COP - RCORP
Communities of Practice for Rural Communities Opioid Response Program

Local Sustainability Plan
Fairfield County, Ohio

P.A.R.T. Coalition
Prevention Advocacy Recovery Treatment (P.A.R.T.)
Fairfield County ADAMH Board

2024

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Acknowledgements

The P.A.R.T. Coalition 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, the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE) and Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs (OU-VS) 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 Prevention Advocacy Recovery Treatment (PART) Coalition (local consortium), the Fairfield County ADAMH Board (backbone organization), and the CoP-RCORP Training, Technical Assistance, and Evaluation Team (OU-VS and PIRE).

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P.A.R.T. Coalition
CoP-RCORP
Fairfield County, OH Sustainability Plan
March 2025

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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.
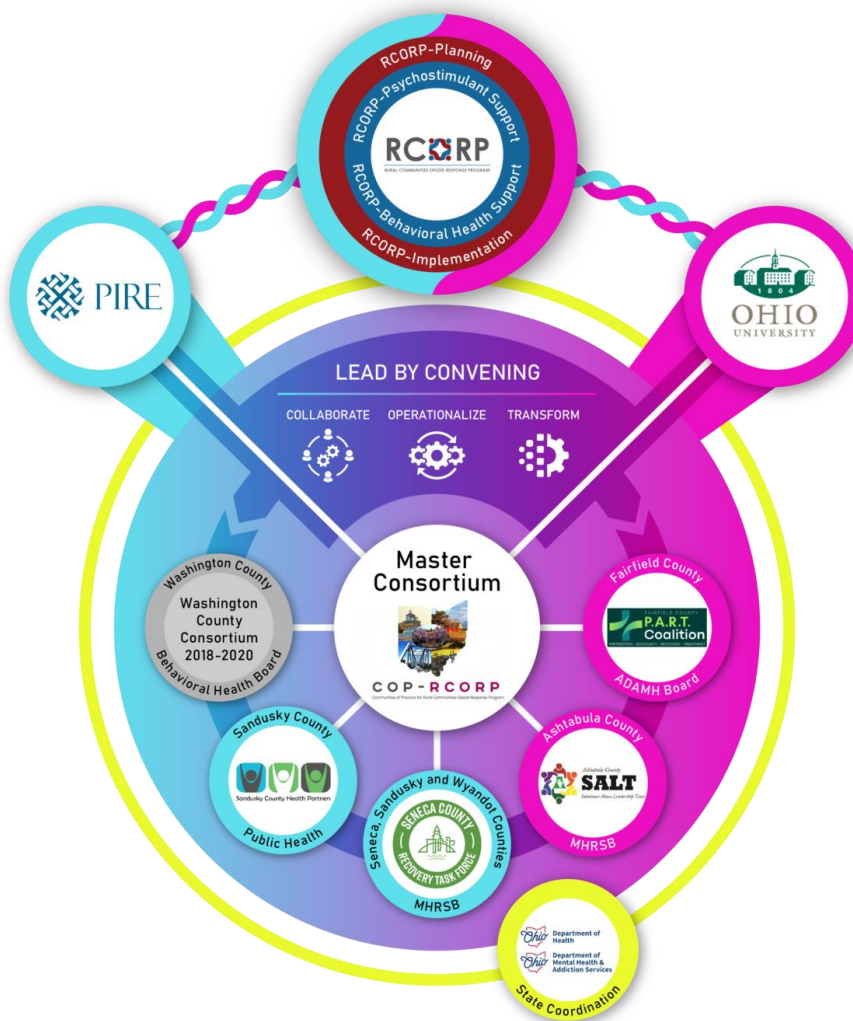
CoP-RCORP Consortium

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.
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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).

All grantees completed a set of sustainability assessments and developed a sustainability plan based on the findings. This process occurred during the planning and implementation grant phases (2019, 2020, 2021) and has continued into the behavioral health care support grant (2024) at the master consortium level. Each community organization completed a local sustainability process, the balance of this report describes the local process, the findings and plan for next steps. All previous community sustainability information and reports are available on the CoP-RCORP website.

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 Prevention Advocacy Recovery Treatment (PART) Coalition chose the option of group consensus.

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Local Sustainability Plan

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Prevention Advocacy Recovery Treatment (PART) Coalition

The Prevention Advocacy Recovery Treatment (PART) Coalition serves as the local consortium for the RCORP- Planning grant, while the Fairfield County ADAMH 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, Dawn Good, and Dylan Sander

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 Prevention Advocacy Recovery Treatment (PART) Coalition

County	Assessment Approach	Overall Sustainability Assessment Score	Overall Assessment Range	Prioritized Domain(s)	Assessment Score(s) for Prioritized Domain(s)
Fairfield County	Group Consensus	4.7	4.3 - 5.2	Communications	4.3

