

# North Wasco Co. School District The Dalles, OR

- Trudy Townsend, NORTH WASCO CO. SCHOOL DIST. #21
  - 2008 Grantee
  - Small Rural School District in Oregon – about 3,000 students
  - 61% Free & Reduced Lunch
  - 10.5% Unemployment





## Step One:

# Designing a Program that Gets Referrals

- What factors went into creating the program?
- What is the “NEED” that is being met by the program?
- What benefit does the program provide?

# Wasco County

## Student Assistance Program

- **Existing Community Factors:**

- Anecdotal data indicated that students who were referred to the local Mental Health Agency were not able to access services. (ex. Student with Suicidal indicators not able to get an assessment scheduled for several weeks)
- When students were referred for Mental Health Services, there was no feedback loop for the referral source to let them know if the student had engaged in services or not.
- Perception of a negative stigma associated with mental health services.
- Little to no interaction between mental health professionals and school staff
- Schools had formed “Student Assistance Teams” where teachers, counselors and administrators would refer students who are struggling to a school based team to problem solve appropriate community referrals.

# Wasco County

## Student Assistance Program

- In response to a REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL process; the Wasco County Student Assistance Program designed the following services:
  - Students/Families referred to the program are contacted within 24 hours of receipt of the referral.
  - Student Assessments are scheduled within the week of receipt of the referral.
  - Program staff attend weekly “Student Assistance Team” meetings at each of the school buildings to ensure appropriate program referrals and maintain regular communication with school staff.
  - Clients receive assessment, treatment (individual and/or family), and referral services. Students may also be referred to targeted intervention groups such as Girls Circle, Boys Council or Cognitive Change Theory.
  - Referral source receives notification of receipt of referral and confirmation of client contact.
  - Services are tailored to meet the needs of individual schools



Step Two:

# Targeting Your Audience

- Defining your target audience
- Defining your referral source

# Wasco County Student Assistance Program

- Identifying appropriate referrals –
  - Students in grades K-12 who
    - Exhibit risky behaviors
    - Exhibit indicators of severe emotional issues
    - Exhibit indicators of mental health concerns
    - Exhibit indicators of increasing family discord
- Identifying appropriate referral source –
  - We determined that the target population for this program would be students who were well known to the administration and the counseling office. These are students who are exhibiting fairly significant risky behaviors and are in great need of intervention.
  - School Counselors act as “triage” workers and are the gate-keepers for the referral process.



## Step Three

# Developing a Referral System

- Creating a logical work-flow for referrals
- Tracking referrals



# Wasco County Student Assistance Program

- Teachers, Administrators, Classified Staff, Parents, Community Partners, and/or Students themselves may refer students to their school counselor or child development specialist.
- The School Counselor or Child Development Specialist will determine if the student should be referred for services.
- If a referral is going to be made, the School Counselor or Child Development Specialist meets with the family to discuss the referral and get a signed release of information.





# Wasco County Student Assistance Program

- Evaluation Team (PRE) developed an on-line Referral Form
- WCSAP receives e-mail notice of all referrals made
- WCSAP makes contact with all referrals within 24 hours of receipt of referral
- Evaluation Team (PRE) monitors the number and types of referrals being made

2010-11 Student Assistance Program Referral Form [Save and continue survey later](#)

**HIPAA**

2010-11 Student Assistance Program Referral Form

**Student Identifying Information**

First Name  Last Name  Student ID

Street Address  City  Zip Code

Date of Birth  Grade  Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Email  Parent/Guardian Home Ph.

Parent/Guardian Cell Ph.  Parent/Guardian Work Ph.  Student's Counselor

**Referral Information**

Referral Date  Your Name

Your School Role  Please Specify if you answered "Other"

Your Phone Number  Your Email

Please list the student's school.

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http://pre23.sizmo.com/...\_p=5fae329e467cc6ac0d443d2d49678\_csp=340uaMq yh2&notice=DO-NOT-DISTRIBUTE-THIS-LINK[3/10/2011 9:27:16 AM]

# Just 3 Steps. . . . .

- This 3-step process of designing a program that is responsive to community conditions, clearly identifying a target audience, and developing a referral system that has a logical work-flow has resulted in other successful programs in North Wasco as well. . . .
  - Kinder Connections  
Preschool
  - After School Programs
  - Boys Council

