

ENEWS - A Monthly Forum for Sharing and Interchange

Source:

UCLA SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT/
CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS

November, 1996 - (Vol. 1, #3)

Welcome!

WHAT IS ENEWS? (for those who don't know)

This is an effort to create an electronic forum/news group for those concerned with how to enhance policies, programs, and practices related to addressing barriers to student learning and promoting mental health in schools. It is designed to augment the other ways our Center shares information and facilitates interchange and networking.

AS YOU READ ON, THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT US TO INCLUDE, AND PLEASE SEND US ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS ITEMS, GENERAL INFORMATION, AND COMMENTARY FOR POSTING.

Email us at smhp@ucla.edu.

and PLEASE FORWARD THIS TO OTHERS WHO YOU THINK WILL BE INTERESTED.

(If you don't know about our center, there's a brief description at the end of this document.)

=====

NEW CAMPAIGN TO INFLUENCE POLICY RELATED TO ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO LEARNING

Last month we highlighted the executive summary from the Center's report: "Policies and Practices for Addressing Barriers to Student Learning: Current Status and Future Directions/"

(If you didn't see it, it is on our Website <http://www.lifesci.ucla.edu/psych/mh>

-- under "About the School Mental Health Project" Click on "Some Current Activity."

If you want a copy of the entire report, it is available from the Center for \$3 to handle the cost of copying and mailing; email us at smhp@ucla.edu.)

The report provides a policy analysis and recommendations. It also lays out steps to be taken in moving the recommendations forward. We are now ready to help organize a steering committee and work groups at local, state, and regional levels to develop a compelling campaign of education and advocacy that encourages policy makers to treat the matter of addressing barriers to learning as a primary concern..

Quite a number of the attendees at our Regional meetings already have agreed to be on a steering committee. If you think you might want to join in, let us know. Phone, email, or mail us for more specific information. Our current plans call for holding a series of meetings in late spring/early summer to facilitate the process. Let us know if you want to be part of this.

We'd also like to know about other groups who are addressing these matters and how we can contact them. We don't want to reinvent the wheel, and we want to connect and collaborate with as many others as we can.

FORUM -- What's on Your Mind?

I. Hal Lawson, at the University of Miami, OH asked us to post the following.

"I am interested in recent research and writing on the ways in which complex partnerships involving families, schools, health and social service agencies, and other organizations are changing the roles and responsibilities of school principals and superintendents. I would appreciate receiving references and materials. Thanks!"

Hal can be reached at: Lawson_h@msmail.muohio.edu
or by regular mail at Phillips Hall, Miami University, Oxford, OH 45056

II. A request from Rodney Merten in Flint, MI. He is planning a Spring 1997

conference on Adolescents (ages 10-15) focusing on pregnancy, self-esteem, substance abuse and violence. They are looking for presenters and/or keynoters with both expertise and good presentation skills. There will be an evening for parents and a daytime phase for professionals. The conference will be held in conjunction with the University of Michigan around the 3rd week of March. If you know of someone who might be interested in presenting or attending, pass this on to them.

Rodney can be reached at rmerten@dynisys.com.

III. Carolyn Fisher (cfisher@earthlink.net), Director of Comprehensive Health Programs in the San Joaquin County Office of Education (CA) is looking for information about what others are doing regarding youth and suicide. Given the consistent demand for suicide intervention skills training in her area, she'd like to know about others who are conducting these types of programs. So would we! When you contact Carol, send along a copy to us.

IV. Our center gets frequent inquiries about how to show policy makers the savings that might accrue from prevention and early intervention programs. Besides the Perry Preschool Project, can anyone enlighten us with some references? Has anyone developed a computer model for generating projections?

Again, our email address is smhp@ucla.edu.

NEWS FROM OUR CENTER

NEWSLETTER

The fourth issue of our newsletter, "Addressing Barriers to Learning," will be sent out soon. If your not on our mailing list, you haven't received the first three -- so if you're interested let us know.

CONSULTATION CADRE

Our Consultation Cadre is composed of professionals who have relevant experience related to addressing barriers to student learning and mental health in schools and are willing to share their expertise without charging a fee. We compile and circulate the names of cadre members so that anyone in need can make a direct contact with professionals around the country.

