“Understanding the Continuum of Care”

Integration of Faith Based Communities and Substance Abuse Prevention

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Prevention Is: Across the Lifespan

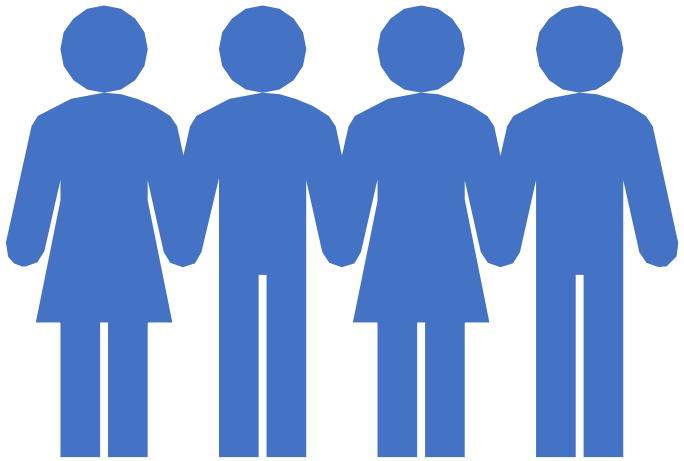
- Infants – FASD effects of maternal substance
- Children - second-hand smoke, drug endangered children, secondary effects
- Adolescents – onset and experimentation, susceptibility of developing brain and bodies
- College-Age and Adults – progressive form of substance use and dependence
- Elderly – prescription drug abuse

Prevention is…

A planned sequence of activities that is effective through the practice and application of evidence-based prevention principles, policies, practices, strategies, and programs.

Prevention is…

- Decreases risk factors and enhances protective factors
- Requires adoption of effective prevention practices within a framework better than service silos
- Common data sets across service systems can help assess prevention efficacy and promote accountability
- A continuum



Prevention is…

- Knowledge and skills specific to the problem to be prevented
- Not just for youth
- Needed by everyone, not just ‘those’ people
- Based on the body of knowledge that DOES exist
- Planned and accountable

Types of Prevention Strategies

Direct

- Directly serve an identifiable group
- Includes interpersonal and ongoing/repeated contact

Indirect

- Interventions supporting population-based programs and strategies
- Include programs and strategies implemented by coalitions

Common INEFFECTIVE prevention strategies include:

