

To: District and State Collaborative Network for Developing Comprehensive Systems of Learning Support

From: Howard Adelman & Linda Taylor

Re: Despite the budget crisis, work on developing a comprehensive system of learning supports can move forward

June 19, 2012

We recently heard from a colleague who understands that developing a unified and comprehensive system for addressing barriers to learning and teaching and re-engaging disconnected students is essential to making school safer, enhancing school climate, and bring school and community together as a comprehensive community school. BUT – he felt stymied because of the budget crisis.

- Our reaction was that the budget crisis leaves no choice but to
- (1) rethink and coalesce existing programs and services as a step toward developing a unified and comprehensive system
 - (2) establish an effective school, home, and community collaborative to weave together different funding streams, reduce redundancy, and redeploy available resources.

Some time ago, as part of our Q & A about New Directions for Student Support, we did a brief “What will it Cost? - No New Dollars!” – see

<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/whatwillitcost.pdf>

This needs some updating give budget cuts, but the basic message holds true.

AT the district level, a good first step is to have a team look at your website with a view to reorganizing it to highlight student and learning supports as a unified component that is focused on coalescing programs and services with a view to developing a comprehensive system – see “Website Prototype for SEA, LEA, and School Learning Supports System” –

<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/lswweb.htm>

Also see the Guidance Notes entitled “Establishing a Comprehensive System of Learning Supports at a School: Seven Steps for Principals and Their Staff” for steps that can be taken at schools that will not require new money (but do require rethinking some staff roles and functions in order to redeploy limited resources.

<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/7steps.pdf>

This is an important time for Network Participants and their colleagues to discuss all this. Let’s start with whatever wisdom and current efforts you can share.

And, obviously, we are ready to help in any way we can contribute to such efforts

We look forward to hearing from you.

Warm regards,

H & L

P.S. In the last update, we mentioned updating of job descriptions related to student and learning supports. As a result of various contributions, we have expanded our Quick Find on Job Descriptions – see <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/qf/mhjobs.htm>

If you go to this Quick Find, here is a sample of the items you will find direct links to:
Center Reports

- >Framing New Directions for School Counselors, Psychologists, & Social Workers
- >Organizations Facilitators: A Key Change Agent for Systemic School and Community Changes
- Guidance Notes
- >Leadership at a School Site for Developing a Comprehensive System of Learning Supports
- >Notes About the Learning Supports Facilitator Position
- Information Resource
- >Leadership for a Learning Support System in State Departments of Education:

Example Job Descriptions

Specific Examples from Around the Country

- State Department of Education & District Leadership
- Director of the Learning Support and Partnerships Division
- Educational Director - Student Support Branch
- Educational Specialist - Comprehensive Student Support
- Director of Learning Supports Initiative, State Department of Education
- Learning Supports Facilitator Duties
- Example for a District Learning Support Coordinator
- Example for a Learning Support Coordinator from the Tucson USD
- School Employed Student Support (including Mental Health Providers)
- Learning Supports Coordinator

Collaboration of Mental Health and Social Work in the Schools

- Community Nurse Practitioner employed by school health clinic
- Mental Health Professional employed by grant to school
- Mental Health Professional - School-based Therapist

Middle School Drug Prevention and School Safety Program Coordinator
Prevention/Intervention Specialist
Role of the School Counselor
Role of the School Nurse in Providing School Health Services
SAIL (Student Assistance In Life) Coordinator
School Social Worker
Student and Family Support Coordinator
Who are School Psychologists?
Safe Schools Related Personnel
Behavioral Intervention Specialist
Mental Health Systems Specialist
School Psychologist
SS/HS Case Manager
SS/HS Resource Management Team
SS/HS Supervisor, Specialist and Site Coordinator
School System Improvement Personnel
Director, Extended Learning and Supports
Integration of Schools and Mental Health Systems Building Coordinator
Universal Learning Supports System Team Member

Agency Employed Mental Health Staff Working With Schools

WRAP Clinician
GYFTS Program Social Worker
Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) Integration Consultant
Early Childhood Development Specialist
Intervention Specialist

If you have relevant job descriptions you would like us to include, please send them to ltaylor@ucla.edu

Also see the Quick Find on: Staffing Student Support Services: New Directions
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/qf/staffingsupp.htm>