

OMHNSS Co-sponsors the 10th Annual Conference on Advancing School-Based Mental Health

Kay Rietz, Ohio Department of Mental Health &
Carl E. Paternite, Ohio Mental Health Network for School Success

The Ohio Mental Health Network for School Success (OMHNSS) is pleased to join the IDEA Partnership (www.ideapartnership.org) and the Center for School Mental Health Analysis and Action (CSMHA, <http://csmha.umaryland.edu>) in co-sponsoring the CSMHA's 10th Annual Conference on Advancing School-Based Mental Health.

OMHNSS is funded collaboratively by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and is led by the Center for School-Based Mental Health Programs at Miami University. The mission of OMHNSS is to help Ohio's school districts, 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 statewide and regional initiatives OMHNSS is working to build and expand effective collaboration across education, mental health and family serving organizations in developing a shared agenda for children's well-being and school success. Six regional affiliates of OMHNSS oversee and facilitate within region action networks of individuals and organizations representing a diverse set of stakeholders, all invested in promoting effective policies and practices. Further information about OMHNSS, including the Network action agenda, and copies of past issues of Network News are available at www.units.muohio.edu/csmbhp/network.

Participation in the annual CSMHA national conferences over the past 10 years has both informed and inspired Ohio's policy makers and practitioners toward commitment to state-of-the-art approaches

for addressing the critical links between mental health and school success—through effective mental health promotion, early intervention and treatment services. Opportunities to learn and network with committed stakeholders from across the U.S., and with national and international leaders in the school mental health and education fields, have been invaluable in shaping our efforts. Thus, it is an honor to co-sponsor and host the 10th annual conference in Cleveland—The City that Rocks!

This current issue of Network News is being distributed not only to our regular recipients, but also to each participant at the 10th annual conference. If you are reading the newsletter for the first time and would like to be added to the distribution list please let us know (wilmsab@muohio.edu). In this issue of Network News we provide updates on several exciting Ohio-based initiatives, each introduced in a previous issue of the newsletter.

Contents

| | |
|--|-----|
| Shared Agenda..... | 2 |
| Access to Better Care..... | 2 |
| Community Collaboration Model..... | 2-3 |
| Olweus Bullying Prevention Program | 3-4 |
| Post-Hurricane Resources..... | 4 |

Statewide Leadership

Center for School-Based Mental Health Programs (CSBMHP) at Miami University
Carl E. Paternite, CSBMHP Director
Department of Psychology, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio 45056
Phone: 513.529.2416 * E-mail: paternce@muohio.edu

Regional Contacts

Central (COAN)

Linda Maxwell, School-Based Team Leader
Children's Hospital Behavioral Health
Columbus, Ohio
Phone: 614.221.9922
E-mail: maxwell@chi.osu.edu

Northeast (NEAN)

Ellen Abraham, School Mental Health Consultant
Lakewood City Schools
Cleveland, Ohio
Phone: 216.351.3271
E-mail: neanabraham@cs.com

North Central (NCAN)

Kathleen Oberlin, Program Director
Heartland Behavioral Healthcare
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio
Phone: 330.923.7545
E-mail: oberlink@mh.state.oh.us

Northwest (NWAN)

Noelle Duvall, School-Based Services Program Manager
Children's Resource Center
Bowling Green, Ohio
Phone: 419.352.7588
E-mail: noelled@crc.wcnet.org

Southeast (SEAN)

Dave Tener, Executive Director
Woodland Centers, Inc.
Gallipolis, Ohio
Phone: 740.441.4451
E-mail: dtener@woodlandcenters.org

Southwest (SWAN)

Paul D. Flaspohler, Assistant Professor
Center for School-Based Mental Health Programs, Department of Psychology
Miami University
Oxford, Ohio
Phone: 513.529.2469
E-mail: flaspod@muohio.edu

