The Role of Mental Health Professionals in the School Setting

SEPTA PRESENTATION: September 13, 2019

Presented by:
Monica Saavedra, School Psychologist
Michele Vincent, School Social Worker
Elyse Becker-Dayton, Behavior Consultant
GREAT COMMUNICATION LEADS TO FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

- Participation
- Communication
- Partnerships
- Trust
- Strength Based
- Equality
- Caregivers Valued
- Caregivers Respected
Responding to Student & Family Needs:

- Assessment
- Counseling
- Collaboration
- Support
- Resource & Referral
- Providing Behavioral Support
- Supporting Parents
What Is The Role Of A School Psychologist?

• We collaborate with educators, parents, and other professionals in order to ensure a safe, healthy, and supportive learning environment for all our students.

• We support diverse learners and assist students in succeeding academically, socially, and emotionally.

• We strengthen family and school partnerships by:
  ➢ helping families engage with teachers/staff
  ➢ assisting in navigating the special education process
  ➢ helping families understand their child’s learning and mental health needs
  ➢ enhancing staff understanding and responsiveness to diverse cultures/backgrounds.
What Does This Look Like In The Buildings?

• Individual/group counseling.
• Assistance with those who are undergoing crisis, trauma, or life-changing events.
• Parent/staff training.
• Support for the implementation of school-wide positive behavioral supports.
What Does This Look Like In The Buildings?

- Conducting psychological assessments (cognitive, social-emotional, behavioral).
- CSE/SCSE Chairperson.
- Identifying students who are at risk.
- Consulting with teachers and staff.
- Supporting classroom management.
- Analyzing/interpreting student data.
- Assisting in navigation of special education processes.
- Assisting in the development and implementation of a student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP).
How Do School Psychologists Get Involved With My Child?

- Buildings meet on
  - Students who need pre-referral strategies.
- Consultation with teachers and principals.
- Parent phone calls or emails.
- Observations made when in classrooms, lunch, recess.
What is a School Social Worker?

Trained professional who works with students in a variety of areas including:

- Social Behavioral
- Academic
- Emotional

Team member - works collaboratively with:

- Parents
- Teachers
- School psychologists
- Administrators
- Students

Support system for:

- Students
- Parents
- School personnel
Services to School Personnel:

- Consultation with teachers and staff to support our students
- Staff development
- Crisis intervention
- Participation in the school-based support team
- Participation in student support and other multi-disciplinary teams, such as CSE
- Support for staff
- Prevention Work
Services to Students and Families:

• Crisis intervention
• Enhancing students social and emotional growth
• Collaboration with community resources
• Individual and group counseling

• Special classroom and school-wide presentations
• Parent education training
• Providing information and referrals
• Assisting with OPWDD eligibility
• Connecting families with community resources and supports
What is the role of the behavioral consultant?
Behavior Consultant...

- Is board certified
- Consults with teams to determine supports for students
  - Administration
  - Teachers
  - School psychologists
  - Social workers
- Provides suggestions and techniques for implementation
- Conducts functional behavior assessments
- Creates positive behavior support plans/behavior intervention plans
Student and Family Services

- Observations
- Assessments and reports
  - FBAs
  - PBSPs/BIPs
- Collaboration with teachers and support staff
  - Techniques
  - Suggestions
- Modeling
- Progress monitoring
- Parent Training
- Interviews
- CSE
- Team meetings
Providing services

- Support required in addition to school psychologist/social worker
- Short term supports
- IEP Consult
We’re here to help!

**Primary Mental Health Professionals:**
- Monica Saavedra, School Psychologist (Hemlock)
- Jessica Berenbroick, School Psychologist (Homestead)
- Happy Arstark, School Psychologist (Locust)
- Tracey Catalanotti-Martinez, School Social Worker (Hemlock, Homestead, & Locust)

**Elementary Mental Health Professionals:**
- Monica Saavedra, School Psychologist (Stewart)
- Dr. Gina Tornincaso, School Psychologist (Stewart)
- Michele Vincent, School Social Worker

**Middle School Mental Health Professionals:**
- Kady Burke, School Psychologist
- Dr. Melina Mendelson, School Psychologist
- Keegan Baker, School Social Worker

**High School Mental Health Professionals:**
- Jessica Berenbroick, School Psychologist
- Dina Bombardiere, School Social Worker
Transition and Support Fair

• Mission:
To connect our families to local agencies and supports available in the community.

• Previous Participants Include:
✓ JCC
✓ Friend Zone Kids
✓ CHADD
✓ Parent to Parent
✓ Hopefitness
✓ The Center for Rapid Recovery
✓ Ken’s Krew
✓ Nassau Boces
✓ AHRC
✓ EPIC
✓ Andrew Cohen
✓ ACLD
✓ And many more...

January 30th, 2020
Garden City High School Cafeteria