



April 2023

South Dakota Project AWARE Advisory Meeting

Meeting 9 Summary

PREPARED BY
Mike Siebersma
Shelby Hubach

South Dakota Project AWARE Advisory Meeting

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Prepared For

South Dakota Department of Education

By

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Meeting 9 Summary

The virtual meeting took place on Thursday, April 6, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT. Marzano Research staff members, Mike Siebersma and Shelby Hubach, facilitated the meeting.

PARTICIPANTS

Participants included members from the local implementation teams, staff from SD DOE and DSS-DBH, and representatives from education and mental health professional associations across South Dakota. Table 1 lists the meeting participants from the statewide advisory group, local implementation teams, and state agencies.

Table 1. Meeting Participants

	Participant	Organization	Position
SD Project AWARE Advisory Group Participants	Sandra Waltman	SDEA, Director of Government Relations	Director
	Darla Biel	Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment	Assistant Director
	Rob Monson	School Administrators of South Dakota	Executive Director
Local Implementation Team Participants	Kim Aman	Bridgewater-Emery School District	Elementary Principal
	Carrie Carney	Black Hills Special Services Cooperative	Community Project AWARE Manager
	Joe Hauge	Black Hills Special Services Cooperative	Executive Director
	Christie Lueth	Southeastern Behavioral HealthCare	System of Care Supervisor
	Micki Pollman	Southeastern Behavioral HealthCare	System of Care Coordinator
	Jessica Schmit	Whittier Middle School in Sioux Falls School District	Community Project AWARE Manager
	Jenelle Sigler	Bridgewater-Emery School District	Community Project AWARE Manager
State Agency Participants	Andrea Heronimus	South Dakota Department of Social Services	Treatment Team Program Manager
	Rebecca Cain	South Dakota Department of Education	Office Administrator

	Participant	Organization	Position
	Laura Scheibe	South Dakota Department of Education	Director of the Division of College, Career, and Student Success
	Alan Stein-Seroussi	Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation	Project AWARE External Evaluator

OBJECTIVES

The meeting objectives were as follows:

1. To provide opportunities to share successes and challenges experienced throughout the grant.
2. To increase awareness of and engagement with statewide partners.
3. To develop networks and structures to support statewide, interconnected behavioral & mental health services.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Marzano Research opened the meeting by welcoming the advisory group, local implementation teams, and state agency participants. Next, participants connected through a small-group activity in which they introduced themselves, shared a rose (success), thorn (challenge), and bud (new idea), and revealed something that they know now that they wished they knew at the start of Project AWARE. After this activity, Marzano Research reviewed the meeting agenda.

During the SD Project AWARE News, Becky Cain provided her reflections about the grant accomplishments through a top 10 list:

1. Kids were given the supports they needed to be successful!
2. Second Step curriculum was introduced, and the SF school district adopted the curriculum district-wide.
3. Data collection systems were utilized to help schools make informed decisions about the level of support students need.
4. Tier 2 and 3 interventions were put in place, so services were available ASAP for students in need.
5. PBIS tiered systems were developed in four districts to provide proactive support for all students.
6. Partnerships were formed between schools and their local Community Mental Health Center to provide wraparound service with Systems of Care coordinators.
7. A protocol for tele-mental health services was created and schools across SD have taken advantage of this option to deliver counseling services to students.

8. A partnership with NAMI was developed, and the Ending the Silence training was provided to schools across SD and Youth Mental Health First Aid trainings were delivered.
9. Trauma informed schools were fostered through the partnership with Children's Home Society and the Center for the Prevention of Childhood Maltreatment by providing ACEs and ENOUGH Abuse trainings.
10. The DOE and DSS/DBH have formed a partnership that will continue to grow.

Next, Cain shared the grant accomplishments from the South Dakota Department of Social Services perspective in Melanie Boetel's absence, which included partnerships at the state- and local-levels; promotion of wellness through trainings, awareness and resources; and, strengthening and empowerment of youth, their families, educators, and community members.

Next, Alan Stein-Seroussi, external evaluator for SD Project AWARE from PIRE, presented an evaluation update of data aligned to the SD Project AWARE mission and vision, specifically "interconnected systems", "support and promote wellness, resilience, and tools", "stigma-free", and "sustained partnerships". In terms of interconnected systems, he highlighted the foundational connections between South Dakota Departments of Education and Social Services as well as participating school districts and the community-based mental health centers. In terms of supporting and promoting wellness, resilience, and tools, he reported that training for participating school district staff and the mental health work as well as the tiered programs and services for students were key successes of the grant. In terms of stigma free, he indicated that progress has been made yet more work needs to be done in this area. In terms of sustain partnerships, he reported that the participating school districts intend to sustain their partnerships with their community-based mental health centers by continuing their systems of care services and counseling; participating school districts intend to maintain partnerships with community-based support agencies, such as food banks and job training centers; and, the South Dakota Departments of Education and Social Services intend to continue collaboration through Wellbeing for School Age Youth (WBSAY) meetings.

