

Participants: Brenda Reddick, Tracy, Matthew White, Connie Funk, Kim Shattuck, Beth

Q1: Roles and functions of mental health staff, how do you define them?

- Brenda Reddick: MH counselors – There are 2 positions in our urban middle school: MH case manager (social worker) and MH therapist.
 - Screening: We met with the school guidance counselor about what their role was prior to the grant. There was some relationship building in the beginning and fears of turf issues, but there was enough work to be done that that was no longer an issue.
 - Guidance counselors primarily act as academic counselors. Guidance counselors made referrals to the program. They increased their trust so they didn't need/want the role anymore.
 - Put framework in place so referrals didn't go through them. Referrals are interchangeable.
 - Deferring children to certain counselors per area of expertise. Collaborated to find strengths and gaps and came up with a system to separate out work based on problems/expertise.
- The program was not sustainable. No resources in the building anymore. Could have been sustainable if the resources were remained.
- Kim Shattuck: We're continuing services in our extension year due to Medicaid funding in FL.

Q3 Buy-in?

- Kim: We had a little difficult due to the fact that we have a tight knit community. It took a year and a half to get principals involved.
- One of the hardest things was confidentiality. Reminders were sent in emails about confidentiality.
- A system was set in place for referrals. They go through the SSSH office in a secured envelope. Teachers are instructed not to converse about it.
- Really using the process now.
- Matthew White: Hardest part was buy-in was due to the area and stigma of MH.
 - It's about 50% buy-in now after parent/teacher meetings.
 - Had to hire private MH provider to work along with the community based provider so that people in the community don't know what's going on: there are 11,000 people in county, 1,500 in school.
 - Cannot have private sessions in schools due to confidentiality issues.

Home visits:

- Amy Stewart: The leading cause of death of social workers is home visits. I designed guidelines for that, and we use the buddy system of when they are expected to return. Redundant systems to make sure they're safe.