

The Ohio Mental Health Network for School Success (OMHNSS) and Effective Practice Integration Council (EPIC) are partnering to help Ohio's schools, community-based agencies, and families work together to achieve improved educational and developmental outcomes for all children, especially those at emotional or behavioral risk and those with mental health problems. Through this partnership, the following new structural organization for the OMHNSS has been adopted.

The Ohio Departments of Mental Health and Education provide direction, offer support, and establish long-term goals for the Network. A steering committee, consisting of OMHNSS regional affiliates, EPIC Effective Practice Partners, and representatives from ODMH and ODE, is responsible for providing oversight for OMHNSS activities, defining objectives, serving as a liaison to state agencies, monitoring funding streams, and setting the OMHNSS agenda in conjunction with state agencies.

In addition to the ongoing regional work of OMHNSS, three Action Teams have been created to support the statewide work of OMHNSS. The Policy Development and Advocacy Action Team focuses on analysis, development, and implementation of policies that promote positive school climate. The Quality and Effective Practice Action Team is working to create a statewide registry of Effective School Mental Health Practices. The Systems Analysis and Change Action Team is working on a project to identify the current status of effective school mental health (SMH) programs and services in Ohio.

Additional information about the ongoing work of OMHNSS is available on the Network's website (<http://www.omhnss.org>), and further details about the work of the newly formed Action Teams can be found in this issue of the *Network News*.

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## Statewide Leadership

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## Quality and Effective Practice Action Team:

### Identifying Successful Strategies and Programs

Prepared by: Rochelle Rokusek, Miami University

The Quality and Effective Practice (QEP) Action Team is working to identify successful strategies and programs for meeting the academic and social-emotional needs of students. To achieve that goal, the QEP team is working to create an Effective Practice Registry for the state of Ohio. This registry will highlight schools and school-community partnerships that are demonstrating effective implementation of a program or strategy that is successfully addressing academic and/or social-emotional needs of students in their community.

Schools and school-community partnerships will apply to be on the registry. Information concerning the highlighted programs on the registry will include detailed information about the program, the resources necessary for successful implementation (financial resources, personnel resources, materials), and data to support the program's success. In addition, the registry will highlight successes in partnership development, as well as lessons learned and solutions for overcoming challenges in school mental health programming and evaluation.

One important goal of the Effective Practice Registry is to provide examples of effective practices in context. The information provided by schools on the registry will inform others in the state of Ohio about how they work within their local community. Thus, rather than simply highlighting an evidence-based program, this registry seeks to acknowledge success and inform others about how programs are developed and implemented in practice settings.

Developing school-community partnerships to implement successful school mental health programs is a challenging and complex process. The registry will create a state-wide network that provides a forum for schools to learn from each other and obtain creative solutions that may provide benefit in their own community. It affords the opportunity for cross site information sharing and collaborative problem solving. The QEP action team is currently finalizing the application materials and will soon distribute the materials to schools throughout the state of Ohio. If you have an effective practice implemented in your school, you are encouraged to apply.

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goals of this project include assessing how schools and partnering boards and community providers are doing in developing, delivering, evaluating, and continuously improving effective SMH programs and services.

One of the strategies which will be used in this analysis is an inventory designed to assess the types and quality of mental health programs and services provided in schools. The Mental Health Planning and Evaluation Template (MHPET), developed by the National Assembly on School-Based Health Care and the Center for School Mental Health will form the core of the inventory. The MHPET evaluates activities and services in the area

The findings from this analysis will help to provide a reference point for next steps to promote effective SMH practice in schools

of school mental health across eight dimensions (operations; stakeholder involvement; staff and training; identification, referral and assessment; service delivery; school coordination and collaboration; community coordination and collaboration; and quality assessment and improvement). In addition, the inventory will ask about specific programs being utilized in the schools in the areas of bullying/violence prevention, substance abuse prevention, social and behavioral interventions, academic and classroom success, and suicide prevention. Planning is underway to develop a strategy for administering the inventory to selected school districts in Ohio this fall.

The findings from this analysis will help to provide a reference point for

## Systems Analysis and Change Action Team:

### Project to Identify Current Status of School Mental Health in Ohio

Prepared by: Noelle Duvall, Children's Resource Center

The OMHNSS Systems Analysis and Change Action Team (composed of representatives from mental health, education, universities, and families) is in the planning stage for an important project to identify the current status of effective school mental health (SMH) programs and services in Ohio. This will include a detailed inventory analysis of existing programs and services across Ohio, including assessment of attention to quality indicators that essential for effective practice. The

next steps to promote effective SMH practice in schools and will inform strategic planning for school mental health capacity building. This will contribute to a strategic move forward for Ohio in advancing effective practices to promote the interrelated mental health and academic success of students.

