EMERGING THEMES AND STRATEGIES

Assessment Themes

Each heading in Table 1 corresponds to a series of questions on the Community Readiness Assessment.

A. **Community Efforts:** Corresponds with questions #1-11.

B. **Community Knowledge of the Efforts:** Corresponds with questions #1-11.

C. **Leadership:** Corresponds with questions #12-15.

D. **Community Climate:** Corresponds with questions #16-18.

E. **Community Knowledge of the Issue:** Corresponds with questions #19-21.

F. **Resources for Efforts:** Corresponds with questions #22-28.

Review the responses received from partners and stakeholders who completed the community readiness assessment. Use the columns beneath each heading to make note of patterns or themes drawn from responses the corresponding questions.

Questions to Consider

- What patterns and themes emerge in the results?
- Are there any deviations from these patterns or themes?
  If yes, are there any factors that might explain these deviations?
- Are there any findings that are surprising?
- Do any interesting stories emerge from the responses?

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Community Readiness Assessment Themes

THEME	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE	EXAMPLE	EXAMPLE	EXAMPLE
COMMUNITY EFFORTS	Programs, policies, and other communal efforts address coordinated developmental screening.				
KNOWLEDGE OF EFFORTS	Community members are aware of local efforts that address coordinated developmental screening.				
LEADERSHIP	Leaders and influential members of the community are supportive of the local efforts.				
COMMUNITY CLIMATE	Communal attitudes toward the issue are ones of responsibility, enthusiasm, and empowerment.				
COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE	Community members understand the problem, including its cause & impact upon the community.				
RESOURCES FOR EFFORTS	Local resources (people, time, space, money, etc.) are available to support the efforts.				

Assessment Strategies

Review the themes and patterns recorded in Table 1. Use the information to assign a readiness score to each dimension (on a scale from 1 to 1 with 1 being the least ready to 10 being the most). Record the readiness score of each dimension in the first row of the table.

Now you are ready to brainstorm strategies to improve, or capitalize on, the level of readiness in each dimension. If a dimension's readiness score is 5 or below, determine two or three strategies designed to improve readiness in that dimension. Record these strategies in the table. For dimensions with a readiness score greater than 5, identify strategies to capitalize on the strength of readiness in that dimension. Record these strategies in the table.

Guiding Questions

- Where does your community appear to be strong in terms of readiness? Are there opportunities to use these strengths to build a stronger system for early identification and referral?
- Do the results suggest any recommendations for improving early identification and referral in your community?
- Are there areas in which your community is showing a lack of readiness? Is your community aware of these weaknesses? Is your community ready to work together to address them?
- Where is there the greatest momentum or opportunity for the work?
- Do the results lead to additional questions about community readiness? Do they suggest that additional data may need to be collected?

The recommendations developed by the community should reflect the most important issues identified during the readiness assessment. The recommendations may be based on suggestions provided by key informants but could also include strategies that were not specifically identified during the readiness assessment but indicated by the literature or supported by the experiences of other communities.

Community Readiness Assessment Strategies

THEME	READINESS SCORE*	STRATEGY #1	STRATEGY #2	STRATEGY #3
COMMUNITY EFFORTS				
KNOWLEDGE OF EFFORTS				
LEADERSHIP				
COMMUNITY CLIMATE				
COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE				
RESOURCES FOR EFFORTS				

On a scale from 1 to 10 with 1 being the least ready to 10 being the most.