After this, Pat Hubert, Northwest Area Cooperative, presented information on how to be intentional about school staff well-being. She shared the importance of staff self-care and the influence that it has on interactions and relationships with students. She also provided information about systems, practices and data to support this intentional well-being.

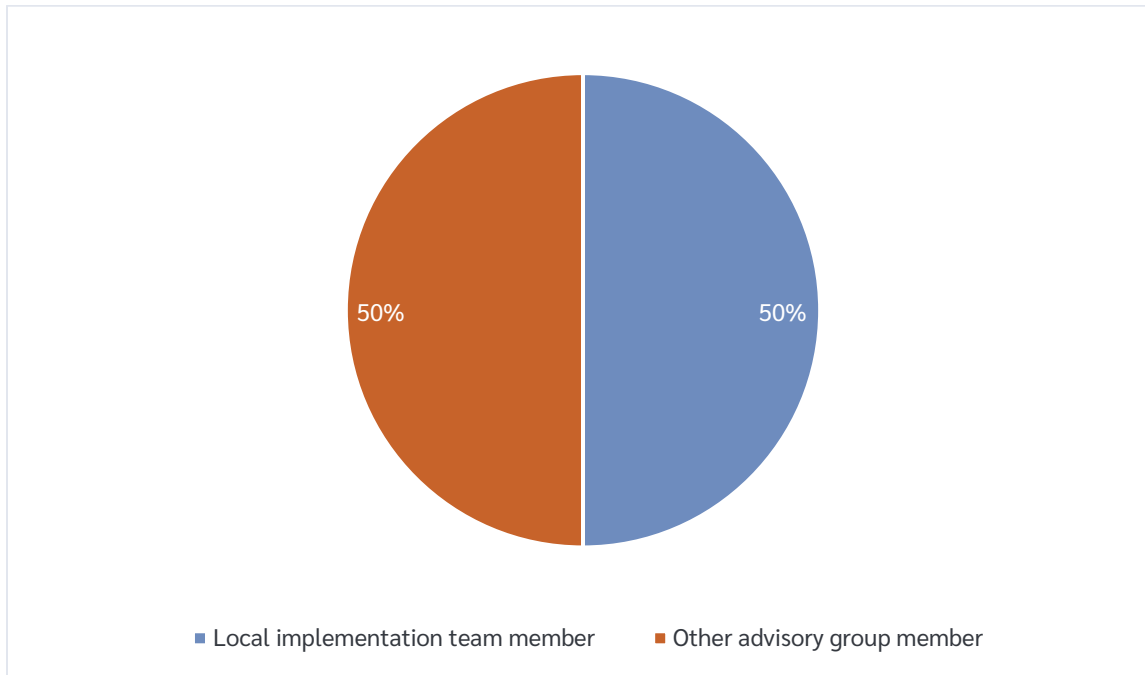
Next, the Community Project AWARE Managers from Bridgewater-Emery School District, Douglas Middle School, and Whittier Middle School shared their accomplishments and success from the work completed through the five years of the grant. They specifically mentioned the programs (e.g., *Second Step*, *Top 20*, *The Choose Love Movement*), trainings (e.g., *Youth Mental Health First Aid*, *Ending the Silence*, *Enough Abuse*, *Check in/Check out*, other PBIS trainings), and formal partnerships with their community-based mental health centers that supported their ability to connect with families and impact youth.

Finally, Marzano Research thanked participants for their engagement and shared a survey link for them to provide feedback on the meeting. The feedback survey results are described in the next section.

