



COP - R C O R P

Communities of Practice for Rural Communities Opioid Response Program

Local Sustainability Plan

Fairfield County, OH

Fairfield County Opiate Task Force

Fairfield County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Board

December 2021

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Acknowledgements

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The Fairfield County Opiate Task Force acknowledges the time and efforts that consortium members and other stakeholders contributed to the development of this local sustainability plan.

As the convening leads for the CoP-RCORP master consortium, Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs (OU-VS) and the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE) braid their funding through a shared services approach and work collaboratively with project directors and staff from the local CoP-RCORP backbone organizations to provide leadership, training, capacity building, technical assistance and evaluation services, and management oversight for project activities. This local sustainability plan represents the shared work of the Fairfield County Opiate Task Force (local consortium), the Fairfield County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Board (backbone organization), and the CoP-RCORP Training, Technical Assistance, and Evaluation Team (OU-VS and PIRE).

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Fairfield County Opiate Task Force
Fairfield County, OH
CoP-RCORP Local Sustainability Plan
December 2021

Grantee Organization	Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs	
Grant Number	GA1RH33529	
Address	Building 21, The Ridges, Room 204, 1 Ohio University, Athens OH 45701-2979	
Service Area	Fairfield County	
Project Director	Name:	Holly Raffle
	Title:	Professor
	Phone number:	740.597.1710
	Email address:	raffle@ohio.edu
Local Project Lead	Name:	Toni Ashton
	Title:	Prevention Coordinator
	Phone number:	740-654-0829
	Email address:	tashton@ohiopps.org
Contributing Consortium Members and Stakeholders	Rhonda Myers, Executive Director, Fairfield County ADAMH Board	
	Marcy Fields, Fairfield County ADAMH Board	
	Cassandra Woodford, Fairfield County ADAMH Board	
	Miranda Gray, Fairfield County ADAMH Board	
	Latina Duff, Fairfield County ADAMH Board	
	Jeffery Scott Duff, Director, Project FORT (Fairfield Opiate Response Team)	
	Trisha Farrar, Executive Director, The Recovery Center	
	Phil Pack, CEO, New Horizons Mental Health Services	
	Nicole Yandell, COP-RCORP Facilitation Team	
Laura Milazzo, COP-RCORP Facilitation Team		

Introduction

RCORP Initiative

The Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) is a multi-year initiative supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an operating division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to address barriers to access in rural communities related to substance use disorder (SUD), including opioid use disorder (OUD). RCORP funds multi-sector consortia to enhance their ability to implement and sustain SUD/OUD prevention, treatment, and recovery services in underserved rural areas. The overall goal of the RCORP initiative is to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with opioid overdoses in high-risk rural communities by strengthening the organizational and infrastructural capacity of multi-sector consortiums to address prevention, treatment, and recovery. To support funded RCORP consortia, HRSA also funded a national technical assistance provider, JBS International.

CoP-RCORP Consortium

In 2018, with support from the state of Ohio (viz. Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Ohio Department of Health), Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs (OU-VS) and the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE) applied and received two \$200,000 RCORP planning grants. In turn, OU-VS funded community organizations in Ashtabula and Fairfield counties and PIRE funded those in Sandusky and Washington counties. Through a shared services agreement, OU-VS and PIRE braided their funding together and created fiscal efficiencies to fund a fifth in Seneca County. In addition, the efficiencies allowed a project website to be created to organize, share, and archive innovative project strategies.

As system conveners (Wenger-Trayner & Wenger-Trayner, 2015) of the Communities of Practice for Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (CoP-RCORP), faculty and staff from OU-VS and PIRE brought together representatives from three county behavioral health authorities in Ashtabula, Fairfield, and Seneca counties and two county health departments in Sandusky and Washington counties during the planning phase. Each of the five community-based organizations acted as backbone fiscal support for a local consortium and oversaw the project activities being carried out in their community. The CoP-RCORP master consortium utilized a community of practice (Wenger & McDermott, 2002) approach where representatives from the local consortia collaboratively engaged in peer learning and grant activities facilitated by OU-VS and PIRE.