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
Environmental Support The team felt the coalition is supported by many community champions and those champions have the ability to garner resources for the coalition. The coalition has stable support from the Fairfield County ADAMH board which is the backbone of the coalition. The coalition also has support from county, city, and village leadership.	**Program Evaluation** The team feels program evaluation needs to be more comprehensive including both short-term and long-term outcomes. The results need to be shared with the public in a more substantial format.
Opportunities	**Threats**
Program Adaption The coalition was able to successfully move from monthly virtual meetings to monthly in-person meetings post covid. With the move to in-person meetings there is an opportunity to network between the coalition members. The coalition has also been able to provide a speaker on a variety of subjects at each meeting to increase awareness of knowledge for the coalition members. The Coalition also changed its name, logo, and mission statement to have a wider scope of practice to impact a variety of substances not just opiates.	**Communication** The team selected communication as a threat. Communication with the public can be difficult considering stigma. If the public has stigmatizing attitudes regarding substance use disorder, they may not be willing to consider information from the coalition. The team has seen a trend in the community that someone does not actively support the coalition and its mission until they have a personal connection to substance use disorder. The Coalition also needs to educate the public on successes, so the community values the Coalition.

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 communication.

Selecting this area was prioritized because during our Sustainability Assessment, the group discussed communication. We concluded that The Prevention Advocacy Recovery Treatment (PART) Coalition communicates well within the local consortium, however, taking into account the score on the group report, it was scored in the low range. We also discussed which weakness of threat we could actually address and make an impact. After the discussion members decided on and selected the Communication Domain to prioritize.

Population of focus. The organizations, agencies, community leaders, and staff/personnel who need to be present to work on this problem include the P.A.R.T. Coalition Leadership, Coalition Members, and the Fairfield County ADAMH Board staff including the Public Relation Coordinator.

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: The goal of the P.A.R.T. Coalition is to have communication strategies in place to raise community awareness, increase public support of the Coalition and demonstrate the value of the collation regarding substance use disorder prevention, treatment and recovery supports.

Key Objective(s): By raising awareness in the community of the Fairfield County P.A.R.T. Coalition, the public will support the coalition.

Table 3. Specific Activities for Goals and Objectives

Activity	Start Date	End Date	Responsible Party	Resources
Creating a Communication Strategy Plan	July 1, 2024	January 2025	P.A.R.T. Coalition Leadership and ADAMH Board PR Coordinator	Unsure at this time
Community Outreach	July 1, 2024	Ongoing	P.A.R.T. Coalition Co-Chairs, Coalition Prevention Sub-Committee members and ADAMH Board PR Coordinator	Educational items to distribute along with "swag" items" to promote the

				Coalition to the public and build a bond.
Design and implement a P.A.R.T. Coalition Facebook page that will include Social Media Posts regarding the Coalition and information related to SUD	July 1, 2024	Ongoing	ADAMH Board PR Coordinator, Coalition Members that have the ability to use social media.	Use of various toolkits that include social media posts regarding substance use disorder materials
Track Sign in Sheets at monthly coalition meetings.	July 1, 2024	Ongoing	P.A.R.T. Coalition Co-Chair will provide sign in sheets and track membership	Sign in sheets
Track Community Outreach Events including date and how many people attended	July 1, 2024	Ongoing	P.A.R.T. Coalition Co-Chair will track community outreach events and the number of participants.	Track events with Smartsheet
Track Social Media Posts	July 1, 2024	Ongoing	The ADAMH Board PR Coordinator will track Social Media Posts, unique users and click rates.	Social Media Analytics

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 change is the stability of the P.A.R.T. Coalition by having public awareness and support of the Coalition.

Long-term Indicator: The P.A.R.T Coalition will be stable throughout time. The public will show its support by participating in events sponsored by the coalition and coalition

membership will increase over time. The Coalition will track progress on goal by setting timeline dates to create and implement a Communication Strategy Plan. As part of the plan, we will tract attendance at meetings, community outreach events, and social media posts.

Conclusion

Affordability and Accessibility of OUD Prevention, Treatment, & Recovery

Throughout the implementation process The Fairfield County P.A.R.T. Coalition will use this outcome statement: "The Fairfield County P.A.R.T. Coalition keeps the focus on affordability and accessibility of SUD prevention, treatment, and recovery services to individuals" on each monthly meeting agenda as a reminder that this is what we will accomplish.

Prioritization of Evaluation

As stated above, The Fairfield County P.A.R.T. Coalition and its members are aware that evaluation is an important component for sustainability. We track all the events we participate in. Any training the coalition is a part of is recorded with an event date and the number of participants. All training courses have an evaluation tool at the end of the training.

