**Vision:** **Alcohol/Drug Dependence: A Casserole Disease**

* Imagine hundreds of faith communities across Nebraska that are prevention committed and recovery friendly.
* Imagine people in your congregation being just as comfortable bringing casseroles to a family whose mother is in alcohol/drug treatment as one who is hospitalized for cancer.
* Imagine youth knowing that a faith congregation provides safe people to discuss their questions about drugs, alcohol and other risky behaviors.

**PROBLEM:**  In both congregation and community whole **families** **are hurt by alcohol and drug problems** every day. There were over 55,000 opioid deaths last year and over 88,000 from alcohol. These problems also impact faith congregations. In a recent survey of 6 Nebraska congregations (N=423), 46% of respondents said that they were currently affected by or concerned about the alcohol/drug use of someone close. Alcohol and drug problems also have a spiritual impact. Yet, few congregations address this issue directly and consistently.

**OPPORTUNITY: Faith congregations could act…**

* In the Nebraska survey, over 90% agreed that their congregation should be helping families with both prevention and recovery.
* When asked if they would be willing to serve, 14% endorsed the response “Yes. Sign me up” and left their names. Members are ready and able… **but key pieces are missing.**

**MODEL:**  **Faith Partners fills in the missing pieces by providing…**

**1)**  **Multiple training events** to help congregations identify potential team members, train them and introduce them to the 6 areas of dealing with alcohol/drug issues including primary prevention, early intervention, family support, referral, recovery support and public advocacy.

**2)**  **Comprehensive materials** including a textbook and 5 guides to various aspects of the team’s work.

**3)**  **Long term professional support**. We personally engage Teams through conversation, frequent attendance at team meetings, quarterly networking meetings, consistent written communications and an annual skills training.

**UNIQUE APPROACH:**  **Helps congregations to be prevention committed and recovery friendly.**

* It builds on the strengths of the congregation by involving lay people with special expertise, lived experience, and a passion for this work;
* Clergy time, energy, and involvement are utilized judiciously;
* Teams network together and build bridges to prevention and recovery resources; keeping their efforts focused on their congregation’s mission;
* This approach cultivates a compassionate response to all alcohol/drug and mental health issues.

**COST: Costs are minimal, and no congregation is turned away.**

* Major support is from a DHSS SAMHSA Partnership for Success Grant (PFS# 79-SP08090988) through Region V Prevention Systems.
* We also receive donations from individuals and congregations.

**FAITH PARTNERS: Our Story**

Nebraska Faith Partners works with the national Faith Partners organization, a non-profit, based in St. Paul, MN with over **30 years of experience** in this work. The Faith Partners Model has been in hundreds of congregations **from 22 faith traditions** across 28 states. The Nebraska Coalition began in 2018 with a desire to put this model to work in 100 congregations. By mid-2019, **12 teams have formed in 6 denominations.** This is an interfaith project under the management of Region V Prevention Systems and the Nebraska Synod of the ELCA.

**FAITH PARTNERS: Our Foundation**

**Mission:** To help faith communities develop a team approach to prevention and recovery.

**Purpose:** To grow capacity in faith communities to respond with grace to alcohol, drug and behavioral health challenges.

**Goals:** are for faith communities to play their full role in prevention and to reduce stigma and isolation by openly addressing alcohol, drug and behavioral health issues.

**Vision**: hundreds of faith communities across Nebraska that are prevention committed and recovery friendly.



**MORE INFO:**

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**Faith Partners Nebraska**

*Helping Faith Congregations Take a Team Approach to Alcohol/Drug Issues*