Ohio's Shared Agenda Initiative— Collaboration with the IDEA Partnership

Since its inception in 2002, Ohio's Families—Mental Health—Education Shared Agenda Initiative, which has been coordinated by the Ohio Mental Health Network for School Success (OMHNSS), has evolved through five phases: I) A statewide forum for leaders of mental health, education and family policymaking entities in March 2003; II) Six regional forums held for policy implementers and consumer stakeholders in April and May 2003; III) A legislative forum involving key leadership of relevant house and senate committees in October 2003; IV) Development and dissemination of a Shared Agenda report in 2004, detailing specific recommendations for implementation of a statewide families—mental health—education Shared Agenda, based on the finding derived from Phases I-III; and V) Ongoing policy/funding advocacy and technical assistance to promote and implement the Shared Agenda action plan. A website exists to track progress to date and to publicize the initiative (www.units.muohio.edu/csbmhp/sharedagenda.html). Phases I-IV of the Shared Agenda work were funded in part by a grant awarded to Ohio from the Policymaker Partnership (now the IDEA Partnership, www.ideapartnership.org) at the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE).

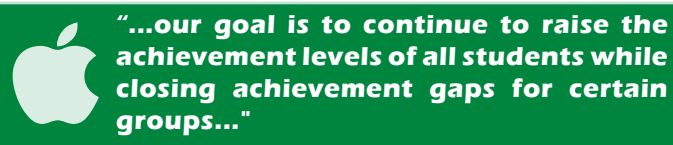
Recently OMHNSS was awarded an additional Shared Agenda grant from the IDEA Partnership. This new phase of work will involve assisting the Ohio Department of Education to identify and invite stakeholder groups into a dialogue around children's mental health issues with explicit focus on the interrelationships between effective school mental health practices and Positive Behavior Support (PBS) programming in Ohio's schools. Key activities include: a) development, field testing, and dissemination of a guidance document for diverse community-based and school-based stakeholder partners; and b) development and field testing of materials to assist PBS trainers in building effective cross-stakeholder engagement and collaboration in PBS implementation. Through its ongoing collaboration with the IDEA Partnership, Ohio is involved with eight other states implementing shared agenda initiatives, in a cross-state community of practice on school mental health. Products, outcomes, and lessons learned can be tracked on the OMHNSS and IDEA Partnership websites.

Access to Better Care Initiative: Competitive Grant Opportunity

Cheryl Kish, Ohio Department of Education
Mary Lou Rush, The Ohio State University, Center for Learning Excellence

The Access to Better Care (ABC) is an Ohio Family and Children First (OFCF) Initiative to improve access to behavioral healthcare for children and families, supporting outcome-based, family centered programs and services. In the development of ABC strategies, schools are recognized as a primary access point of engagement with children and youth to address their academic and behavioral health needs. The purpose of the School-Community Partnership grant is to build the capacity of schools and local partners to promote school-wide prevention and intervention services.

Although student achievement is at an all-time high in Ohio,



and standards-based education has been the foundation for this improvement over the past five years, our goal is to continue to raise the achievement levels of all students while closing achievement gaps for certain groups – especially minority students, those from low-income backgrounds and students with disabilities.

To attain high achievement for all students, we believe schools need to strengthen and expand evidence-based school-wide prevention efforts to promote competence and prevent problem behavior, target early intervention for students in need, and identify and provide individual treatment for students experiencing significant problems.

We also believe that it is necessary to have a formal program and process in each building grounded in a common language and method of problem solving; that the process must be multidisciplinary in nature to cover the range of possible explanations and interventions to help referred students; and that the range of expertise needed for specific students may lie outside the school walls and within the community.

The majority of schools have traditional intervention assistance teams staffed with school personnel that are appropriate for most students. By expanding that team to include community-based partners, the range of expertise and options for services will be enhanced for students with significant barriers to learning.

The notification of a competitive grant application is expected to be released before the end of this calendar year. School districts in academic watch, academic emergency or continuous improvement are eligible to apply. Applicants will need to submit evidence of support at the highest level of policy and administration at the school and community level, need for professional development, readiness to change, and commitment at the building level to implementing a new way of doing business to develop effective school and community partnerships.