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APPENDIX A

Local Consortium Sustainability Assessment Report

Fairfield Local COP-RCORP Consortium 2024

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

Date: **April 12, 2024**

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 4 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: 4.7

Domain	Domain Score
Environmental Support	5.1
Funding Stability	4.7
Partnerships	4.5
Organizational Capacity	5.2
Program Evaluation	4.5
Program Adaptation	4.8
Communications	4.3
Strategic Planning	4.4

1 = program has this to no extent

7 = program has to the full extent

NA = not able to answer

Average Sustainability Capacity By Domain

Overall domain average   Range of respondent domain averages
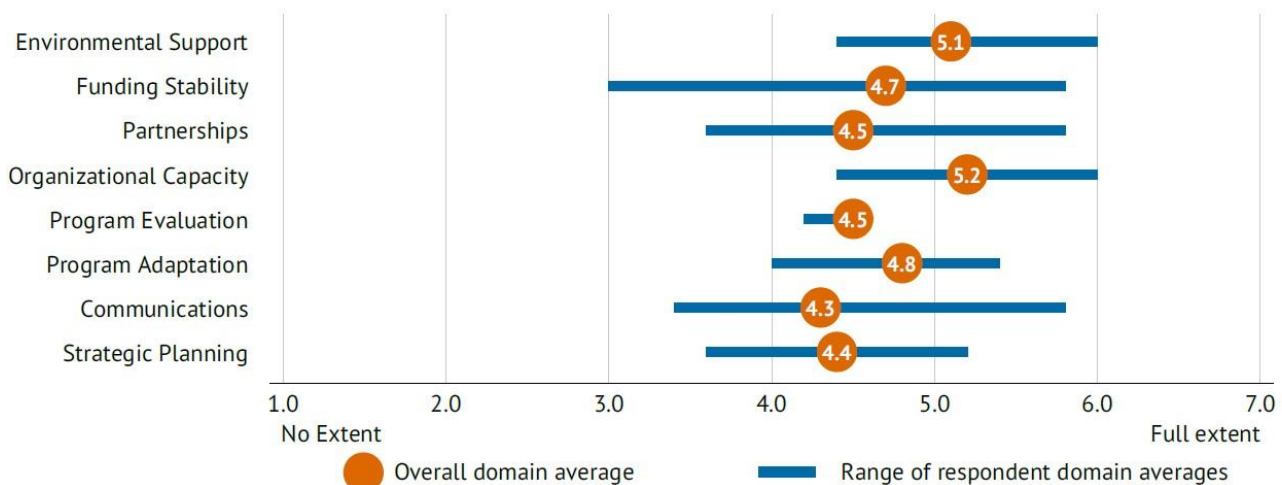
For more information about the Program Sustainability Assessment Tool and sustainability planning, visit https://sustaintool.org/

🏛 Environmental Support

	Rating
1. Champions exist who strongly support the program.	5.3
2. The program has strong champions with the ability to garner resources.	5.3
3. The program has leadership support from within the larger organization.	6.0
4. The program has leadership support from outside of the organization.	4.8
5. The program has strong public support.	4.3

🤝 Partnerships

	Rating
1. Diverse community organizations are invested in the success of the program.	4.8
2. Community leaders are involved with the program.	4.8
3. Community members are passionately committed to the program.	4.5
4. The program communicates with community leaders.	4.8
5. The community is engaged in the development of program goals.	3.8

💲 Funding Stability

	Rating
1. The program exists in a supportive state economic climate.	4.5
2. The program implements policies to help ensure sustained funding.	4.3
3. The program is funded through a variety of sources.	5.0
4. The program has a combination of stable and flexible funding.	4.8
5. The program has sustained funding.	4.8

🏢 Organizational Capacity

	Rating
1. The program is well integrated into the operations of the organization.	5.3
2. Organizational systems are in place to support the various program needs.	5.0
3. Leadership effectively articulates the vision of the program to external partners.	5.8
4. Leadership efficiently manages staff and other resources.	5.3
5. The program has adequate staff to complete the program's goals.	4.8

🔍 Program Evaluation   Rating

1. The program has the capacity for quality program evaluation.	5.0
2. The program reports short term and intermediate outcomes.	4.5
3. Evaluation results inform program planning and implementation.	4.8
4. Program evaluation results are used to demonstrate successes to funders and other interested parties.	4.3
5. The program provides strong evidence to the public that the program works.	3.8

🔧 Program Adaptation   Rating

1. The program periodically reviews the evidence base.	4.3
2. The program adapts strategies as needed.	5.0
3. The program adapts to new science.	4.3
4. The program proactively adapts to changes in the environment.	4.8
5. The program makes decisions about which components are ineffective and should not continue.	5.5

💬 Communications   Rating

1. The program has communication strategies to secure and maintain public support.	4.5
2. Program staff communicate the need for the program to the public.	4.5
3. The program is marketed in a way that generates interest.	4.0
4. The program increases community awareness of the issue.	4.5
5. The program demonstrates its value to the public.	4.0

✦ Strategic Planning   Rating

1. The program plans for future resource needs.	4.3
2. The program has a long-term financial plan.	4.0
3. The program has a sustainability plan.	5.0
4. The program's goals are understood by all interested parties.	4.5
5. The program clearly outlines roles and responsibilities for all partners.	4.3

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 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; others 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.