

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



REPORT

Title: 12th Annual Conference on Advancing School Mental Health:

"Effective Work in Schools: A National Community of Practice on School Mental Health"

October 25-27, 2007

Omni Orlando Resort, FL

Sponsor: The *Center for School Mental Health (CSMH)* (<http://csmh.umaryland.edu/>) co-sponsored the conference in collaboration with the *IDEA Partnership* (<http://www.ideapartnership.org/>) housed at the *National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE)*.

Purpose: This year's conference theme focused on: **What Works in Schools: Sustaining a National Community of Practice on Collaborative School Behavioral Health.**

Event description:

The conference participants included 12 states, 18 national organizations, 6 Technical Assistance centers, federal partners and other community members (around 140 participants).

Read List of Participants - 12th School Behavioral Health

<http://ideapartnership.org/documents/list-participants-12thMH.pdf>

There were ten separate conference strands corresponding to the ten practice groups within the larger National Community of Practice on Collaborative School Behavioral Health:

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

Breakfast and lunch meeting times for the practice groups promoted the networking of participants of the National Community of Practice on Collaborative School Behavioral Health and others interested in joining the work of the practice groups.

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The youth leadership practice group (including young adults from states, professionals and other conference attendees) spent on day on team building activities and have developed an action plan to lead us to the next conference – including utilizing sharedwork.org, conference calls, youth leadership forum planning and advertising.

Two additional meetings were incorporated into the comprehensive conference plan. The **4th National Community Building Forum** met the first afternoon of the conference. The details of this meeting are available below. The **Shared Agenda Seed Grant Meeting** was a strategic planning meeting for seed grant states sponsored by the IDEA Partnership. Read below for more information about this meeting.

4th National Community Building Forum on October 25, 2007

The IDEA Partnership and the Center for School Mental Health hosted the **4th National Community Building Forum on October 25, 2007**. The Community Building Forum, open to community members representing states, national organizations, TA Centers and federal partners united in advancing school-based behavioral health. This year's Forum was held from 1:30 – 5:30 pm. The community addresses the value and untapped potential of the on Collaborative School Behavioral Health. As a final activity, the participants examined the community principles and committed to concrete actions that model the principles and advance the CoP work at four levels: information, promotion, collaboration, and transformation.

Read the Forum Agenda

<http://ideapartnership.org/documents/ForumAgenda-4thCoP.pdf>

What's next for the National CoP? Next steps for the National CoP on School Behavioral Health will include the ongoing work of the ten practice groups. Members will continue to utilize the <http://www.sharedwork.org> website to support their shared work and communications.

Read about the Projected Activities for CoP 2007-2008

<http://ideapartnership.org/documents/CommunityActivities2007-2008-MH.pdf>

The Shared Agenda Seed Grant Meeting

The Shared Agenda Seed Grant Meeting was held the final day of the conference, October 27, 2007. Twelve state teams attended:

Hawaii
Illinois
Maryland
Missouri

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New Hampshire
New Mexico
North Carolina
Ohio
Pennsylvania
South Carolina
South Dakota
Vermont

These states are recipients of "seed grants" called *Mental Health TA Support*. Technical assistance is focused on outcomes. The work of the states is aligned with the core work of their state's education annual performance plan. There are many complementary models that focus on outcomes including the Community of Practice (Wenger), Implementation Framework (Fixen) and Getting to Outcomes(GTO) (Wandersman). After an explanation of the GTO process Abe Wandersman & Paul Flaspohler conducted a sample GTO exercise and helped states apply the framework to Seed Grant work. State teams used the afternoon to further develop their state goals using the GTO process and communicating with state leaders and stakeholder groups.

View summary of Wandersman's *Getting to Outcomes (GTO)*.model

http://www.sc.edu/usctimes/articles/2007-01/wandersman_research.html

What's next for the seed grant states? States will continue to develop, adjust and carry out the work described in their aligned state performance plan. Quarterly TA calls to each individual state team provides support for their plan.

Where to go for more information:

Mariola Rosser
IDEA Partnership at NASDSE
1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 320
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: (703) 519-3800 (ext. 324)
Toll Free: 1-877-433-2463 (877-IDEA-INFo)
Fax: (703) 519-3808
TDD: (703) 519-7008
Email: mariola.rosser@nasdse.org
Website: <http://www.ideapartnership.org>