



Let's Be Blunt™

EMERSON COLLEGE'S PEER-LED MARIJUANA EDUCATION PROGRAM

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Agenda

1. Who We Are
2. How Did We Get Here?
3. Problem Analysis
4. Mock Class
5. Discussion and Evaluation



Introductions & How We Got Together

Annelle

- Substance Abuse Counselor

Abbe

- Student Conduct Officer

Laura

- Health Educator





Problem:

- Increasing numbers of marijuana policy violations at Emerson 2013-2015
- Strain on campus resources
- A need for engaging, in-person marijuana education programming



Solution:

- Fall 2015, collaboratively created a peer- led, educational program
- Spring 2016, implemented "Let's Be Blunt" as a sanction for first-time marijuana violations



What is LBB?

- 1 hour
- Co-facilitated by paid student leaders
- Non-judgmental
- Discussion based
- Multi-media
- Partially funded by AOD Sanction Fines

Let's be Blunt: Participant Learning Objectives

- Increase knowledge of the impacts of marijuana use physically, emotionally, socially, and legally
- Increase self-efficacy for behavior change



Let's Get Started...

Mock Class



Student Feedback

How do you think this program will influence your choices about marijuana?

“I'm more informed and will use more caution.”

“I will probably smoke a bit less to allow my functioning to stay sharper.”

“I think it has definitely enlightened me about the risks it has.”

“I'm definitely considering cutting back on my intake.”

“I will make smarter decisions.”



Student Feedback

How would you describe this program to a friend?

“An informative group discussion”

“An open environment that talks about both the positives and negatives and helps you to make smarter decisions about weed”

“It’s really informative, and a safe place to speak your mind and worth going to.”

“A fun, open environment that is very helpful”

“I’d tell them it’s not as bad as it seems. It’s fun actually.”



Feedback & Improvements

- May 2016
 - Presented at New England Health Educator Network (NEHEN) for Peer Review
 - Created clearly defined goals and learning objectives (measurable)
 - Added more harm reduction strategies to pamphlet
 - Added MI scaling question to course evaluation to rate importance and confidence in behavior change
 - Consider follow up options
- November 2016
 - We welcome feedback from you!



Where Are We Now

- All students receiving first-time marijuana violation are sanctioned to attend the program
- As of 10/11/16, 30 students have participated in the program
- Most students rated class as "Excellent"
- Revamped facilitators guide & trained new group of student facilitators
- Scheduled to present at ASCA's Annual Conference



Limitations and Next Steps

- Still in early stages
- Gathering quantitative student data for ongoing assessment
- Considering follow up options
- Create enhanced facilitator training guide
 - To include MI and other evidence based practices
- Send student facilitators to a Motivational Interviewing seminar
- Continue to share program with various student populations
 - Athletes, New Students, Greek Life etc.

Discussion

- What are you currently doing for marijuana education?
- For first offenders?
- Other student populations?



Thank you!

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