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## Policy Development and Advocacy Action Team

Prepared by: Ellen Abraham, NEAN  
Coordinator

The Policy Development and Advocacy (PDA) Action Team was first convened in 2006 as a network wide work group. Each Regional Action Team was asked to recruit no less than three participants, including representatives from education, community agencies, and families. The PDA work was affirmed by the OMHNSS planning process in July 2007 and was re-titled the PDA Action Team.

The mission of the PDA Action Team is to 'advocate for the development and implementation of policies that promote a positive school climate through expanded school based mental health services'. This Action Team seeks to support and develop policy initiatives and changes through education and public awareness that will support and improve children's mental health and ultimately enhance children's academic achievement. **The overall goal of this Action Team is to develop a statewide infrastructure to support and expand children's mental health service with a key focus on collaboration within schools.**

This Action Team works together by meeting in a central location two to three times a year along with working telephone conference calls as needed.

At its first meeting of the 2007 - 2008 year, the Action Team discussed three goals and developed its work agenda.

The **3** goals are:

1. Solidify PDA structure for action within OMHNSS (reviewing and communicating on policy initiatives and changes that promote school mental health);
2. Build collaboration capacity for advocacy within the state, beyond the Network and;
3. Increase understanding and support for expanded school based mental health services.

Ellen Abraham, Coordinator of the North East Action Network (NEANABRAHAM@CS.COM) and Kay Rietz, Assistant Deputy Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health, Office of Children's Services and Prevention, (RietzK@mh.state.oh.us), Co- Chair this Action Team; feel free to contact them for additional information.

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## Schools to Update Anti-Harassment, Anti-Intimidation or Anti-Bullying Policies by December 30, 2007

Prepared by: Todd E. Barnhouse, Ohio Department of Education

As a result of legislative requirements included in Amended House Bill 276 of the 126th Ohio General Assembly, by December 30, 2007 boards of education for each city, local, exempted village and joint vocational school must establish a policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation or bullying. In order to assist schools in meeting the requirements of House Bill 276, the State Board of Education adopted a model policy at their July 10, 2007 board meeting. The model policy includes the requirements of House Bill 276, such as the development of procedures for students, parents or guardians to report prohibited incidents to teachers and school administrators, as well as reporting the number of incidents to the president of each district board semiannually. Ohio's model policy also includes intervention strategies for discipline and for

protecting victims of the prohibited incidence. The Ohio Department of Education, in partnership with the Ohio Attorney General's Office, the Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management, and the Ohio Department of Mental Health developed the model policy on anti-harassment, anti-intimidation or anti-bullying. These agencies will be working with Ohio's schools over the next couple months, by offering training and technical assistance to schools to assist in their development of policies, in order to meet the December 30, 2007 implementation deadline. Ohio's model policy and available resources are available on the Ohio Department of Education website – <http://www.ode.state.oh.us>, or by calling (800) 808-6325/(614) 466-2945.

## Upcoming: Trainings and Forums

### Warren and Clinton County School-Based Behavioral Health Forums

“All Students Will Succeed in School”

This frequent mantra may seem as though it is a lofty, unattainable goal, particularly in a world where school success hinges on multiple variables, many of which being out of the control of the educational system. Increasing regulatory and performance expectations being placed upon schools have further added to the everyday stressors and demands.

To create partnerships and assist schools in meeting behavioral health needs of students, two forums will be held in November. School administrators and personnel will meet with mental health and social service staff to discuss ways in which they can join forces to maximize services to students. These discussions will be facilitated by staff from Miami University’s Center for School-Based Mental Health Programs and hopefully lead to a transformation of the school-based services provided in Warren and Clinton County. Newly created partnerships and strategic planning begin a foundation for the exploration of grant opportunities to further expand school-based services as well.

The Clinton County forum will be held on Friday,

November 2, 2007, 9-11:30 a.m. at the Clinton County Annex Building, 111 S. Nelson Avenue, Wilmington. The Warren County forum will be held on Friday, November 9, 2007, 8:30-11 a.m. at the Der Dutchman Restaurant, 230 N. US Route 42, Waynesville.

These forums are being hosted by Mental Health Recovery Services of Warren and Clinton Counties in collaboration with the Family and Children First Councils located in Warren and Clinton Counties.

For further information about these forums, contact Patti Ahting, Director of Clinical Services at Mental Health Recovery Services of Warren and Clinton Counties at 513-695-1730 or [pahting@mhrswcc.org](mailto:pahting@mhrswcc.org).

### A Clear Vision: Improving Health Care for Ohio’s Children: Ohio School Based Health Care Association’s (OSBHCA) Fall Meeting

Save the Date! On Friday, November 9, 2007, members of the Ohio School Based Health Care Association (OSBHCA) will host their Fall Annual Meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Columbus Health Department.

Session topics include working with parents and students, promoting self esteem in students, and basics of eye health management among many others.

For more information, go to [www.osbha.org](http://www.osbha.org).



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