



Testimony in Support of Senate-Bill 707

March 5th 2019

Greetings Chair Gelser and Committee Members,

Youth suicide in Oregon is a serious public health issue, with rates that have exceeded the national average for the past decade. To address this concerning trend, the Oregon Alliance to Prevent Suicide (referred to as “the Alliance”) has formed a partnership with the University of Oregon’s Prevention Science Team with the explicit objective of facilitating the successful and systematic implementation of the Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Plan (YSIPP). Unlike other historical relationships between academic institutions and practitioner based organizations, the partnership between the Alliance and the UO –known as a Community-Academic Partnership (CAP)– is unique in that it is based on a mutualistic long-term commitment towards improving community-level outcomes.

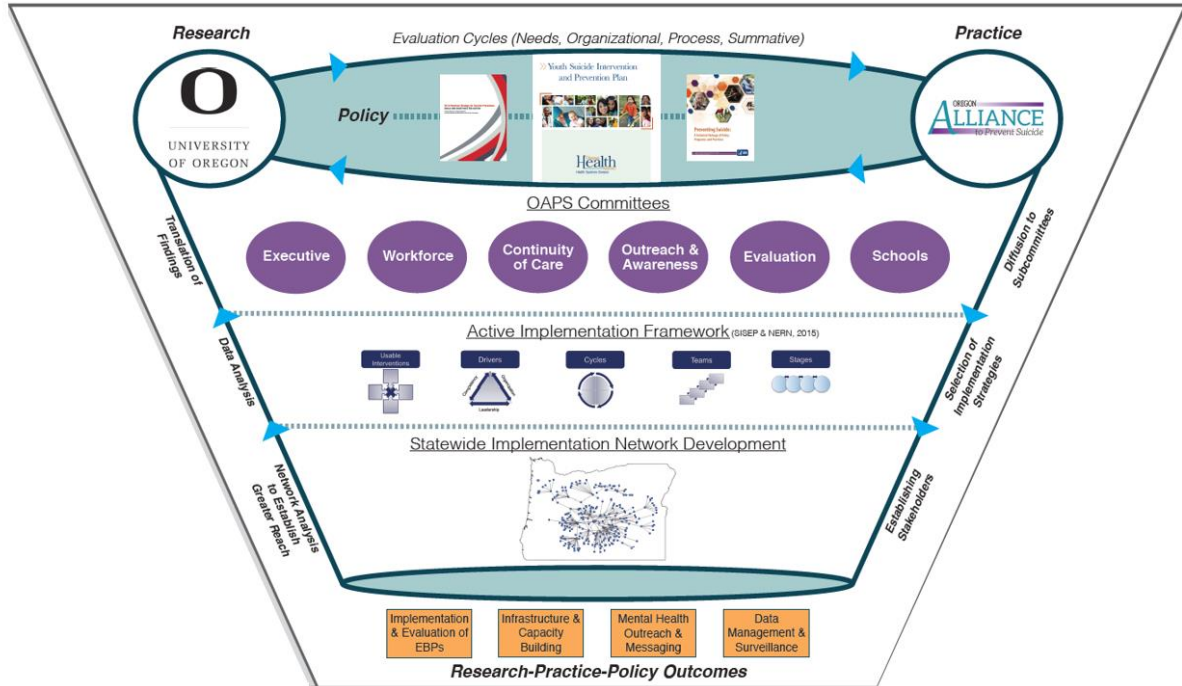
The CAP approach has been shown to strengthen implementation, enhance success of community health programming and partnerships, and to streamline access to evidence-based knowledge and practices at the community level.¹ As one of the state’s leading partners in suicide prevention efforts, the Alliance is positioned to provide a network for the statewide dissemination, implementation, and sustainment of evidence-based programs and suicide prevention strategies. By collaborating with the UO Prevention Science Team, the Alliance has been able to leverage scientific methodologies during the process of installing and sustaining research-based programs (e.g., Connect Postvention, Sources of Strength, and Mental Health First Aid) throughout the state. Figure 1 provides an overview of the collaborative cycles that UO evaluation team and the Alliance use to identify problems of practice and respond with appropriate user-based solutions.

As the state of Oregon continues to make progress in attenuating the risks associated with youth suicide, while also promoting the strengths that buffer against this risk, we believe that the Alliance should be a central component in guiding these efforts with a centralized vision.

¹ Bryk, A. S., Gomez, L. M., Grunow, A., & LeMahieu, P. G. (2015). *Learning to improve: How America’s schools can get better at getting better*. Harvard Education Press.



Figure 1. Conceptualization of the Community-Academic Partnership between the Alliance and the University of Oregon



If the University of Oregon Prevention Science Team can help answer any questions regarding their CAP with the Alliance or the work that is currently being undertaken across the state for suicide prevention, please feel free to contact us.

Best,
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