



May 13-15, 2008  
New Orleans, LA

## Sustainability Working Meeting for SS/HS 06' Grantees

### SS/HS Staff Bios

**Stephanie Autumn, Technical Assistance Specialist**, has 25 years of experience in grant administration for urban and reservation American Indian tribes and community agencies in the areas of social services; housing and homelessness; criminal justice; and culturally-based education projects integrated within public and alternative schools. She has extensive experience working with school administrators, social workers and teachers to implement prevention programs that target truancy and educational neglect, violence prevention, substance abuse and culturally-based education strategies and services for American Indian students. For the past ten years, Autumn's professional work has concentrated on violence reduction/crime prevention and restorative justice strategies in rural and reservation communities. She has worked to create partnerships between court services, legislators, public defense, law enforcement, schools, and community based agencies and has testified before legislative committees and sub-committees on effective culturally-based services for incarcerated American Indian youth and adults in Minnesota and South Dakota. Ms. Autumn holds a B.S. in Elementary Education and is currently working on a Masters degree in Public Policy.

**Jack Campana, Technical Assistance Specialist**, serves as a Senior Scientist for EDC. In addition to his work with current SS/HS grantees, he provides technical assistance to three large urban school districts integrating school health programs in Boston, Broward County, Florida, and Chicago through the Coordinated School Health Infrastructure Project, a grant from CDC's Division of School Health. Mr. Campana brings to EDC a decade-long career as the Director of Health Services for the San Diego Unified School District, where he was responsible for administering its Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant. Mr. Campana has also provided technical assistance to schools across California as Chair of the State of California Healthy Families Advisory Board and as a member of both the California Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board and the Board of Directors for the San Diego Health Partners. In addition, he has provided technical assistance to 19 urban school districts in HIV Education and Coordinated School Health Education for CDC's Division of Adolescent and School Health.

**Tim Dunn, Team Leader**, is the associate director of the Center for School and Community Health Programs at Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC). Mr. Dunn has been responsible for the oversight and management of a number of Federal projects, involving 20 staff who implement \$2.265 million dollars of Federal funding. He has been interim project director and part of the core training team of the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program's National Training and Technical Assistance Center for Middle School Substance Prevention and School Safety Coordinators, which has trained 900 coordinators and provided them with online continuing education and technical assistance in the area of evidence-based substance abuse and violence prevention intervention and leadership skills. With a background in school-based mental health services as the director of student service for the Massachusetts Department of Education and a certified school psychologist, Mr. Dunn has also managed the Making Health Academic project, which is attempting to disseminate a coordinated school health program to states and local school districts.

**Deborah Haber, Center Director**, has extensive experience in managing national technical assistance centers, designing training programs for practitioners to implement evidence-based programs, and developing creative training seminars and materials on issues of health, mental health, and violence prevention for youth. Ms. Haber brings 10 years of experience leading a major national training and technical assistance center, The National Training Partnership (NTP), for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As NTP director, she designed and delivered technical assistance (TA) services to every state department of education in the country and 18 of the largest urban districts. Services aimed to strengthen the capacity of school and community-based agencies to implement CDC's "Programs that Work", one of the first initiatives to translate research into practice. As director of curriculum development and training and TA for the Reach for Health project, funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Ms. Haber worked with multiple stakeholders to adapt and implement a research-based health risk behavior curriculum to meet the needs of 3,600 students in three Brooklyn middle schools. Ms. Haber has provided training and TA to local school communities, state agencies, and national organizations. Ms. Haber worked with Dr. Ron Slaby to train school, community, and law enforcement practitioners to adapt *Aggressors, Victims, and Bystanders*, EDC's nationally recognized violence prevention curriculum, for use in their communities. Ms. Haber holds masters of education in health from Boston University.

**Nancy Kelly, Technical Assistance Specialist**, is a Research Analyst with American Institutes for Research. In this capacity she provides technical assistance to SS/HS grantees. As a former project director for a SS/HS 2001 site and with over ten years of experience in special education program development, assessment, and behavior modification, Ms. Kelly brings extensive practical experience to her technical assistance activities. She has worked under Dr. Romanczyk in the field of Applied Behavior Analysis. In addition, Ms. Kelly has been an adjunct professor and lecturer in the departments of psychology and education at Mohawk Community College, SUNY New Paltz, and Hamilton College for several years and has authored a column on International Special Education Topics for DISES for four years. Ms. Kelly has a B.S. in Occupational Education, a M.S. Ed in Special Education and a School District Administrator's certification.

**John Rosiak, Technical Assistance Specialist**, for the Federal Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative, has a broad background in drug, crime, and violence prevention, working in a variety of education and communications positions for nearly 30 years. His experience includes directing drug abuse, crime, and violence prevention programs on the local, national, and international level. John has created and managed technical assistance efforts, material development and dissemination projects; and outreach and communications campaigns. As a TAS for SS/HS John assists school/community partnerships around the country in program planning and implementation, and leads the technical assistance team's development of law enforcement and juvenile justice partnership support. Prior to joining the SS/HS TA team of the National Center for Mental Health Promotion and Youth Violence Prevention John served as the Director of Children and Youth Initiatives for the National Crime Prevention Council, where he led training and technical assistance efforts and media campaign work for 18 years. John directed the first drug demand reduction training for the DEA; developed demand reduction workshops for police chiefs and sheriffs; managed training in support of community policing; and developed and delivered drug, violence, and bullying prevention workshops for thousands of law enforcement officers, juvenile justice representatives, educators, and others. For NCPC John also managed publications development of 24 projects with national dissemination, plus Web site development. John also served as Associate Director of the American Council for Drug Education; marketed higher education on the university level; and provided technical assistance to crime prevention programs in seven countries, including development of Central Asia's drug prevention effort supported by the United Nations. He was a school teacher, a youth program leader, and served as president of the Montgomery County, MD Mental Health Association. John is a graduate of Leadership Montgomery, the Montgomery County Citizens' Police Academy, and presently serves on the advisory board of the Montgomery County Teen Court. He has two master's degrees in education.

