

**Call for Abstracts**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Advancing School Mental Health**  
**The Center for School Mental Health Analysis and Action (CSMHA)**  
**University of Maryland School of Medicine, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry**  
**In partnership with**  
**The IDEA Partnership, housed at the National Association**  
**of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE)**

**Online Submission!**

**Deadline date: January 31, 2007**

**October 25-27, 2007**

**Omni Orlando Resort- ChampionsGate, Florida**

Using the guidelines provided, please submit your abstract no later than **January 31, 2007**

**Conference Theme:** *What Works in Schools: Sustaining a National Community of Practice on Collaborative School Behavioral Health*

**Conference Objectives:** Participants will learn about:

- Implementing a full continuum of effective promotion and intervention
- Collaborative family-school-community system approaches
- Strategies for fully involving diverse stakeholders including youth, families, educators, community staff, and policy makers
- Building quality assessment and improvement and emphasizing empirically supported practices
- Advancing successful advocacy and policy change

**GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS:**

- Must reflect conference theme and objectives
- Must describe the content, method of teaching, and identify three learning objectives for the session that are clearly defined and measurable
- Please make sure that your proposal is appropriate for and sensitive to a diverse group of stakeholders

**GUIDELINES FOR POSTER ABSTRACTS:**

- Focused on research, evaluation findings, clinical experience, or innovative programs.
- At least one author should be present during the session on Friday to respond to questions regarding the display.

**Presentation Categories (See Page 2 for Definitions):**

- Saturday Intensive Training Workshops (4 hours)
- Thursday/Friday Workshop Sessions (90 minutes)
- Thursday/Friday Paper Sessions (60 minutes)
- Posters (Poster Sessions will be held Friday during the evening reception)

**Presentation Abstract and Program Booklet Descriptions**

There is a 400 word limit for abstracts and a 50 word limit for the program booklet descriptions.

**\*Strands for Presentation Submissions**

There will be ten separate conference strands corresponding to the ten practice groups within the larger National Community of Practice on Collaborative School Behavioral Health. These strands are listed below:

1. Youth Involvement and Leadership
2. Education: An Essential Component of Systems of Care
3. Connecting School Mental Health and Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports
4. Learning the Language: Promoting Effective Ways for Interdisciplinary Collaboration
5. Faith-Community Partnerships
6. Family Partnerships
7. Improving School Mental Health for Youth with Disabilities
8. Mental Health-Education Training and Workforce
9. .School Mental Health, Juvenile Justice and Dropout Prevention
10. Quality and Evidence-Based Practice

**\*Strand (track) descriptions for presentation submissions are listed on page 3.**

**To Submit an Abstract go to <http://csmha.umaryland.edu>. Online Submission is Required**

**Definitions of Presentation Categories:**

***Intensive Training Workshop (4 hrs.)***—A session that offers hands-on interactive training for individuals interested in gaining more in-depth and advanced knowledge and/or skills related to a topic.

***Workshop Session (90 min.)***—A session that encourages active participation and discussion and allows individuals to gain new knowledge, skills, and enhanced understanding of a topic.

***Paper Session (60 minutes)***-A shorter session that allows presenters to review new research or to present innovative policy, practice, and programming.

***Posters***—A session that offers an opportunity to visually share and verbally discuss with participants innovative research, policy, or practice in school mental health. Equipment provided by CSMHA: 4' by 6' poster board, and up to two chairs will be supplied.

Sample Layout:

Poster title and authors names (center at top of board)

Introduction - abstract

Methods

Results

Conclusions

Tables and Figures

References

**IMPORTANT CLARIFICATION NOTES:**

**Costs:** All presenters are responsible for their own transportation and accommodation costs. Presenters will receive a reduced presenter registration rate. If accepted, the primary presenter **MUST** contact **ALL** secondary presenters to sign the acceptance agreement form. CSMHA will provide a LCD, screen, flip chart, markers and microphone. Presenters will be responsible for all other equipment and copies of handout materials. **For PowerPoint presentations, presenters need to bring their own laptops.**

**Notification:** Presenters will be receiving a Notification of Acceptance by March 15, 2007.

**For More Information:** Sylvia Huntley, Conference Coordinator  
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737 W. Lombard Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
410-706-0981, toll-free 1-888-706-0980  
[shuntley@psych.umaryland.edu](mailto:shuntley@psych.umaryland.edu)