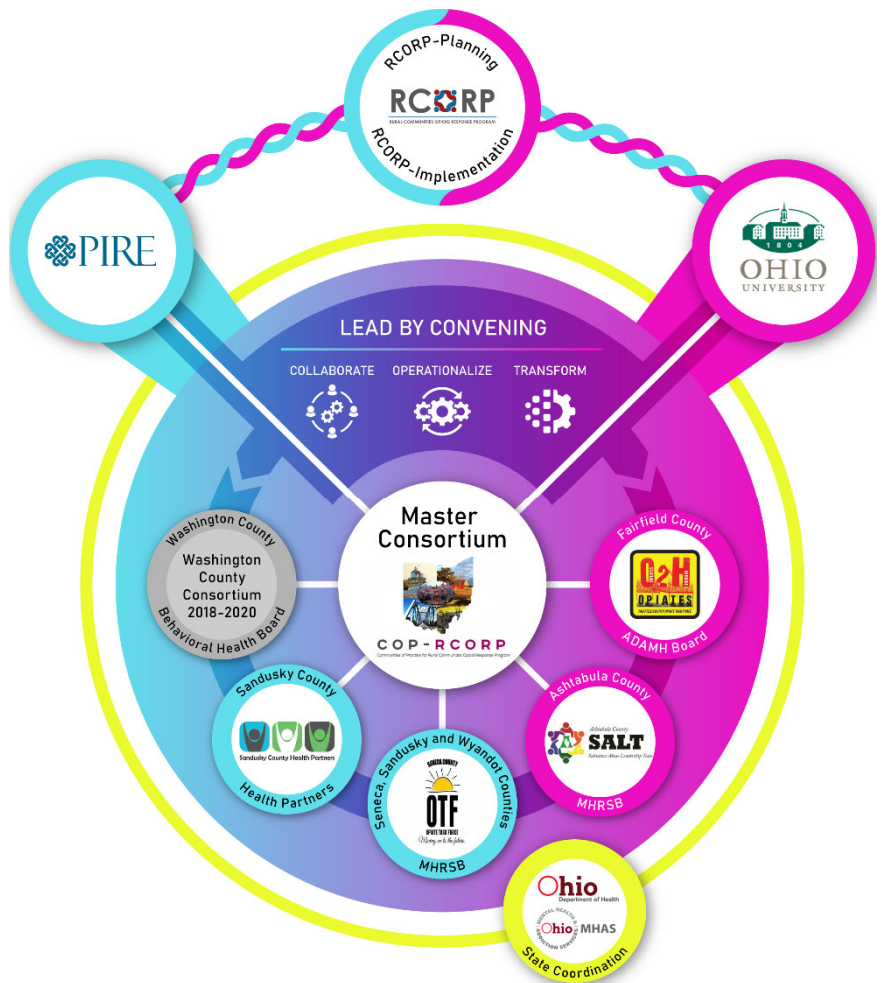
At the end of the planning grant, OU-VS and PIRE each led efforts with respective community representatives and submitted separate proposals for RCORP-Implementation funding. HRSA awarded OU-VS and PIRE each \$1 million over three-years. In August 2019, OU-

VS and PIRE entered into another shared services agreement and braided funding to continue growing the community of practice model being utilized with the master consortium. The implementation funding includes 15 required core activities, which span the continuum of care and include prevention, treatment, and recovery to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with opioid overdoses in high-risk rural communities. Sustaining those local efforts is a critical overarching goal.

Process-wise, the CoP holds monthly master consortium meetings to learn from one another. At the conclusion of Year 1, the Washington County Behavioral Health Board and the CoP-RCORP Master Consortium separated. Currently, the master consortium includes representatives from the following four communities: Ashtabula, Fairfield, Sandusky, and Seneca counties.

As the convening lead for the master consortium, OU-VS and PIRE work with members of the master consortium to advance the core activities at the local level. The master consortium also draws on state-based resources to inform policies, programs, and practices. See the figure below for an organizational graphic. More information about the organizational structure and initiative may be found on the project website:

communitiesofpractice-rcorp.com.