We have started to receive some nice feedback about the cadre, but we'd like to hear more about how it's working. If you are a cadre member or have requested help from a cadre member, send us an email describing the experience.

If you need some assistance or if you want to be listed as part of the cadre, let us know. (If you have the insert from our last newsletter, a simple way to join the cadre is to fill out the insert and send it to us.)

We have over 250 cadre members so far. There are a few areas where we need more. These are:

- >Issues related to working in rural, urban and suburban areas
- >Professional standards
- >School-based clinics
- >Disabilities
- >Gender and sexuality
- >Reaction to chronic illness
- >School adjustment

Geographically, we need more cadre members in the Northwest.

For more information on the Consultation Cadre, contact the Center.

INTRODUCTORY PACKETS

Our Center is developing a set of overview "Introductory Packets" on key topics. Each packet includes overview discussions, references to publications, internet and other resource documents, access information to other relevant centers, agencies, organizations, and advocacy groups, and a list of consultation cadre members who have offered to share their expertise. Where appropriate model programs are described.

We have just released two new packets:

"Understanding and Minimizing Staff Burnout" -- Includes a brief discussion of what causes burnout and addressing the problem. Resource aids and model programs are also highlighted.

"Confidentiality and Informed Consent" -- This packet contains an overview and discussion of these major topics as they relate to providing services and working collaboratively across agencies. Included are sample consent forms and guidelines.

Other available packets include some on

SYSTEM CONCERNS

"Financial Strategies to Aid in Addressing Barriers to Learning" -- Designed as an aid in identifying sources and understanding strategies related to financing reforms.

"Evaluation and Accountability: Getting Credit for All You Do" -- Emphasizes evaluation as a tool to improve quality and to document outcomes. Focuses on measuring impact on students, families and communities, and programs and systems

"Collaborative Teams, Cross-Disciplinary Training and Interprofessional Education" -- Outlines models and guidelines for collaborative school-based teams and interprofessional education programs.

PROGRAM/PROCESS CONCERNS

"Violence Prevention and Safe Schools" -- Outlines selected violence prevention curricula and school programs and school-community partnerships for safe schools. Emphasizes both policy and practice.

"Least Intervention Needed: Toward Appropriate Inclusion of Students with Special Needs" -- Highlights the principle of least intervention needed and its relationship to the concept of least restrictive environment. Approaches for including students with disabilities in regular programs are described.

"Parent and Home Involvement in Schools" -- Provides an overview of how home involvement is conceptualized and outlines current models and basic resources. Issues of special interest to minority families are addressed.

PSYCHOSOCIAL PROBLEMS

"Dropout Prevention" -- Highlights intervention recommendations and model programs, as well as discussing the motivational underpinnings of the problem.

"Learning Problems and Learning Disabilities" -- Identifies learning disabilities as one group of learning problems, and outlines approaches that address the full range of learning problems.

"Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Support" -- Covers model programs and resources and offers an overview framework for devising policy and practice.

All Introductory Packets and other resource materials are available from our Center Clearinghouse. Fees are charged only to cover the cost of copying and mailing of some materials. For example, the fee to cover each Introductory Packets is \$3.

Email: smhp@ucla.edu
Phone: (310) 825-3634 FAX: (310) 206-8716
Write: Center for Mental Health in Schools
 Dept. of Psychology, UCLA,
 Los Angeles, CA 90095-1563

PARENT: Well, Jimmy, how do you like school:

JIMMY: CLOSED!!!

NEWS FROM OUR SISTER CENTER

The Center for School Mental Health Assistance (CSMHA) at the University of Maryland at Baltimore, Department of Psychiatry, is a national training and technical assistance center designed to promote the expansion and improvement of mental health services for school-aged children and youth.

The CSMHA is directed by Mark Weist, Ph.D. and co-directed by Bernice Rosenthal, M.PH. Marcia Glass-Siegel, MSS, LCSW-C is the Program Coordinator.

