University of Maryland
Advancing School Mental Health Conference

The Building Blocks of Mental Health Support in an Urban Public School:

Laying strong foundations to support the mental health of students with emotional support needs.
Allegheny County Office of Behavioral Health

• School Based Liaison
  • Act as a link between the education system and the Office of Behavioral Health to build mental health systems within public schools.

• Datashare
  • Agreement between Allegheny County and Pittsburgh Public Schools to share human service and educational data.
Oliver Citywide Academy

- Center based school for students in the Pittsburgh Public School District with full time emotional support needs.
- Enrollment for 2015-2016
  - 112
Needs Assessment

• Data Analysis: DHS service data as well as overview of outside provider utilization

• Services Available at Assessment: Outpatient Therapy, School Counselors, School Based Probation, and Psychiatry Services

• Change in philosophy from a more punitive philosophy to a more Positive Behavioral Support/Trauma Informed philosophy
Supports for the 2015-2016 School Year

- Full time therapist to provide Outpatient and Mobile Therapy
- Full time Educational Service Coordinator
- Crisis Response Team onsite
- School District Added 2 School Counselors
- Child Study Team
- Trauma Informed Care Initiative
Child Study Team

• Team includes:
  • School Counselors, Service Coordinator and Supervisor, Crisis Clinician and Supervisor, Therapist, School Based Liaison, and Principal when available.

• Purpose:
  • Team meets twice monthly, to plan for new admissions, connect to outside services and supports, communicate with school team, connect with DHS providers, and problem solve concerns.
Provider Data

• Psychiatry Medication Management
  2014-2015 number of students served: 10
  2015-2016 number of students served: 32
• Family Links, Therapy Provider
  2014-2015 number of students served: 8
  2015-2016 number of students served: 32
• HSAO, Service Coordination Provider
  New Service for 2015-2016, Students served: 40
Building Upon the Foundation

- Additional Supports for 2016-2017
  - Additional Service Coordinator added
  - Additional therapist, in addition both therapists are district funded in order to allow therapists to be more flexible with service delivery. Services can be provided in school and home setting.
  - Communication with outside provider agencies and other schools regarding enhanced supports now available at Oliver Citywide Academy.
Questions?