Measuring Sustainability

Under the CoP-RCORP initiative, OU-VS and PIRE approached sustainability as a process with a two-fold purpose. First, we wanted to make sure we fulfilled the RCORP grant requirements. Moreover, we wanted to ensure local consortia had the information they needed to continue supporting their local infrastructure in addressing ongoing opiate use disorder (OUD) issues. This locally driven type of process follows a format that has successfully been used in other Ohio initiatives, which involves assessing what needs to be sustained first, followed by a set of reflection questions about how to shore up the issues identified.

In particular, OU-VS and PIRE wanted each local consortium to think about how they could continue to build and sustain their local capacity to plan and address OUD on an ongoing basis. We utilized this approach in part based on our developmental evaluation and capacity building experience over the years which has illustrated the importance of: (a) clarifying what to continue or sustain (Mancini & Marek, 2002; Weiss, Coffman, & Bohan-Baker, 2002), (b) understanding the public value, authorizing environment, and operational capacity needed for sustainability (Moore, 1995), and (c) viewing sustainability as a process rather than an outcome (Schell, et al., 2013).

Near the end of implementation year 1, HRSA and JBS International asked all phase 1 grantees to complete a set of sustainability assessments and develop a plan based on those findings. That process occurred at the master consortium level. In addition, OU-VS and PIRE asked each community organization to complete a local sustainability assessment process. The balance of this report describes that local process, the findings, and plan for next steps.

Washington University Program Sustainability Assessment Tool

Each of the four project directors conducted an online assessment utilizing the Program Sustainability Assessment Tool (PSAT) from Washington University in St. Louis. The PSAT includes 40-items arranged into eight domains: Environmental Support, Funding Stability, Partnerships, Organizational Capacity, Program Evaluation, Program Adaptation, Communications, and Strategic Planning. Using a scale from 1 to 7, project directors rated the extent to which each process or structure exists in their consortium, with a 1 meaning no extent and 7 meaning full extent. See Luke, Calhoun, Robichaux, Elliott, and Moreland-Russell (2014) for more information about the tool.

Community organizations were offered two options for completing the sustainability assessment tool. In the first option, a core local planning team met as a group to discuss and

rate each question. Upon reaching consensus, the group entered a score for each question and received a summary report with the results. Alternatively, each identified member of the core local planning group answered all of the questions independently. The project director then received a report that averaged the responses. The Fairfield County Opiate Task Force chose the option of average score.

Local Sustainability Plan

Fairfield County Opiate Task Force

The Fairfield County Opiate Task Force serves as the local consortium for the RCORP-Planning grant, while the Fairfield County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Board operates as the backbone organization. In order to develop and strengthen the local consortium, the following individuals engaged in a sustainability assessment and reflection process (Core Sustainability Planning Team):

- Toni Ashton
- Miranda Gray
- Cassandra Woodford

Sustainability Plan

Reflection questions and assessment results. After completing the online PSAT assessment tool, communities received a summary of their assessment results that reported the average score for each domain (see Appendix A for a copy of the Summary Assessment Results). Next, each community reviewed the summary results and reflected on several questions developed by OU-VS and PIRE based on the guidance from JBS International (see Appendix A for a copy of the Reflection Questions). Table 1 below shows the overall sustainability assessment results and prioritized domain and score for that domain.

Table 1. Sustainability Assessment Results for the Fairfield County Opiate Task Force

County	Assessment Approach	Overall Sustainability Assessment Score	Overall Assessment Range	Prioritized Domain(s)	Assessment Score(s) for Prioritized Domain(s)
Fairfield	Average Score	5.3	4.5 – 5.7	Program Evaluation	5.3

Assessment summary. To begin reviewing the assessment results, the Fairfield County Sustainability Planning Team conducted a SWOT analysis by categorizing the various domains as

strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, or threats. They also discussed why they categorized a domain as a strength, weakness, opportunity, or threat (see Table 2).

