

UPDATE -- Indiana Initiative on New Directions for Student Support (6/17/04)

Hope you have all had a successful school year and can use some of the upcoming summer for restoring your enthusiasm for pursuing New Directions for Student Support

As proposed at the Summit meeting, a listserv has been established for the Indiana Summit Initiative New Directions for Student Support. The listserv will be used mainly to provide periodic updates on the work. All replies to this and other listserv email come back to the Center for processing and sharing within the state and with other states.

Here is a brief update on ongoing work stemming from the Indiana Summit on New Directions for Student Support and also some info from other states.

Initiative Infrastructure is Germinating

I. *Steering Group Grows* -- To date, the follow leaders have agreed to Steer Indiana's Initiative for New Directions for Student Support

- >> Susan Fread Albrecht, Director of Special Services, Marion Community Schools and Adjunct Faculty, Ball State University
- >> Walter Aldoriso, Director Student Services, Center Grove Community School Corp.
- >> Michelle Alvarez, Asst. Prof of SW, University of So. Indiana
- >> Bob Burke, Association Professor, Depart. of EI Ed, Ball State University
- >> Rosetta Cummings, Asst. Director of SPCED, Anderson Community Schools
- >> Jeff Daniels, Assist Prof, IN University
- >> Mary Kay Davis, Director of Special Ed., Joint Educational Services, Plymouth
- >> Gregory Eaken, President elect IN Association of School Psychologists
- >> Marilyn Edwards, Indiana State Teachers Association, Indianapolis
- >> Cathlin Gray, Assistant Superintendent, Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation
- >> Brenda Henry, President-Elect, IN Association of School Nurses, Michigan City,
- >> Lisa Huffman, Assistant Professor, Ball State, Dept. of Ed. Psych
- >> Loretta Patzold, President, IN School Counselor Association
- >> Pat Pierce, Director, Northwest Indiana Special Education Cooperative, Crown Point
- >> Pamela Storm, Title I Coordinator, Anderson Community Schools
- >> JoDean Washington, Ex. Director of Community Development, Anderson Comm. Schools
- >> Gay Worth, Program Director, East Central ESC
- >> Anne Young, Principal, Clark-Pleasant Schools, Franklin, IN

II. *Workgroups are being formed* -- The work group process involves each member sharing their ideas by email for reaction. Center staff will then synthesize what has the group has formulated and send it to all Indiana summit participants and interested parties for their feedback and additional ideas. Currently, two workgroups are underway

A. *Work Group for a Social Marketing Campaign.* This group is focusing on clarifying the nature and scope of a social marketing campaign aimed at specific groups and key leaders (e.g., what to distribute, to who, how). At this junction the following Steering Group members have indicated willingness to lead in developing and pursuing the functions of this work group

- > Walter Aldoriso, Director of Student Services, Center Grove Community School Corporation
- > Susan Fread Albrecht, Director of Special Services, Marion Community Schools
- > Mary Kay Davis, Joint Education Services in Special Education, Plymouth, IN
- > Cathlin Gray, Assistant Superintendent, Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation
- > Brenda Henry, President elect, IN Association of School Nurses, Michigan City
- > Anne Young, Principal, Clark-Pleasant Schools, Franklin, IN

If you would like to be a part of this workgroup, let us know by responding to this email.

The workgroup is exploring suggestions for widely disseminating ideas and information about New Directions for Student Support throughout Indiana

Their First Task involves answering the question - *What should be distributed?*

At this stage, this mostly involves reviewing/revamping existing brief documents about New Directions.

We, of course, are disseminating various relevant documents and are encouraging others to circulate them as well. For example

>There is a new one page flyer online that can be adapted/shared (anyone can download and copy it or let us know how many copies they need for distribution and we will send them on. Flyer is online at <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/flyerjune04.pdf>)

>There are also two new documents online relevant to New Directions for Student Support. Take a look to see if you can use them in sharing this important work (<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/conceptpaper.htm>). They are

>>New Directions for Student SupportA Comprehensive Learning Supports System Talking points Questions & Answers document (<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/q&a.pdf>)

This is designed to respond to the following five basic questions that folks seem to ask related to a new directions initiative.