CSMHA is getting ready to send out the Winter, 1996 edition of their newsletter "On The Move." This issue covers the results of their needs assessment survey which documented the need for school mental health services, provides an overview of the First National Conference on Advancing School-Based Mental Health Services, held in Baltimore, MD, and talks about a new program they are initiating to formally recognize the many successful models of school-based mental health services. If you aren't already on their mailing list and want to be, contact

CENTER FOR SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE
University of Maryland at Baltimore
Department of Psychiatry
680 West Lexington Street, 10th flr.
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-1570
(888)706-0980/csmha@csmha.ab.umd.edu
<http://csmha.ab.umd.edu/>

The CSMHA (as is our center) is supported by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Office of Adolescent Health, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

ELECTRONIC NETWORKING:

I. Teaching Exceptional Children (TEC), a journal published by the Council of Exceptional Children (CEC) contains lively and informative articles about practice, programs, and policies related to special education. CEC in collaboration with the federally-funded project, The National Center to

Improve Practice (NCIP), have introduced TEC Author Online. The Author Online allows readers to ask authors to clarify a point, elaborate further, or give other examples.

They can be reached at <http://www.edc.org/FSC/NCIP>

II. The Human Development and Family Life Education Resource Center has an electronic bulletin that focuses on some issues facing fathers and the professionals who serve them. The bulletin can be accessed by email or through their website. The website has copies of specific articles that can be viewed or printed.

They can be reached at <http://www.hec.ohio-state.edu/famlife/index.htm>

III. You can also link to it and other mental health related sites from our website <http://www.lifesci.ucla.edu/psych/mh/> (If you haven't visited our site lately, click on What's New -- we add material every couple of weeks.

If you have favorite sites you think others would be interested in, let us know.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

The Division for Early Childhood is holding its 12th Annual Conference on December 8th - 11th in Phoenix, AZ. The conference is open to parents, educators, and other individuals meeting the needs of young children. For more information, contact: Linda Frederick (linda.frederick@uchsc.edu) DEC Executive Office, (303) 620-4579

Alternatives to Expulsion, Suspension, and Dropping Out of School, is the topic of a national conference sponsored by a group of community, social service, and educational organizations. The conference will be held January 16-18, 1997 in Orlando, Florida and will address the problems created by students considered delinquent, violent or dangerous, and what can be done. For more information, call (800) 537-4903.

=====

THIS IS THE END OF THIS ISSUE OF ENEWS! Below is a brief description of our Center and how to contact us.

WHO ARE WE?

Under the auspices of the School Mental Health Project in the Department of Psychology at UCLA, we have established a Center for Mental Health in Schools. The Project and Center are co-directed by Howard Adelman and Linda Taylor.

Our group at UCLA approaches mental health and psychosocial concerns from the broad perspective of addressing barriers to learning and promoting healthy development. Specific attention is given policies and strategies that can counter fragmentation and enhance collaboration between school and community programs.

We are involved in model development and implementation, training and technical assistance, and policy analysis. Our activities include gathering and disseminating information, materials development, direct assistance, and facilitating networking and exchanges of ideas.

Don't forget to visit our web site at:

<http://www.lifesci.ucla.edu/psych/mh/>

And let us know what you think we should add (or if you are having trouble accessing it).

To post messages to ENEWS, email them to: smhp@ucla.edu

To subscribe to ENEWS, send an email request to:

maiser@bulletin.psych.ucla.edu

leave the subject line blank, and in the body of the message type:

subscribe mentalhealth

you will automatically be added to the mailing list.

To remove your name from the mailing list type:

unsubscribe mentalhealth

For more information about the Center or about ENEWS contact Perry Nelson,
Judy Onghai, Howard Adelman, or Linda Taylor at

UCLA School Mental Health Project/

Center for Mental Health in Schools

Voice: (310) 825-3634

Fax: (310) 206-5895

email: smhp@ucla.edu

Web page: <http://www.lifesci.ucla.edu/psych/mh/>

Write: School Mental Health Project/Center for Mental Health in Schools

Dept. of Psychology, UCLA

Los Angeles, CA 90095-1563.

=====

UCLA School Mental Health Project

Center for Mental Health in Schools

Los Angeles, CA 90095-1593

Voice: (310) 825-3634

Fax: (310) 206-5895

email: smhp@ucla.edu

Web page: <http://www.lifesci.ucla.edu/psych/mh/>