Table 2. SWOT Analysis on the Sustainability Assessment Domains

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Communications Since adding the ADAMH board PR person to the Opiate Task Force our communication to the public has been strengthened. The PR person has been able to market the Opiate Task Force in a professional way that not only increases interest but also awareness of the issue.</p> <p>Organizational Capacity The Opiate Task Force is well integrated into the Fairfield County ADAMH Board. The Opiate Task Force has ADAMH Board staff integrated into the Opiate Task Force along with other community organizations.</p> <p>Environmental Support The Opiate Task Force has support from other community organizations. Internal leadership is very much in support of the program. External support from other organizations involved in the Opiate Task Force is apparent by attending meetings, having their employees attend meetings and being an important partner in events and activities.</p>	<p>Program Evaluation The Opiate Task Force has not used Program Evaluation to determine outcomes.</p>
Opportunities	Threats
<p>Partnerships There is always a need to increase our partnerships. There are a few sectors of the community wheel we are missing that we would like to fill.</p> <p>Program Adaption The Opiate Task Force has been able to make adaptations to our work during the pandemic. We have maintained and even increased our attendance at our monthly meetings. We have been able to have community events in a safe way using precautions during the pandemic.</p>	<p>Funding Stability Funding stability is always a concern in our economic culture. The backbone organization, the Fairfield County ADAMH Board is supportive of the Opiate Task Force and will continue to support it. The Opiate Task Force does not have multiple funding sources.</p> <p>Program Adaption Program adaption can be difficult because we do not know what the adaption could be. We did not think or plan for a pandemic. We think a change in substances used could be an adaption we would need to make in the future.</p>

Problem statement. The Fairfield County Sustainability Planning Team identified one domain area that represents a key weakness or threat for the sustainability of the local consortium to address OUD. The weakness or threat domain to address is: Program Evaluation.

Selecting this area was prioritized because as a group we discussed the Program Evaluation section on the group report. It was scored in mid-range but something we thought we needed to address it in a more specific way. By evaluating our program, we can use our results to inform Opiate Task Force members and stakeholders. We can also use the outcomes to inform the public of our success. Evaluation can also assist us in reassessing program or strategies that are not working.

Population of focus. The organizations, agencies, community leaders, and staff/personnel who need to be present to work on this problem include staff from the ADAMH Board that participate with the Opiate Task Force. Opiate Task Force members will be included as needed depending on their role.

Goals and objectives. The goal this group will work toward addressing and at least one key objective follow. Table 3 lists the specific activities for the goal and objectives.

Goal Statement: Through an increase in evaluation of programs our goal is to increase the effectiveness of our programs and share the results with Opiate Task Force members and the community in general.

Key Objective(s): Increase effective programs and change or eliminate ineffective programs.

Table 3. Specific Activities for Goals and Objectives

Activity	Start Date	End Date	Responsible Party	Resources
Evaluate the Peer Support Group by providing members with a satisfaction survey to be done after every group.	January 2022	ongoing	Opiate Task Force Recovery Support Committee Chair and Peer Group Leader	Satisfaction Survey
Interactive Journaling Program pre and post test	January 2022	ongoing	Opiate Task Force Recovery Support Committee Chair	Pre and post test provided by the program
Narcan distributed including training on use	January 2022	Ongoing	Project FORT (QRT), Opiate Task Force Prevention Committee Chair.	
Track Fairfield County: - overdose deaths - non-lethal overdoses - opioid related hospital visits - Narcan doses administered - opiate Rx's written - opioid hospital visits	January 2022	Ongoing	Opiate Task Force Chairs, Community Fairfield County ADAMH Board Planning and Program Researcher	Tableau Program to create the dashboard, Data sources: ODH, Ohio EMS, OARRS, OHA, Fairfield Department of Health

Update and distribute the dashboard to Opiate Task Force members and community members.	January 2022	Ongoing	Opiate Task Force Chairs, Community Fairfield County ADAMH Board Planning and Program Researcher	
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Long-term outcomes and indicators. Below are the long-term change outcomes and indicators to define how change will be demonstrated.

Long-term Outcome: The long-term goal is to provide effective programs to reduce and eliminate overdose deaths due to opiate use.

