Plan
Identify an opportunity and plan for improvement

1. The Opportunity
   - Over 50% of youth in grades 9 – 12 in the county have had at least one drink of alcohol in the last 30 days.  
   - The number of youth hospitalized for non-medical use of prescription drugs have been increasing by 5% over the last 3 years. 
   - 23% of adults indulge in excessive drinking in the county as compared to 17% in the Rest of State. 
   - The rate at which early intervention services are offered in the hospital emergency department is not known.

2. Assemble the team
   The diverse groups have been meeting for the last six months: County X Action Program County X Prevention Council County X Main Street Business Owners Association County X Hospital County Mental Health Agency County X School District County X Local Health Department

Purpose Statement:
1. Decrease by 10% the percentage of 9th grade students in a school district who have had at least one drink of alcohol in the last 30 days by 2015. (baseline: unknown)
2. Increase by 10% the percentage of grade 9 students who say they are engaged in the school and community by 2015. (baseline: unknown)
3. Increase by 15% the percentage of adults who are supportive of policies related to decrease alcohol and non-medical use of prescription drugs by 2015. (baseline: unknown)
4. Increase by 5% an alcohol early intervention procedure in the hospital emergency department by 2015. (baseline: unknown)

3. Examine the current approach
   Data on alcohol use, non-medical use of prescription drugs, and student well-being is challenging to get on ongoing basis. While there are some evidence-based policies and programs to decrease alcohol use and non-medical use of prescriptions drugs, coalition members said they are not all aware of them. Coalition members also do not know the level of community support for these policies and programs.

4. Identify potential solutions and predictions
   The coalition, a school district and a healthcare facility will test some of the strategies.
   - Access baseline assessments of youth alcohol and non-medical use of prescription drugs in the school districts that have done surveys.
   - Access baseline assessments of youth engagement and in 9th grade and alcohol use norms.
   - Conduct a county-wide survey on community norms towards policies that reduce youth access to alcohol and non-prescribed prescription drugs. 
   - In partnership with youth, conduct a check on indicators of healthy and unhealthy environments.
   - Identify and support passage of at least one policy that reduces youth access to alcohol or to non-medical use of prescription drugs.

5. Implement an alcohol early intervention procedure in the Hospital ED with assistance from OASAS.
   The prediction is that engaged, optimistic and healthy youth in healthy environments that offer consistent messages will reduce underage alcohol and non-prescription drug use.

6. Identify measures and data collection processes
   - Youth health risk behavior assessments that include questions on risk factors and substance use and non-medical use of prescription drugs.
   - Perception of youth engagement in the school and community.
   - Identification of policies and environmental that influence alcohol consumption and prescription drug use among youth.
   - Number of youth offered early intervention services in the hospital emergency room department.
   - Caregiver and staff perceptions of youth engagement.

7. Test the potential solutions for improvement
   Over nine months, the team will gather baseline data, identify specific policies, track data related to youth engagement and alcohol and non-medical use of prescription drugs, and initiate one youth alcohol access policy. 

8. Study the Results
   Coalition members will learn aspects of the approach that worked, that needed to be modified, and that did not work, and reasons why.

9. Adapt the improvement strategy or Standardize the improvement
   By 2017, increased engagement, of youth, healthier environments, consistent messaging and better policies will reduce alcohol and non-prescription drug use.
   - The percentage of youth grade 9 - 12 grade who have had at least one drink of alcohol in the last 30 days will have decreased by 10%.
   - Percentage of grade 9 – 12 grade students who say they are engaged in school and community activities will be increased by 10%.
   - Percentage of adults who are supportive of policies related to decreasing alcohol and non-medical use of prescription drugs will have increased by 15% and at least one policy passed at the local and/or organizational levels.
   - At least 60% of youth and adults admitted will be given an alcohol early intervention procedure in the hospital emergency department.

Expect to Study
Use data to study results

Predict Future - Action
Standardize the improvement and establish future plans
10. Disseminate Plan and Sustaining Engagement
The Plan will be posted on the website of the local health department, hospital partners, and that of coalition members. The coalition is new, and currently very enthusiastic. By having a tangible plan and continuing to look for resources we hope to sustain member engagement.

References and Resources
1. YRBS
2. Hospital data
3. BRFSS
4. OASAS Comm. Alcohol Survey
5. OASAS Environ. Scanning tool
6. OASAS Environ. Strategies list