



National Center for Mental Health Promotion and Youth Violence Prevention

Project Director Consortia Conference

Loews Lake Las Vegas Resort  
Henderson, NV

March 16–17, 2010

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**SESSION DESCRIPTIONS: DAY 1, TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2010**

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**Leadership for Change Virtual Event**  
**10:30–11:45**  
**Sue Vargo (TAS)**

**Room: Kenitra A**

The 08 cohort is currently working through Leadership for Change (LFC) webinars and team work sessions. Many sites have reported exciting changes in how partners are participating. Come to this peer discussion about what is happening with your team and where LFC sessions may lead.

**Going Deeper Into CLC**  
**10:30–11:45**

**Room: Kenitra B**

**Ken Martinez (American Institutes for Research) and Gwen Willis-Darpoh (Technical Assistance Specialist [TAS])**

This informal session is a followup to the cultural and linguistic competence (CLC) plenary and provides an opportunity to explore CLC in more detail. PDs are encouraged to share their insights, successes, and challenges in trying to do this work at their respective sites.

**The Integration of SS/HS With District Mission**  
**10:30–11:45**

**Room: Rabat**

**Laurel Bear (Alhambra, CA) and Jack Campana (TAS)**

SS/HS is not a separate or isolated project but integral for a district to fulfill its mission to raise the level of academic achievement. This interactive session will discuss how the Alhambra SS/HS site accomplished integration within its second year of implementation.

Concrete examples will show how the superintendent, school board, and principals—through practice and policy—have integrated SS/HS. Discussion also will include how integration has contributed to sustainability and community involvement.

**The Contribution of the PD and CMT to Successful Outcomes of the SS/HS Initiative  
10:30–11:45**

**Room: Fez**

**Rosemary Kooy (Lewiston, ME), Christina Mann (Eudora, KS), and Jennifer Kitson (TAS)**

This session highlights effective structure and functions of Core Management Teams (CMTs), with the PD successfully serving in a pivotal position while being fully supported by the partners that jointly lead the CMT. Learn from the PDs of Lewiston, ME, and Eudora, KS, as they illustrate strengths and successes of utilizing the CMT to create procedures resulting in productive meetings and action from all members; shared ownership, decisionmaking, and negotiation among all partners; facilitated meetings that focus on problemsolving and action planning; infrastructure for addressing culturally competent practices; and communications among the partners with their respective agencies.

**Community Advisory Boards: Another Voice in Your SS/HS Initiative  
1:00–2:15**

**Room: Kenitra A**

**Cathy Lounsbury (Sanford, ME), Sharon Velarde (Carpinteria, CA), and Lauren Gilman (TAS)**

An advisory council or community advisory board can serve a number of functions, distinct from the role of the CMT. In Carpinteria, CA, they have involved key community leaders on their advisory board to provide feedback and insights to the CMT. In Sanford, ME, a series of focus groups led to the formation of several working subcommittees that address important issues in the community. During this session, participants will be invited to discuss these and other possible structures, functions, and roles of their advisory boards/committees.

**Addressing Suicide Prevention  
1:00–2:15**

**Room: Kenitra B**

**Princella Learry (Schenectady, NY), Patsy Hawk (Todd County, SD), and Mary Thorngren (TAS)**

Schools and their community partners have key roles to play in preventing suicides. Come join a dialog about how SS/HS initiatives have addressed this important issue. Ms. Learry will provide information on how their school district has implemented successful strategies and practices to address suicide prevention. Ms. Hawk will discuss their partnership with health, the Indian Health Service's Division of Behavioral Health, and the Wiconi Wakan Health and Healing Center to improve referrals and placement for aftercare and services.

**Early Childhood: Sharing Strategies That Work**

**Room: Rabat**

**1:00–2:15**

**Suzanne Masland (Caledonia, VT), Brenda Hummel (Austin, TX), and Steve Shuman (Project LAUNCH TAS)**

This interactive session showcases best practices in promoting positive mental health in children ages birth through 8 years and possibly preventing the need for interventions later in life. PDs will share successful strategies for implementing this element. In addition, participants will learn about Project LAUNCH and how programs can benefit from this unique collaboration.