Long-term Indicator: The Opiate Task Force will know if our programs are effective is there is a reduction in overdose deaths in Fairfield County.

Conclusion

Affordability and Accessibility of OUD Prevention, Treatment, & Recovery

The Fairfield County Opiate Task Force meets monthly. There will be an opportunity at each meeting to discuss program evaluations and data. Data will be an agenda item each month.

Prioritization of Evaluation

The Fairfield County Opiate Task Force and its members are aware that evaluation is a basis for sustainability. We are committed to tracking our programs in an effective manner and to report the results of our findings to our Opiate Task Force members, stakeholders, and community members.

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APPENDIX A

Local Consortium Sustainability Assessment Report

Fairfield Local COP-RCORP Consortium 2021

Submitted by: **milazzol@ohio.edu**

Date: **November 23, 2021**

Many factors can affect sustainability, such as financial and political climates, organizational characteristics, and elements of evaluation and communication. The **Program Sustainability Assessment Tool (PSAT)** allows stakeholders to rate their programs on the extent to which they have processes and structures in place that will increase the likelihood of sustainability. Assessment results can then be used to identify next steps in building program capacity for sustainability in order to position efforts for long term success.

Interpreting the Results

The table presents the average rating for each sustainability domain based on the responses provided by 3 participants. The remainder of the document presents the average ratings for indicators within each domain. There is no minimum rating that guarantees the sustainability of a program. However, lower ratings do indicate opportunities for improvement that a program may want to focus on when developing a plan for sustainability.

Next Steps

- These results can be used to guide sustainability planning for your program.
- Areas with lower ratings indicate that there is room for improvement.
- Address domains that are most modifiable, quicker to change, and have data available to support the needed changes.
- Develop strategies to tackle the domains that may be more difficult to modify.
- Make plans to assess your program’s sustainability on an ongoing basis to monitor program changes as you strive for an ongoing impact.

Here is your sustainability score: **5.3**

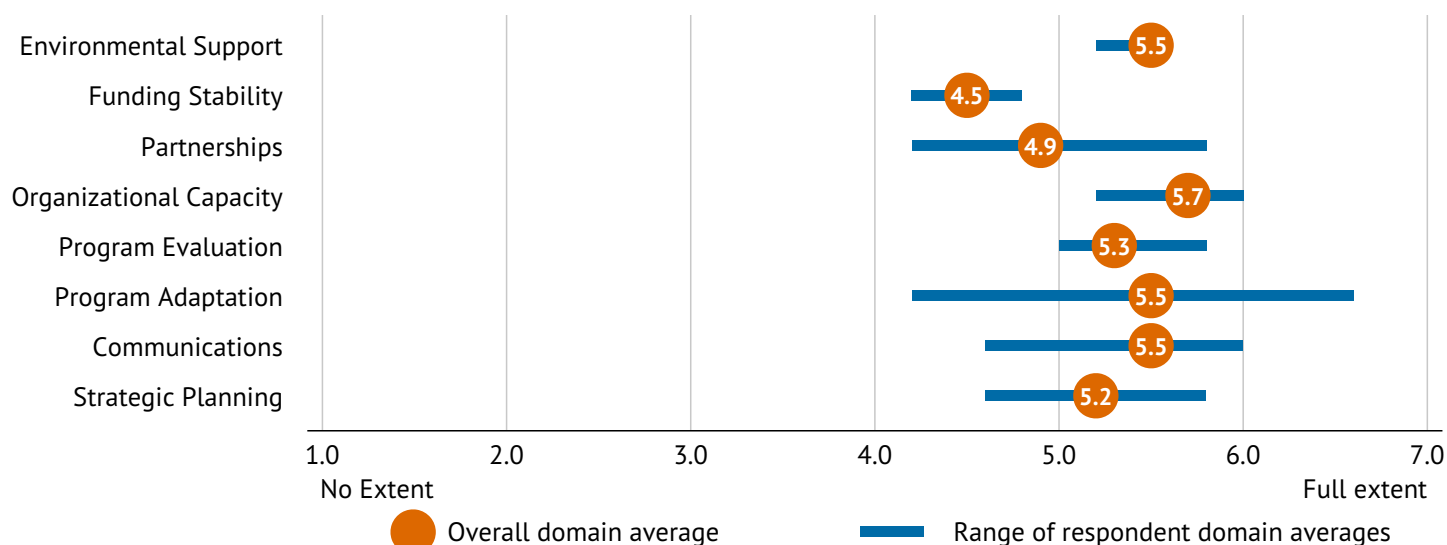
Domain	Domain Score
Environmental Support	5.5
Funding Stability	4.5
Partnerships	4.9
Organizational Capacity	5.7
Program Evaluation	5.3
Program Adaptation	5.5
Communications	5.5
Strategic Planning	5.2