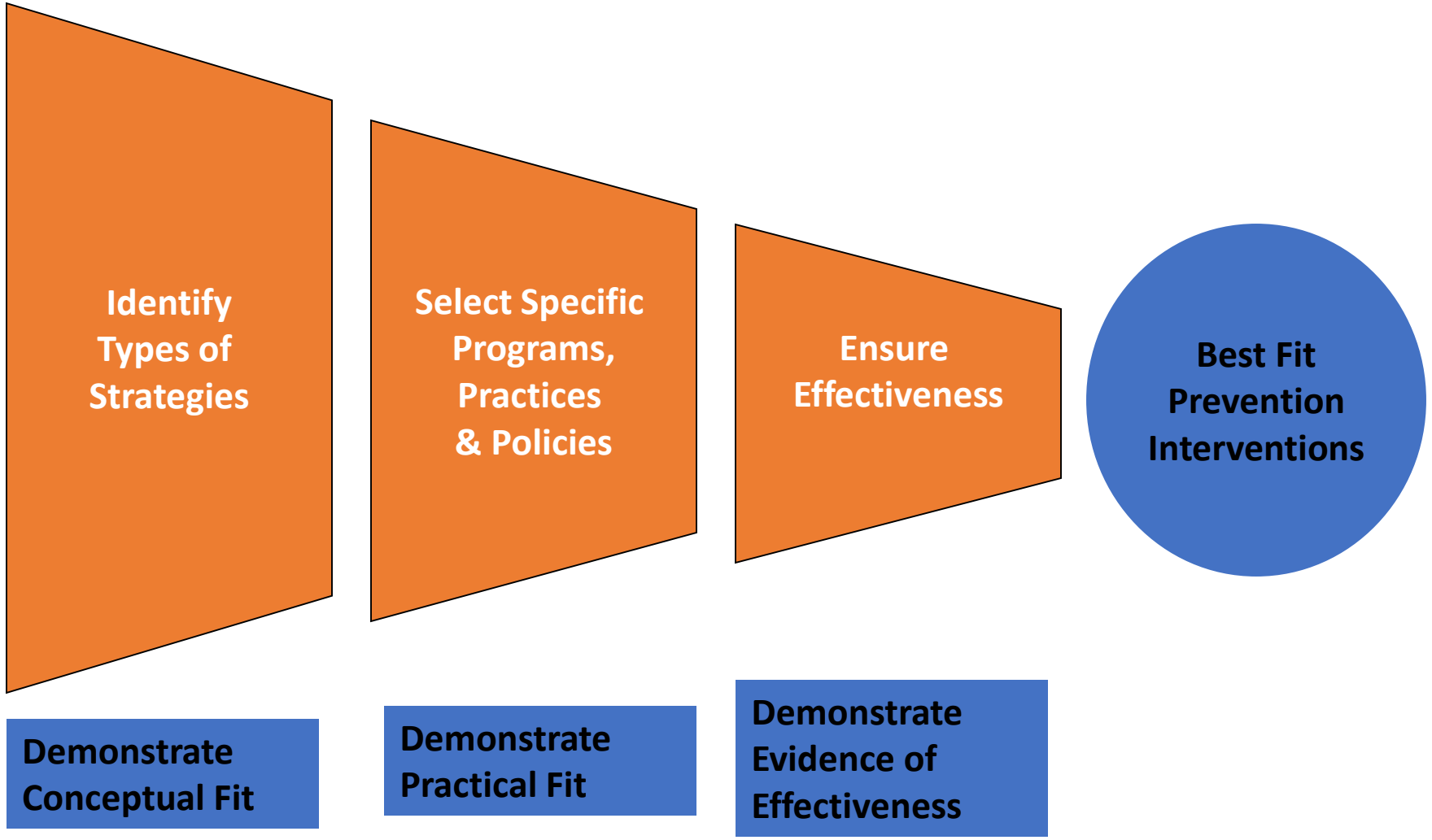
STUDENT DRUG TESTING

MOTIVATIONAL/CAUTIONARY SPEAKERS

PUNITIVE OR ZERO TOLERANCE APPROACHES

SCARE TACTICS

Best Fit Prevention Interventions



The faith community can:

- Provide assistance to its members and staff troubled by substance abuse problems
- Help members develop personal guidelines for substance use and nonuse
- Develop a framework for integrating prevention and recovery within the itself
- Help members understand the spiritual dimension of substance abuse problems and prevention
- Work with other community organizations to design and implement community-based prevention efforts

SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF)

Features of the SPF

Data-Driven Decision Making

Outcome-Based Prevention

Population-Level Change

Cultural Competence and Sustainability

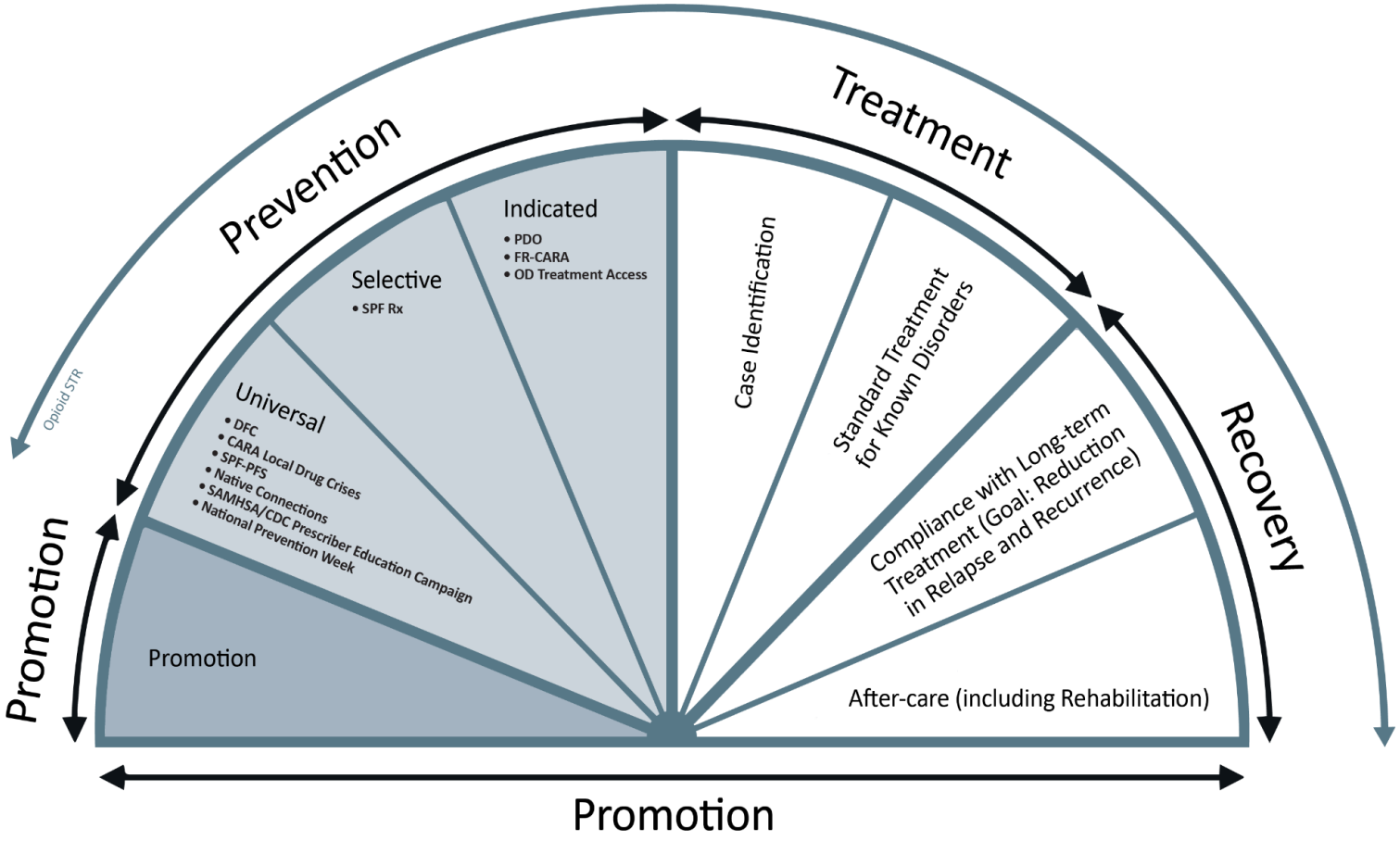
Cultural Competence

Involves recognizing and embracing racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic similarities and differences to meet diverse community needs and offer inclusive and targeted services.

Sustainability

The process through which a prevention system becomes a norm and is integrated into ongoing operations.

Behavioral Health Continuum of Care



Questions/Comments