For more information about ABC, please contact Dr. Mary Lou Rush (Rush.127@osu.edu).

OCCMSI Moving Forward

Angela Ledgerwood, Miami University &
Amber Kwiatkowski, Ohio Department of Education

The Ohio Community Collaboration Model for School Improvement (OCCMSI) is a school reform framework that encourages consideration of both academic and non-academic barriers to achievement and well-being. The OCCMSI builds upon existing school improvement efforts by developing strategic partnerships among schools and community stakeholders to address achievement gaps, disproportionality, school climate and/or other conditions that affect

New District Pilots

- 🍏 Cleveland Heights/University Heights City Schools
- 🍏 Fostoria Community Schools
- 🍏 Maysville Local Schools
- 🍏 New Lexington City Schools
- 🍏 Oak Hill Union Local Schools
- 🍏 Wellston City Schools

Original Pilot Schools

- 🍏 Elmwood Place Elementary School in St. Bernard-Elmwood Place City Schools
- 🍏 Freedom Elementary in Lima City Schools
- 🍏 Hannan Trace Elementary School in Gallia County Local Schools
- 🍏 Johnsville Elementary School in Northmor Local Schools
- 🍏 The Opportunity School in Wooster City Schools
- 🍏 Robert Fulton Elementary School in Cleveland Municipal Schools

learning while building in evaluation and feedback for continuous improvement.

Throughout the last school year, six pilot schools identified their top barriers to students' academic success; performed needs and resources assessments; gathered information from various stakeholders including parents, teachers, and students; and began work towards eliminating their identified barriers. In the second year, these six schools will continue their work in eliminating barriers to academic achievement and forming strategic commu-

nity partnerships with an emphasis on sustainability and continuous evaluation and feedback.

A new phase of the OCCMSI began on September 16th, 2005, with the kickoff of six district pilots. In addition to the OCCMSI process, the district pilots are working to enhance coordination, communication, and collaboration with the Regional School Improvement Team (RSIT) infrastructure of the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). RSITs are the deployment arm of ODE, and therefore lessons learned within the OCCMSI pilot sites will be shared with RSIT coaches in order to enhance training, technical assistance, and professional development opportunities related to "getting the conditions right for learning" for schools and districts across Ohio.

In recognition of the innovative work done thus far and in support of the district pilots, the OCCMSI, through the Ohio Department of Education, has been awarded one of twenty U.S. Department of Education Grants for the Integration of Schools and Mental Health Systems. These grants are awarded to State Education Agencies (SEAs), Local Education Agencies (LEAs), or Indian tribes that increase student access to high-quality mental health care through the development of novel approaches that link school systems with local mental health systems.

Under the leadership of Dawn Anderson-Butcher, an interdisciplinary team from Ohio State University, Miami University (Ohio), and SUNY Albany designed, developed, and are implementing this pilot project with support from ODE through the Center for Students, Families, and Communities and its Office of Safety, Health, and Nutrition. For more information on OCCMSI, please contact Amber Kwiatkowski at the Ohio Department of Education (amber.kwiatkowski@ode.state.oh.us or 614-466-9540).



OCCMSI Members of Elmwood Place Elementary School Improvement Team

OBPP Olweus Bullying Prevention Program Update

Jennifer Elfstrom, Karin Vanderzee, and Holli Sink, Center for School-Based Mental Health Programs, Miami University

The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP) aims to reduce victim/bully problems among primary and secondary school students. Through interventions at the individual, classroom, school, and community levels this best-practice program raises awareness and knowledge about bullying. The program aims to establish a safe school environment that does not support bullying behavior.

Through braided OMHNSS, state, and local funding, the Southwest Action Network (SWAN) of the Ohio Mental Health Network for School Success has supported implementation of the OBPP since 2004. Under the leadership of Noelle Duvall, Ph.D., the Northwest Action Network (NWAN) will support a similar effort this fall with a goal of program implementation in January.