1 = program has this to no extent







7 = program has to the full extent

NA = not able to answer

Average Sustainability Capacity By Domain



For more information about the Program Sustainability Assessment Tool and sustainability planning, visit <https://sustaintool.org/>

	Environmental Support	Rating		Funding Stability	Rating
1. Champions exist who strongly support the program.	6.3		1. The program exists in a supportive state economic climate.	4.7	
2. The program has strong champions with the ability to garner resources.	5.3		2. The program implements policies to help ensure sustained funding.	5.0	
3. The program has leadership support from within the larger organization.	6.7		3. The program is funded through a variety of sources.	4.0	
4. The program has leadership support from outside of the organization.	5.0		4. The program has a combination of stable and flexible funding.	4.3	
5. The program has strong public support.	4.0		5. The program has sustained funding.	4.3	
	Partnerships	Rating		Organizational Capacity	Rating
1. Diverse community organizations are invested in the success of the program.	5.7		1. The program is well integrated into the operations of the organization.	6.3	
2. Community leaders are involved with the program.	5.0		2. Organizational systems are in place to support the various program needs.	5.7	
3. Community members are passionately committed to the program.	4.3		3. Leadership effectively articulates the vision of the program to external partners.	5.7	
4. The program communicates with community leaders.	5.7		4. Leadership efficiently manages staff and other resources.	5.7	
5. The community is engaged in the development of program goals.	4.0		5. The program has adequate staff to complete the program's goals.	5.3	
	Program Evaluation	Rating		Program Adaptation	Rating
1. The program has the capacity for quality program evaluation.	5.7		1. The program periodically reviews the evidence base.	5.7	
2. The program reports short term and intermediate outcomes.	5.7		2. The program adapts strategies as needed.	6.0	
3. Evaluation results inform program planning and implementation.	5.7		3. The program adapts to new science.	5.3	
4. Program evaluation results are used to demonstrate successes to funders and other key stakeholders.	5.3		4. The program proactively adapts to changes in the environment.	5.3	
5. The program provides strong evidence to the public that the program works.	4.3		5. The program makes decisions about which components are ineffective and should not continue.	5.3	
	Communications	Rating		Strategic Planning	Rating
1. The program has communication strategies to secure and maintain public support.	5.0		1. The program plans for future resource needs.	5.0	
2. Program staff communicate the need for the program to the public.	5.3		2. The program has a long-term financial plan.	5.3	
3. The program is marketed in a way that generates interest.	5.7		3. The program has a sustainability plan.	5.3	
4. The program increases community awareness of the issue.	5.7		4. The program's goals are understood by all stakeholders.	5.3	
5. The program demonstrates its value to the public.	5.7		5. The program clearly outlines roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders.	5.0	

Results based on responses to the Program Sustainability Assessment Tool, ©2012, Washington University in St Louis.

For more information about the Program Sustainability Assessment Tool and sustainability planning, visit <https://sustaintool.org/>

APPENDIX B

CoP RCORP Sustainability Reflection Questionnaire



HRSA’s Communities of Practice: Rural Communities Opioids Response Program Reflection Questions for Developing a Sustainability Plan

Name of Person (s) Completing Form:			
Date:		County Name:	

Step 1 – Decide How to Complete these Reflection Questions

1. For communities using group consensus, you will want to reference your assessment report and the notes from your group consensus discussion. It is up to you to decide if you want to pull the core group back together to answer these questions.
2. For communities using average scores, you will need to pull together the 2-4 core planning members who completed the assessment and hold a group discussion with them to reflect on the findings from the Sustainability Assessment Report.

