

Pennsylvania Cross-Systems' Prevention Workgroup (CSPW): Improving Prevention Impact through Systems' Collaboration

With broad representation from state-level policy makers, county leadership, local human services providers and coalitions, the **Cross Systems' Prevention Workgroup (CSPW)** is exploring the need for a cross-agency, comprehensive, strategic prevention plan focused on preventing and reducing youth problem behaviors.

The CSPW will develop recommendations for the use of system-focused, proven-effective prevention strategies with the goals of:

1. **Improving the stewardship of taxpayer dollars**
2. **Enhancing the effectiveness of prevention across the continuum of strategies**
3. **Increasing sustainable funding resources for Commonwealth prevention initiatives**

THE PROBLEM

When individual systems go it alone, our success may hang on a single thread.



Tight budgets, limited resources, duplicated effort can lead to weaker, more failure-prone strategies.

OUR GOAL

Joining together as a collaborative workgroup, our efforts are stronger and more durable for the long haul.



Sharing knowledge and resources together makes the unified effort even stronger.

The CSPW: Planning for Shared Strength and Success

The following youth problems can have long-term and life altering impact on youth and their families, and can result in significant costs across school, human service, health, and justice systems.

- **Substance Abuse**
- **Delinquency**
- **School Drop-Out**
- **Teen Pregnancy**
- **Violence**
- **Depression and Anxiety**

Research has proven these problems can be prevented by identifying and addressing the underlying causes that lead to these negative outcomes. Adopting this **risk-focused approach** to understanding issues and selecting **effective health promotion** and **early prevention strategies** could inform a coordinated cross systems approach to prevention. Turn the page to learn more about these important foundations of CSPW's work.

CSPW Mission:

Supporting healthy youth development by building a comprehensive continuum of effective prevention strategies with sufficient and sustained funding.

- **More about the risk-focused approach:**

This science-based approach focuses on reducing underlying causes or risk factors (e.g., family conflict) and increasing buffers or protective factors (e.g. school attachment) that will reduce problem behaviors. Using a structured process to plan, implement, and evaluate proven-effective prevention strategies, state agencies can more effectively focus and coordinate resources to impact risk and protective factors.

- **Effective health promotion is a low-cost strategy with a broad reach:**

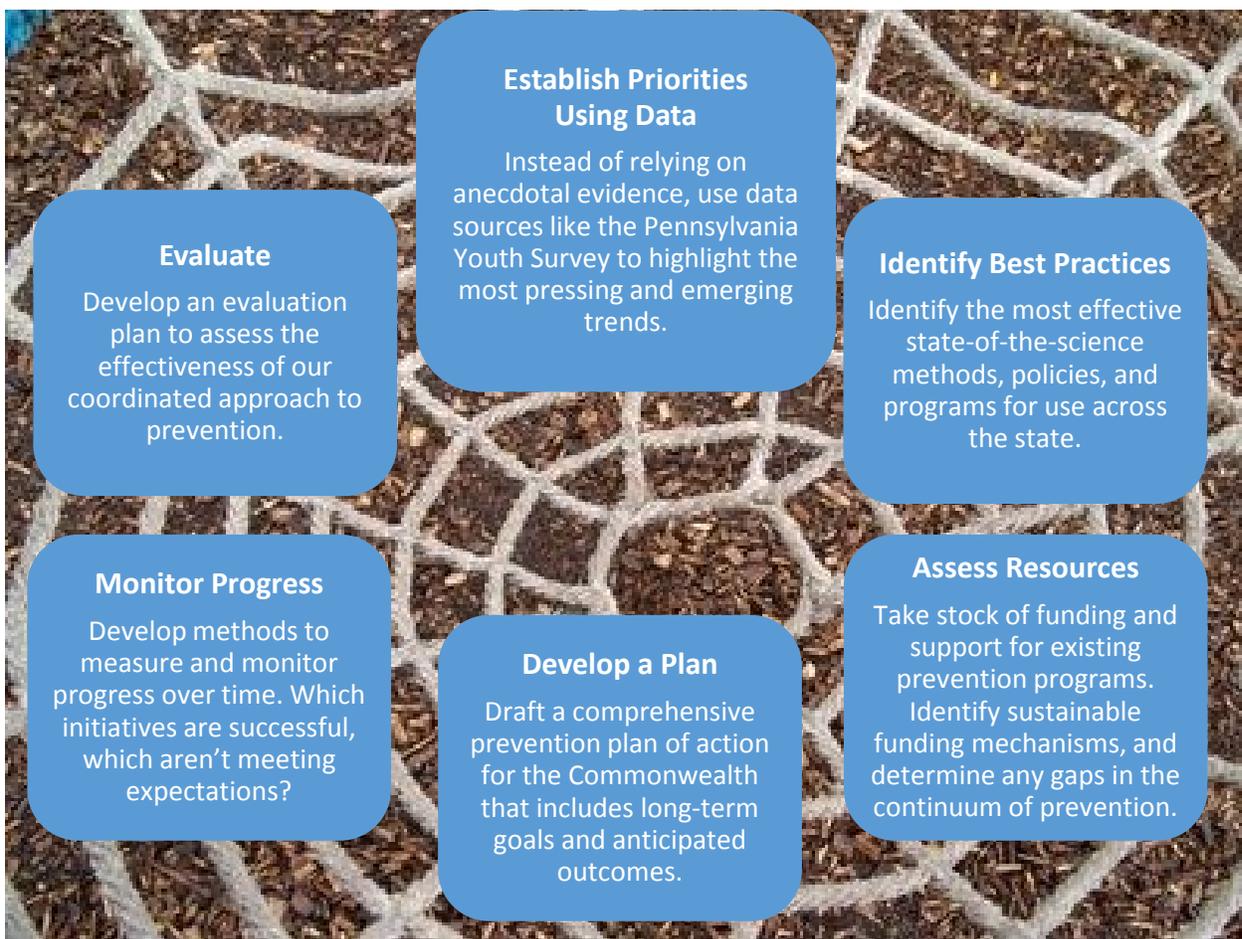
Health promotion efforts focus on promoting behaviors and community characteristics that lead to healthy human development. These strategies target large, public audiences often using marketing and social media campaigns or school curriculums to promote well-being and build social competencies.

- **Early prevention strategies stop problems before they start:**

Early prevention strategies are provided to people before a problem develops. These strategies target a specific problem behavior or set of behaviors. They can be delivered to general populations or sometimes to a subset of a population that may be at increased risk for problem behaviors.

Planning for Effective Collaboration: A Framework for Recommendations

Originating from the Prevention Subcommittee of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee, CSPW is exploring considerations for prevention and prevention planning based on the following six-part, evidence-informed planning process:



CSPW Vision:

Thriving youth strengthened by flourishing families, schools, and communities across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.