In the SWAN, nine schools are in various stages of implementing OBPP. In the first stage, teachers, staff, administrators and parents form a committee. Members of the committee then attend a two-day training conducted by nationally certified OBPP trainers. Nationally certified Olweus trainers, Paulie Velotta and Destrie Larrabee, have trained committees from nine schools in four districts in Southwest Ohio (Talawanda, Edgewood, St. Bernard-Elmwood Place, and Lockland).

All these schools administered the Olweus Bully/Victim Questionnaire to determine the prevalence of bullying in their schools.

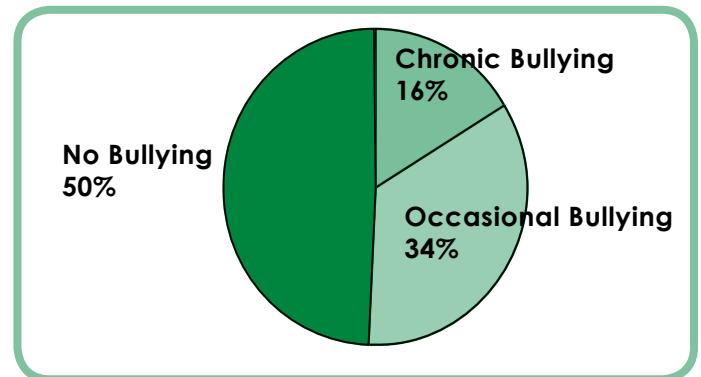


Figure 1. Bullying experience of 1,946 students at 9 schools in Southwest Ohio

Across these schools, 50% of the students reported that they had been bullied at least once (see figure 1). Three hundred twenty-one (321) students reported chronic bullying (bullied once a week or more). The rates of bullying were similar in each school.

Armed with data that showed bullying is a problem in their school, five schools held school-wide trainings to educate their staff. Two schools have held kick-off events to engage students in the program. Most schools are using elements of OBPP including holding weekly classroom meetings and posting anti-bullying rules.

Under the leadership of Paul Flaspohler Ph.D., Miami University's Center for School Based Mental Health Programs (CSBMHP) provides schools with additional support to build and sustain momentum,

Continued on back

OBPP Schools

- 🍏 Babeck Elementary
- 🍏 Bloomfield Elementary
- 🍏 Elmwood Place Elementary
- 🍏 Kramer Elementary
- 🍏 Lockland Elementary
- 🍏 Marshall Elementary
- 🍏 Seven Mile Elementary
- 🍏 St. Bernard Elementary
- 🍏 St. Bernard-Elmwood Place Junior High

assist implementation, and monitor progress. CSBMHP is able to draw upon the collective experiences of multiple schools, sharing lessons learned and strategies for success across schools.

Through OBPP involvement, CSBMHP is studying how to support implementation of best-practice programs.

For more information about OBPP, please contact Paul Flaspohler (flaspod@muohio.edu or 513-529-1721).

Post-Hurricane Support and Response Resources

Melissa A. Maras & Christopher J. Reiger, Center for School-Based Mental Health Programs, Miami University

The tragic consequences of the recent hurricanes remind us all not only of the challenges we face in efforts to help our fellow citizens cope with disaster, but also the central role of schools in the day to day lives of children and families. During the days and weeks following the recent hurricanes, extensive support information about traumatic stress and coping has been released by various mental health and education organizations. This information is intended to assist community organizations, schools, families, and direct mental health service providers in addressing the needs of children and families locally and around the country. While immediate relief efforts have been initiated, long-term supports will be important in the coming months. Graduate assistants at the Miami University Center for School-Based Mental Health Programs (CSBMHP) have reviewed many of the available materials and compiled a short list of recommended web links and resources, which are posted on the CSBMHP website and updated regularly (www.units.muohio.edu/csbmhp). This information is pertinent not only to the current disaster, but also to increasing our preparedness for future crises.

Published by:
Center for School-Based Mental Health Programs
Department of Psychology
Miami University
Oxford, OH 45056

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MIAMI UNIVERSITY