Feedback Survey Results

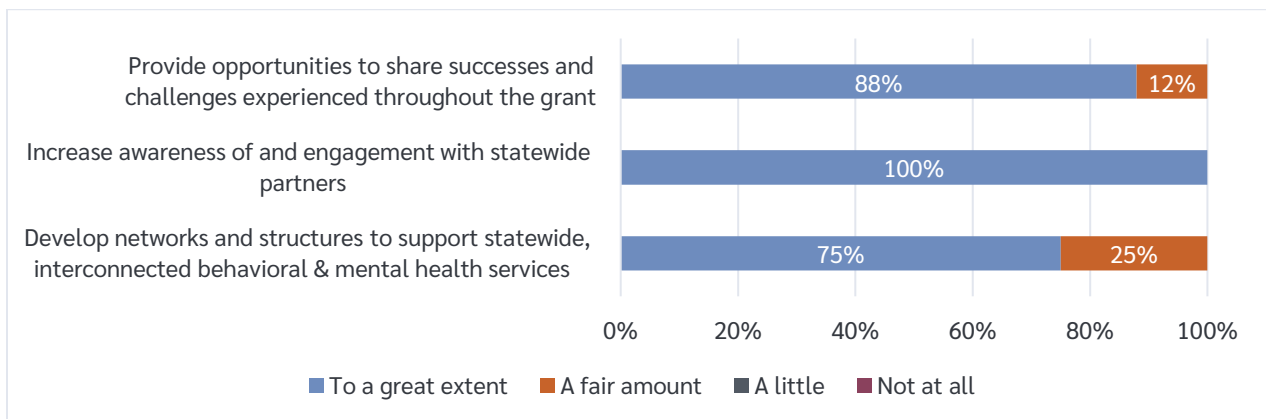
Ten of the 14 participants in Meeting 9 completed the feedback survey (a 71.4% response rate). Half of the respondents were members of a school implementation team, while the other half of respondents were not members of a team (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Respondents' Membership in a Local Implementation Team



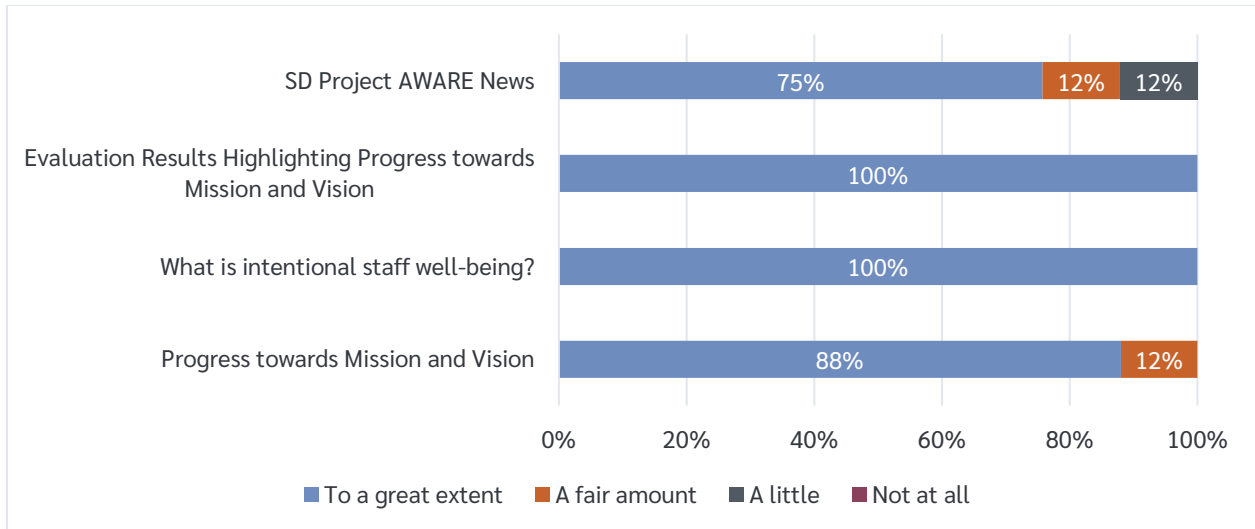
All respondents indicated that the meeting objectives were met a fair amount or to a great extent (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Respondents' Perspectives on the Extent to Which the Meeting Objectives Were Met



Almost all respondents had positive perceptions of the extent to which meeting segments supported the meeting objectives (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Respondents' Perspectives on the Extent to Which Meeting Segments Deepened Their Understanding of and Engagement With South Dakota Project AWARE



Respondents also indicated what they found to be most useful during the meeting. They appreciated the time to share and hear the local implementation teams' success stories. They also perceived the staff well-being presentation as helpful. Respondents indicated that they also found the presentation of evaluation results useful.

Marzano Research

1624 Market Street #202-94469

Denver, CO 80202-1518

Info@MarzanoResearch.com

720.463.3600



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RESEARCH

Marzano Research supports partners in improving education systems, practices, and outcomes for all learners.

Founded in 2008, Marzano Research began working with state and local education agencies and practitioners to understand the challenges they face and support them in defining the questions, conducting the research, and implementing the answers to enhance educational results.

Today, Marzano Research has grown to become one of the leading research organizations in the country, providing rigorous research, evaluation, and technical assistance to federal, state, local, and private partners. As part of that work, we serve as the lead for the Regional Educational Laboratory Central, working with state and local education agencies in seven states as thought partners and researchers to address some of the most challenging issues in education.