**Ron Slaby, Technical Assistance Specialist**, is both a senior scientist at Education Development Center and a lecturer on education and pediatrics at Harvard University. A developmental psychologist, Dr. Slaby has more than 30 years of experience in investigating and applying innovative strategies to prevent youth violence and to enhance children's social and cognitive development through the influences of parents, peers, schools, communities, and media. Dr. Slaby has helped to shape a U.S. national agenda on violence prevention and educational uses of media. He co-authored a national plan for the prevention of violence in America for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, co-authored two national reports on violence and youth for the American Psychological Association, and helped initiate several national programs to disseminate effective violence prevention strategies to educators, health professionals, and criminal justice agents.

**Ben Spooner, SS/HS Team Assistant**, provides administrative support to the TA Center's SS/HS technical assistance teams, and the Center Management team. He works closely with the SS/HS team leaders to compose correspondence and memoranda, maintain grantee contact information and list-servs, provide callers with accurate information, and coordinate meetings and conferences. Ben received his bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut in Sport Marketing. He has done political/grassroots organizing for an environmental group working for a clean energy policy in Massachusetts, an economic justice non-profit to increase funding for Massachusetts Public Schools, and for a statewide ballot initiative for voting reform.

**Mary Thorngren, Technical Assistance Specialist**, is a Senior Project Manager at the American Institutes for Research. She is the Deputy Project Director of the Center for Implementing Technology in Education (CITEd), which supports the use of technology in schools. CITEd provides this support through innovative online technical assistance tools, professional development to teachers and identification of best practices. She has more than 25 years of experience in the areas of grants and contracts management, project management, prevention program development and implementation. In addition, she has many years of experience providing technical assistance and training to Latino community-based organizations, schools, and other partners with a focus on youth and families. She has worked extensively with non-profit board development, coalition/partnership development to facilitate program implementation, and cultural and linguistic competency. She has a passion and expertise in the area of parent/family involvement in education; has served in leadership positions at the county PTA level and has worked to set up programs to encourage Latino parents to become more involved in their students' education. Mary has a master's degree in human resource development with an emphasis on organization development from American University, is a Certified Health Education Specialist, and is bilingual in English and Spanish.

**Sue Vargo, Technical Assistance Specialist and Events Lead**, is an Associate Director of the National Center and a licensed clinical psychologist. Dr. Vargo brings extensive experience in providing training and consultation to community-based mental health and social service agencies and has clinical expertise from working with individuals, couples, and families for more than 20 years. Some of the settings Dr. Vargo has worked in include community mental health and health centers, HIV prevention agencies, early childhood settings, substance abuse treatment programs, and correctional facilities; and she has special interests in treating trauma at the community level, implementing evidence-based practices in community settings, and providing skills-based training to adults. Dr. Vargo holds a B.A. from Michigan State University, a M.Ed. from Boston University, and a Psy.D. from the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology.

**Gwendolyn Willis-Darpoh, Technical Assistance Specialist**, is a senior research analyst at the American Institutes for Research. She has more than 30 years of experience in the field of education across various settings. Early in her career, she worked with at-risk youth in Washington, D.C. before moving to the US Virgin Islands to work with learning disabled students. Dr. Willis-Darpoh also worked as a Developmental Specialist for the University of Pittsburgh's School of Medicine at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic. Before joining AIR, Gwendolyn was employed by the Maryland State Teachers Association as an Organizational Specialist in Education Reform where she provided technical assistance and training to NEA local affiliates. She received gubernatorial appointments to the statewide Maryland Advisory Council on Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder, as well as to the Maryland Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene. Dr. Willis-Darpoh has also been recognized for her work in educating Maryland's teachers about effective strategies to close the minority achievement gap, as well as the impact of ESEA and IDEA on the teaching profession. Prior to moving back to Maryland, Gwendolyn was a tenured Associate Professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania where she taught eleven different courses to both graduate and undergraduate students. While there she traveled to Nigeria and Germany as a Fulbright Scholar in Educational Communications and Technology. Gwendolyn earned a doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh, a M.Ed. in special education from the American University, and a B.S. in health and physical education from Virginia State University.

**Barb Zandlo Hutchinson, Technical Assistance Specialist**, has 25 years in program administration, including 15 years experience in community and K-12 education programming. As a former Project Director for the 2002 SSHS initiative in Spring Lake Park, MN, she brings extensive practical experience in the areas of resource, program, and partnership development, grants management, and project implementation. She has had both training and work experience in primary prevention programs, security surveys, after school programming, youth development and service, parent/ family involvement, and community partnerships. Before coming to Spring Lake Park Schools, Hutchinson was a customized trainer for the Minnesota Technical College System, licensed in parenting and family relations. Prior to that, she coordinated neighborhood and school crime prevention programs for a local municipal police department. Previous paid and unpaid positions have all focused on using the tools of involvement and prevention to develop strong individuals, families, and communities. Hutchinson was a founding member of a county-wide children and family services collaborative and served as its most recent chair. She graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and graduate courses in Adult and Community Education.