**Can This Relationship Be Saved? OR What To Do When Things Aren't Working With Your Local Evaluator**

**Room: Fez**

**1:00–2:15**

**Sandy Mathewson (Vancouver, WA), Lindsey Drasin (Waterford, MI), Brad Linville (Osceola, FL), and Barb Zandlo Hutchinson (TAS)**

During the SS/HS grant years, one of the closest relationships a PD has is the one with the local evaluator. It is not uncommon for this relationship to have its ups and downs, and some PDs find themselves wondering, "Can this relationship be saved?" Join us to hear what three PDs did when faced with this situation and for a discussion about what to do when things just aren't working with your local evaluator.

**Implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)**

**Room: Kenitra A**

**2:15–3:30**

**Paula Van Every (Jackson, MS), DeAna Byrd (Odenville, AL), and Sandy Keenan (TAS)**

This session will provide PDs with an overall review of PBIS and the strategies for the implementation of PBIS in your school district. Two SS/HS sites will share their experiences in integrating this school climate model into the district initiative. Lessons learned will be shared, and a facilitated discussion will follow.

**Addressing Gang Prevention**

**Room: Kenitra B**

**2:15-3:30**

**Tita Gervers (Santa Fe, NM), Teresa Menchaca (Santa Maria Valley, CA), and Ivy Jones Turner (TAS)**

Are we developing a "gang" problem? During this session, PDs will have an opportunity to discuss what may indicate a gang issue and the strategies for grantee response. PDs from Santa Fe and Santa Maria Valley SS/HS sites will share their experiences, as small urban/rural communities, with assessing local gang conditions and developing a gang intervention. Participants will have an opportunity to dialog on their perceived gang issues and determine a strategy to understand and respond to the perceived gang presence in their own communities.

**SS/HS and Federal Funding Opportunities****Room: Rabat****2:15–3:30****Clara D’Agostino (East Whittier, CA) and Jack Campana (TAS)**

Don't wait to get to the end of the rainbow to find your pot of gold. Explore strategies to expand and sustain your SS/HS initiative now. Objectives for this session are to (1) learn how to build an effective grant writing team, (2) gain skills to determine if the funding is worth your grant writing efforts, and (3) learn how to identify appropriate funding sources to sustain vital services within your initiative.

**The Fine Art of Juggling: How the PD Can Manage Implementation, Leadership, Sustainability, (and Everything Else!)****Room: Fez****2:15–3:30****Cynthia Smith (Mount Vernon, IN), Ricky Hernandez (San Benito, TX), Nancy Kelly (TAS), and Kelly Wells (TAS)**

This insightful session will be led by two PDs. A 2008 PD will share her experience in leading a multicounty, multidistrict project, and a 2006 PD will discuss his experience over the past 4 years and how this has led to sustainability. All PDs are invited to participate and swap their strategies with others.

**Military Families: Impact on Children’s and Families’ Mental Health****Room: Kenitra A****3:45–5:00****Suzanne Masland (Caledonia, VT) and Nancy Macias-Smith (TAS)**

With the recent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, Americans have witnessed a sharp increase in the number of troops leaving their homes and families for deployment. Military deployment takes a toll, not only on service members but also on their families. We aim to provide information about the three stages—predeployment, deployment, and postdeployment—and introduce effective strategies and a list of available resources to support schools in understanding the effects of war on children. We also will present the experiences of two current SS/HS grantees that have experienced the effects of military deployments within their communities and school districts. Their stories discuss a variety of mental health strategies and practical approaches to help school personnel, administrators, and educators better understand the impact of war on the mental health and well-being of children and their families.

**Systems of Care and SS/HS: Points of Integration****Room: Kenitra B****3:45–5:00****Kristi Cole (Milwaukee, WI) and Sandy Keenan (TAS)**

This session will provide a framework and strategies for integrating education and mental health supports as part of a system of care (SOC) initiative. A model for the creation and support of a continuum of services, in which all students have access to an array of supports and services, will be highlighted. An SS/HS community that already had a well-established SOC will discuss the process of developing an “integration” plan for the two initiatives.

