

The IDEA Partnership

National Association of State Directors of Special Education
1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 320
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
1-877-IDEA-INFO (1-877-433-2463) email: partnership@nasdse.org



Title: The 3rd Community Building Forum

Held in conjunction with the *11th Annual Conference on Advancing School-Based Mental Health Conference*

September 27, 2006

Marriot Waterfront

Baltimore, Maryland

Sponsors:

This meeting was co-sponsored by the

- Center for School Mental Health Analysis and Action (CSMHA), <http://csmha.umaryland.edu> and funded by the Office of Adolescent Health, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Service Administration; and the
- IDEA Partnership, <http://www.ideapartnership.org> and funded by the Office of Special Education Programs housed at the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE).

Theme:

This meeting is intended to bring together key partnerships and coalitions that are focused on mental health and education to find their common agendas, build communication mechanisms and stimulate allied action.

Event description:

The **3rd Community Building Forum** took place on Wednesday, September 27th. The number of participants exceeded expectations: 140 participants representing twelve states, twenty national organizations, nine Technical Assistance Centers, two federal agencies and other community members. Joanne Cashman from the IDEA Partnership at NASDSE and Mark Weist, Center for School Mental Health Analysis and Action (CSMHA) at the University of Maryland opened the cross-stakeholder dialogue with the vision that this meeting will help build even stronger connections and advance efforts in school-based mental health. In the morning the community revisited the Community of Practice vision and structure, and shared our learnings from year two. Various

practice groups provided updates and the new website built to support communication was presented and explored.

The Community of Practice Framework is used for organizing annual meetings and developing the relationships that grow out of them. Communities of Practice (COP) are voluntary affiliations among individuals and groups that share common work. Rather than “pushing” a particular agenda, COP create a pull for involvement through information sharing, collective thought and action, information management and mutual support. Based on the work of Etienne Wenger, COP have become the vehicle for organizational learning in business and are rapidly being adopted in government to address complex and interrelated problems.

Purpose:

The main purpose of the Community Building Forum was to advance common goals, deepen work relationships and discover the connections that will keep the community energized. Activities are intended to support alignment and coordination across groups and marshal collective resources to better address the national goals expressed in the Surgeon General's Reports on Mental Health and Children's Mental Health, the New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, the No Child Left Behind Act, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

What's next:

The next community building forum will occur in conjunction with the 12th Annual Conference on Advancing School-Based Mental Health, October 25-27, 2007, Omni Orlando Resort in Champions Gate, Florida. The theme for the 2007 conference is "What Works in Schools: Sustaining a National Community of Practice on Collaborative School Behavioral Health" Community members are currently holding conference calls to plan and develop the next annual conference.

Conference Objectives include:

- 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

Where to go for more information – project contact information

For additional information, please contact **Mariola Rosser** at the IDEA Partnership:

Phone: 703-519-3800 X 324

Toll-free: 1-877- IDEA INF(o) (1-877-433-2463)

Email: Mariola.rosser@nasdse.org