Step 2 – Begin by Reviewing Your Sustainability Assessment

1. Review the **Next Steps** section of the report (on page 1), which provides some helpful guidance for selecting domains that you may want to strengthen.
 - a. Note that the selection of domains that you want to focus on in your sustainability plan is not always governed solely by how low a domain’s score is.
 - b. The guidance also notes the importance of having data available to support the needed changes, and the importance of the domain being modifiable.
 - c. In addition to these considerations, you and your team will want to take into consideration local culture, history of prior efforts, and new trends that may be just emerging.

Step 3 – Reflect on Your Assessment and Document Your Plans

1. On page 2 of the Assessment report, look across the eight domains and complete a SWOT analysis.
 - a. What domains represent strengths and why?
 - b. What domains represent weaknesses and why?
 - c. What domains represent opportunities and why?
 - d. What domains represent threats and why?

Strengths – Capture these domain(s) and why they are strengths in this box. Type your response here	Weaknesses – Capture these domain(s) and why they are weaknesses in this box. Type your response here
Opportunities – Capture these domain(s) and why they are opportunities in this box. Type your response here	Threats – Capture these domain(s) and why they are threats in this box. Type your response here



2. Prioritize one key domain area that represents either a key weakness or key threat for your Local RCORP Consortium.
 - a. You will need to gather information about how you intend to shore up and address this weakness or threat. Guiding questions have been included below to help you capture that information.
 - b. Please type your responses where noted below. OU/PIRE will take your information and format it into a formatted Sustainability Plan document.
 - c. You only need to select one domain to address. It may be either a weakness or a threat from your SWOT analysis. You will then answer questions 3-9 below regarding that domain.
 - d. If you want to select an additional domain area to address, you will then need to answer questions 3-9 again for that domain.

3. Name the weakness or threat domain area that you have selected to address.

Weakness or Threat Domain to Address: **Type your response here**

4. How and why did you prioritize this weakness or threat domain?

Type your response here

5. Who needs to help address this weakness or threat domain? Include organizations, agencies, community leaders, staff/personnel, etc., as appropriate for the domain selected.

Type your response here

6. What is the goal you want this group of organizations, agencies, leaders, and/or staff to address related to the domain weakness or threat that you have prioritized? Please write a goal statement that you could provide to this group that would represent what they need to work toward addressing.

Type your response here

7. What is the change you are seeking?
 - a. Define the long-term change (outcome(s)) you want to see occur.

Type your response here



- b. How will you know that you have achieved that outcome? (List at least one indicator.)

Type here

8. List one or more objective for the group.

Objective: Type here

9. For the objective, identify a few key activities (e.g., convene the group, engage the issue, report back) and for each list a key person who will be responsible; other resources needed (staff, volunteers, space, money); and a planned start and end date.

Activity	Start Date	End Date	Responsible Party	Resources
Type here	Type here	Type here	Type here	Type here

10. HRSA is prioritizing the following outcome:

Maintain affordability and accessibility of OUD prevention, treatment, and recovery services provided to individuals.

Please write a one-two paragraph statement about how your Local RCORP Consortium will keep this outcome in mind throughout implementation process.

Type response here.

11. HRSA would like all Local RCORP Consortium to demonstrate that they are prioritizing evaluation.

Please write a one-two paragraph statement about how your Local RCORP Consortium is committed to developing quantifiable metrics that will be used to assess the impact of future activities.

Type response here.

Step 4 – Submit Your Reflection Report & Assessment Report to OU/PIRE

1. Save your Sustainability Reflection response document.
2. Send your completed Sustainability Reflection document to your TTAE.
3. Include a PDF copy of your online Assessment Report from Washington University.



4. OU/PIRE will transfer your information into a formatted Sustainability Plan and share it with you for final review and approval.