**What To Expect and How To Plan for the No-Cost Extension Year and Final Performance Report**

**Room: Rabat**

**3:45–5:00**

**Karen Dorsey (Federal Project Officer) and Kelly Wells (TAS)**

This session will review the basics of the no-cost extension (NCE) year and the final performance report and provide information to assist you with planning and budgeting from two perspectives. Federal SS/HS staff members will review requirements, expectations, and governing regulations, and a former SS/HS PD will share her NCE and close-out experience and provide some practical advice. Other topics include the NCE report, final reports, and preparing for close-out.

**Bullying Prevention Programs: Successes and Challenges**

**Room: Fez**

**3:45–5:00**

**Rod Green (Taylor County, GA), Laurel Bear (Alhambra, CA), and Nancy Kelly (TAS)**

This session will focus on PDs' experiences with making their bullying prevention programs work and be sustainable over time. The presenters will share what they have done to implement the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program and Steps To Respect at their sites, and how they have dealt with challenges. There will be time for Q&A and sharing from the rest of the participants about how bullying prevention is working (or not) at their sites.

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**SESSION DESCRIPTIONS: DAY 2, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2010**

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**Roundtable Discussions: Targeting Special Populations**

**Room: Kenitra A**

**9:15–10:30**

**Nancy Macias-Smith (TAS), Tim Dunn (TAS), and Nancy Kelly (TAS)**

At each of the three roundtables, participants will have the opportunity to discuss the needs and resources as well as successes and challenges with working with each of these populations. Nancy Macias-Smith (Immigrant), Tim Dunn (LGBTQ), and Nancy Kelly (Alternative Education) will facilitate a networking discussion among PDs who are working with these populations and will offer some potential resources.

**Promoting Youth Leadership**

**Room: Kenitra B**

**9:15–10:30**

**Cathy Lounsbury (Sanford, ME), Carol Wilson (Chugach, AK), and Lauren Gilman (TAS)**

This session will explore different ways SS/HS grantees engage young people as leaders in their schools and communities. In the Sanford, ME, Project AWARE, high school students take on all roles in the production of documentary films that explore the issues faced by teens in their community. These youth voices will be brought into the conversation through clips from their most recent video production. In the Chugach, AK, SS/HS Healthy Pathways Initiative, young people in rural communities are becoming empowered to be agents for change in their schools, tribes, and communities.

**Working With Students in the Juvenile Justice and Social Services Systems**

**Room: Rabat**

**9:15–10:30**

**Jenee Litrell-Cannon (Grossmont, CA), Terry Lawler (Hot Springs, AR), Jack Campana (TAS), and Matt Ryerson (TAS)**

This breakout session will discuss best practices and successful programs that provide support services to students who have found themselves in either the juvenile justice system or working with local social services programs (e.g., children’s services, foster care, child protective services, etc.).

**Mental Health Affinity Group**

**Room: Fez**

**9:15–10:30**

**Beth Freeman (TAS) and Kelly Wells (TAS)**

Work is More Fun When We Play Well Together: Learning How To Integrate School Mental Health Counselors With Other School Health Professionals. This interactive session will focus on integrating school mental health professionals with school health professionals (e.g., guidance counselors, social workers, psychologists, school nurses, and other social service providers) to develop comprehensive programs, coordinate service delivery efficiently, and decrease duplication of services. Resources, challenges, and successes will be shared by all cohorts. Playing well together is the key to “working smarter, not harder,” and to success in school mental health programs.

**Sustainability Issues around Evidence-Based Programs**

**Room: Kenitra A**

**10:45–12 noon**

**Alicia Couture (Pittsfield, MA) and Sue Vargo (TAS)**

A common activity for sites is the implementation of various evidence-based programs (EPBs), including classroom-based curricula, whole-school approaches to student behavior, and mental health treatment models. As sites move past initial implementation tasks, particularly when they approach no-cost, the challenges of sustaining these EBPs become more apparent. Hear about the successful strategies of one site and discuss with others the particular barriers and challenges you are facing in sustaining your EBPs.