- 1) Why is a Comprehensive Learning Supports System an imperative?
- 2) What needs to be done to make such a component a reality?
- 3) What does such a component need to look like at a school?
- 4) What's the research-base for such a component?
- 5) What will it cost?

> Finally, see the brief article that was published in the journal of the National Association of School Boards of Education (NASBE) entitled "So you want higher achievement scores? It's Time to Rethink Learning Supports" <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/schoolboard.pdf>

As one of the workgroup leaders suggested "As each of us attends meeting/conferences this summer, we should take advantage of the opportunity to share this information with our colleagues." Let us know if you are planning to attend any conferences where such sharing would be appropriate and useful. Feel free to download and copy the documents or let us know what you want and we will send you copies (email ltaylor@ucla.edu with your requests).

You will be pleased to note that a number of the Summit co-sponsoring organizations will be featuring the initiative for New Directions for Student Support in their newsletters and electronic communications.

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B. *The Second Workgroup --*

This group is concerned with clarifying how to identify school districts that are ready to move and enhancing decision maker interest in new directions for student support. Specifically, the group is focused on delineating what criteria to use in determining readiness, who to contact for nominations, and how to engage decision makers.

Cathlin Gray, Assistant Superintendent, Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation, will help lead this group. As she points out, "Those who are doing some work in this area need to be brought together and supported. Success breeds success and we all learn from each others. These cheerleaders will be the ones who can help support the Social Marketing workgroup understand exactly what it is that needs to be marketed and probably have some pretty good ideas about how to do that and who they would like to see at the table who has the leverage in the state to move this process forward." (After the workgroup provides their input, Center staff will synthesize what has been decided and send it to all the Indiana summit participants and interested parties for their feedback, additional ideas, nominations of sites, etc.)

If you would like to be a part of this workgroup, please let us know by responding to this email.

First Task - Establishing Readiness Criteria. Workgroup members will formulate and react to a beginning list of criteria.

The following is an example of a few key criteria that we have incorporated into a brief survey that we send to districts. (This is offered here to stimulate additional criteria and reactions.)

With respect to **your district** moving toward New Directions for Student Support

- 1) How interested are **key leaders**, such as district administrators and board members (e.g., Do

they see the need and opportunity to pursue a comprehensive learning support component as a key to ensuring better outcomes for students and for schools)?

- ☐ Not at all interested
- ☐ Somewhat interested
- ☐ Quite interested

(If not at all or just somewhat interested, you might want to share the new online document "New Directions for Student Support: A Comprehensive Learning Supports System Questions and Answers" <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/q&a.pdf>). And, of course, please let us know if there is a way we can aid your efforts -- contact ltaylor@ucla.edu

2) How ready are key leaders to map the range of resources in the district/schools/community for learning support?

- ☐ Not at all ready
- ☐ Somewhat ready
- ☐ Quite ready

(If not at all or just somewhat ready, take a look at "Resource Mapping and Management to Address Barriers to Learning: An Intervention for Systemic Change" <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/resourcemapping/resourcemappingandmanagement.pdf>)

3) How ready are **key leaders** to establish an infrastructure at the district/school level for focusing on New Directions for Student Support (e.g., resource coordinating teams at a school, resource coordinating councils for a feeder pattern of schools, a learning support office and director at the district office, an effective school-community collaborative, job descriptions that include participating on resource coordinating teams for support services, special ed, title I personnel, etc.)

List the leaders you cite under the descriptors below.

Not at all ready

Somewhat ready

Quite ready

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Let us know of your progress in working on New Directions for Student Support. If you want to be more involved in the Indiana Initiative on New Directions for Student Support, let us know. Feel free to forward this and any other information on the Summits Initiative to others who you think might be interested.

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