Melissa Orrson Tomascik

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YOUTH AND FAMILY PREVENTION SPECIALIST PROSPER TEAM LEADER AND PREVENTION COORDINATOR: LUZERNE, CARBON AND LEHIGH COUNTY

E xpertise in quickly establishing and fostering strong working relationships with school districts, community organizations, parents and youth. Strong Rolodex of community organizations and client contacts in Luzerne, Carbon, Lehigh and Lackawanna Counties. Strongest client relations attributes: ability to quickly gain trust, program expertise and knowledge, skilled at translating my work passion to create enthusiastic teams and partnerships.

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

PENN STATE PREVENTION RESEARCH CENTER

2007 - present

YOUTH AND FAMILY PREVENTION SPECIALIST/ RESEARCH TECHNOLOGIST 3

Core PROSPER Team Leader roles include community team formation, mobilization and development; team financial responsibility and program sustainability; communication with state management team; PROSPER model and program implementation and fidelity.

Manages two 15-person community teams, leads 2 monthly team meetings, implements and sustains three evidence-based program at three Luzerne County area school districts, manages program budgets and supervises 18 wage payroll authorized adult employees.

Core PROSPER Prevention Coordinator roles include providing technical assistance to PROSPER teams on program adoption, implementation, and sustainability and to act as a liaison between a community team and the State Management Team.

- Provides direct, targeted technical assistance and mentors 3 PROSPER Team Leaders/ Extension Educators in Carbon, Lehigh, Pike and Lackawanna Counties.
- One of 5 Pennsylvania Strengthening Families Program: for Parents and Youth 10-14 (SFP: 10-14) master trainers.

Success Stories: Since 2002, the Wyoming Valley West PROSPER Team has successfully graduated 817 families from SFP: 10-14 and approximately 5,600 students from All Stars, the in-school substance use prevention program; During PROSPER National expansion, acted as the State Coach to New York and West Virginia.

PATHS EDUCATION WORLDWIDE

2010 - present

CERTIFIED PATHS (PROMOTING ALTERNATIVE THINKING STRATEGIES) TRAINER

Predominant evidence-based social emotional learning curriculum for elementary aged youth in the world.

 Educate, inspire and model the PATHS curriculum for school district staff and administration. Trainings include numerous school districts across Pennsylvania, Cleveland, IL and Chicago, IL.

THE STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROGRAM: FOR PARENTS AND YOUTH 10-14 (SFP:10-14) 2013 – present CERTIFIED SFP: 10-14 MASTER TRAINER

Highly effective family skill-building curriculum producing positive youth outcomes and reducing substance use.

 Provides 3 full-day trainings and technical assistance for community teams and organizations in numerous PROSPER and non-PROSPER communities across Pennsylvania.

PENN STATE EXTENSION- LUZERNE COUNTY

2001 - 2007

EXTENSION PROGRAM ASSOCIATE

Proactively assisted County Extension Director and Extension Educators in various Extension programs and projects.

- PROSPER Program Associate supporting the PROSPER model: team management, program staffing, fidelity observations, press conferences, marketing and research data collection.
- Assisted with Penn State Extension programs in various capacities: Facilitated SFP: 10-14, Strong Women and My New Weigh of Life and Performed duties of Assistant 4-H Camp Director.
- Certified Trainings Completed: The Strengthening Families Program: for Parents and Youth 10-14, Strong Women, My New Weigh of Life, All Stars, PATHS, Certified Arborist Short Course and Tree Tenders.

EDUCATION & INTERESTS

B.S., Biology/Vertebrae Physiology, Penn State University, State College, PA (2001), **Study Abroad**, Temple University Rome, Rome, Italy (1999) **Interests include:** Forty Fort Shade Tree Commission Chairperson, running, Pilates, reading, traveling and spending time with my family.