**ATOD–Best Practices for Prevention and Early Intervention**

**Room: Kenitra B**

**10:45–12 noon**

**Rodney Fitzgerald (Bradley County, TN), Matt Yancey (Cobb County, GA), and Tim Dunn (TAS)**

This session will focus on a description of best practices for ATOD prevention and early intervention from a 2005 site, Bradley County, TN, which has sustained most of its best practices, and a 2008 site, Cobb County, GA (an Atlanta suburb), that is in the process of implementing a number of best practices and policies. After a brief description of each program, half of the session will be devoted to discussing other best practices and some common, national themes, including co-occurring disorders, prescription drug abuse, and provision of alcohol to minors from a legal perspective. You are invited to hear about these best practices and network among colleagues on this important issue.

**Improving School Climate as a Road to Safe Schools and Healthy Students**

**Room: Rabat**

**10:45–12 noon**

**Todd Henderson (Asheboro, NC), Jodi Korzenowski (Duluth, MN), Barb Zandlo Hutchinson (TAS), and Deb Haber (Center Director)**

The findings of the 2004 Federal joint study on targeted violence in schools have increased our understanding of the relationship between school climate and school violence. We now know that the answer to school attacks is not simply bigger and better hardware. Safe schools do not build barricades; they create connections to foster climates of support and respect. This session will explore how SS/HS grantees can work to improve the school climate to create safer schools and healthier students.

**How Our SS/HS Initiative Strengthened Ties With Law Enforcement**

**Room: Fez**

**10:45–12:00**

**Chris Dandino (Rochester, NY), Alice Marie Stevens (Farmington, NM), Kristi Cole (Milwaukee, WI), and John Rosiak (TAS)**

Three PDs will present different stories of how they worked to strengthen ties with law enforcement. Ms. Dandino will talk about how this site engaged the City Police School Resource Officers (SROs) and School Safety Officers in youth-led training. Ms. Stevens will explain how her site addressed the differences between the cultures of education and law enforcement and implemented a wide-ranging SRO program that engages the community as well as the school. Ms. Cole will explain the steps her site took to bring law enforcement to the table with other community partners.

**Family Outreach/Family Engagement**

**Room: Kenitra A**

**2:45–4:00**

**Diane Eash (Lamont, CA), Chris Dandino (Rochester, NY), and Connie Constantine (TAS)**

Family involvement is a common challenge in many school communities. Family engagement can be particularly difficult when working with families and communities that may feel disenfranchised. Hear how the Lamont Elementary School District Parent Involvement Program skillfully created a strategic framework that targets school-parent-student support. Ms. Dandino will share her experience with family roundtables.

**Strategies To Develop Sustainable School Mental Health Programs**

**Room: Kenitra B**

**2:45–4:00**

**Janet Goodliffe (Rexburg, ID), Beth Freeman (TAS), and Kelly Wells (TAS)**

This session will provide PDs with an arena to discuss their approaches and challenges related to developing and sustaining school mental health programs. Participants will have an opportunity to obtain from other SS/HS projects an array of approaches, ideas, and tools that support development of a sustainability plan, including exploration of their own program development and service provision, funding options, and data collection as a tool toward sustainability.

**The 10 Key Questions PDs Need To Answer To Strengthen School/Community Security Plans**  
**2:45–4:00**

**Room: Rabat**

**Becky Sharpe (Lafayette, FL), Charlotte Bernard (Clinton, KY), Randy Evetts (Pueblo, CO), and John Rosiak (TAS)**

What are the 10 key questions PDs need to know about strengthening school/community security plans? Three PDs, one from each of the 2006, 2007, and 2008 cohort years, will answer these questions by sharing their perspectives and experiences in developing emergency management partnerships and security plans. Using a Q&A format, this session will address strategies for overcoming obstacles to engage the community and establish clear command; the roles of the school; how to handle training, tabletop drills, lockdowns, and debriefs; and how to promote the efforts in the community.

**Building Successful Outcomes and Sustainability Using the Program Implementation Framework**  
**and Tools**

**Room: Fez**

**2:45–4:00**

**Cynthia Wright (Chicago, IL) and Jennifer Kitson (TAS)**

Learn about the National Center framework and tools that can be helpful to support planning, implementation, and sustainability of EBPs and practices, based on the seminal literature addressing best practices in program selection and implementation. The Chicago PD will share how the framework helped them through the process, including the tools they used as they mapped the EBPs, reconsidered the implementation supports when the school district cut other staff resource infrastructure, and how they are using the framework in planning for sustainability.