**Hotel Information:** For more information and to make reservations  
Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate  
1500 Masters Blvd  
ChampionsGate, Florida 33896  
1-800-843-6664

Be sure to identify yourself as a 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Advancing School-Based Mental Health Participant. Reservations must be made by September 24, 2007. Our block of rooms may fill up prior to that cut off date. Early reservations are recommended.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE 10 PRACTICE GROUPS AND THEIR REQUESTED THEMES FOR SUBMISSION

- 1) **Youth Involvement and Leadership.** This strand has a two-pronged focus to address both the needs of adult providers and youth. The strand welcomes proposals designed to both further the skills needed by adults working to support and develop youth involvement, and leadership/engagement/advocacy training for youth.
  - 2) **Education: An Essential Component of Systems of Care.** This strand focuses on the successful integration of education, families, and systems of care, a major mental health reform initiative. Suggested topics include: examples of systems of care (SOC) that fully involve schools, mental health, and families as true partners, unique approaches to shared services and/or funding among SOC partners, and evidenced-based and promising practices reflecting school-SOC partnerships.
  - 3) **Connecting School Mental Health and Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports.** This strand focuses on positive systemic approaches to changing behavior and the creation of positive and supportive environments. Suggested topics include: introduction to Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), strategies for integrating mental health services and PBIS, and strategies that focus on children, youth and families in connecting mental health and PBIS.
  - 4) **Learning the Language: Promoting Effective Ways for Interdisciplinary Collaboration.** This strand is devoted to exploring cross-system work. Suggested topics include: translating policy to practice, aligning goals across agencies, developing common indicators, cross-system training efforts, state and/or local examples of shared work, and reframing of services to enhance understanding across education and mental health.
  - 5) **Faith-Community Partnerships.** This strand focuses on building collaborative relationships between faith-based and community organizations and schools to improve the quality of life for youth and families in the community. Suggested topics include: developing a faith-community partnership, measuring the success or impact of a collaborative, bridging mental health and religion, and youth involvement in building collaboratives.
  - 6) **Family Partnerships.** This strand is devoted to providing a voice with families, the intended beneficiaries of our shared work. Suggested topics include: families as both learners and teachers, cross-system training, family voice as a lever to move the overall school mental health agenda, and educating policy makers, legislators and the community about the value of families as partners.
  - 7) **Improving School Mental Health for Youth with Disabilities.** This strand is designed to recognize, promote and distribute effective interventions for students identified as having an educational disability. Suggested topics should be aligned with the impact that improved School Mental Health Services have on maintaining students in challenging educational environments, reducing suspension rates, improving graduation rates and providing equal access to services for traditionally underserved populations. High priority will be given to proposals that promote an integrated model that embraces the contributions of all professionals that work with students with disabilities, span the prevention-intervention continuum and develop and expand the role of mental health services in school success.
  - 8) **Mental Health - Education Training and Workforce.** This strand is dedicated to advancing work force preparation related to school mental health practices. The goal is to promote effective mental health-related professional preparation (pre-service/in-service) for all school-related personnel (educators, school social workers, school psychologists, school counselors, community mental health staff, school nurses, primary care providers, administrators, others). Suggested topics include: bridging the gap between education and mental health professionals, improving pre-service training approaches, developing evidence-based interdisciplinary training, and assessing impacts of integrated and interdisciplinary training approaches.
  - 9) **School Mental Health, Juvenile Justice and Drop-Out Prevention.** This strand is dedicated to engaging all concerned community stakeholders in increased dialogue, collaboration, and effective programming in an effort to improve the academic, mental health, and post-school outcomes for youth and young adults. Suggested topics include: effective practice in juvenile justice and dropout prevention, effective strategies for service coordination across systems and school reentry.
  - 10) **Quality and Evidence-Based Practice.** This strand seeks submissions that provide real world examples of systematic efforts to implement quality assessment and improvement (QAI) and evidence-based practices (EBP) in schools. Submissions are encouraged which present challenges people are encountering in developing and implementing QAI and EBP in schools and ideas and program examples for overcoming these challenges.
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