that would make more intentional work in this area challenging? This could be political climate, recent events, and/or community narratives about these topical areas.

Take Time To Reflect

Open the discussion and encourage a range of different perspectives and stories related to the SPACECAT results and suicide, overdose, and ACEs in your community.

4. Where were you surprised? Where were you concerned?

5. What makes you feel hopeful? What makes you feel skeptical?





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Consider How This Information Can Assist You In Prioritizing

Discuss the areas that may make sense to prioritize. Use these questions to guide the discussion. Allow the group to build on one another's thinking as you start to draw conclusions and consider options.

6. What seem to be the key issues and challenges? What underlies these issues?

7. What are the important decisions we need to make?

8. Considering current levels of interest, influence, and context, what options are open to us?



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Decide On Next Steps

Finally, it's time to guide the group towards shared agreement or commitment to future actions.

9. What can we commit to at this time? What are our next steps?
