

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

This is the **2nd of 4 messages** you will receive from us throughout the month of May related to mental health awareness and how to support the well-being of our children and adolescents. In this second message, we would like to share an Information Brief entitled "*Interconnected Systems Framework (ISF)*". This resource, which is attached to this email, describes how the ISF strategically aligns the goals and processes of two school initiatives: Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and School Mental Health (SMH) to improve educational outcomes by minimizing and addressing behavioral and mental health concerns. Both PBIS and SMH are defined and described in the brief, which draws from Barrett, Eber, and Weist's (2013) groundbreaking monograph on the topic. In addition, the brief outlines why using the integrated ISF approach is so important, specific guidelines for implementing this framework within a school setting, key assumptions of ISF, and the advantages of using ISF.



The Ohio Mental Health Network for School Success (OMHNSS) developed a mapping resource, called the *School and Community Continuum of Services*, that identifies school and community services to address social, emotional, behavioral, and mental health needs of students. The map provides easy access to coordinated safe and supportive school-based services within the local county at each of the multi-tiered levels of prevention, intervention, and treatment. Currently, 31 out of Ohio's 88 counties has been mapped. Over the next 4 years, the OMHNSS, through the Project AWARE initiative, will map the resources and services in the remaining counties.

For more information about *School and Community Continuum of Services*, please contact **Kathy Oberlin**, director of the Ohio Mental Health Network for School Success, at oberlink2@gmail.com or (330) 697-3899.

OMHNSS website: www.omhnss.org

Ohio's Project AWARE team includes partners in 3 county Educational Service Centers. If you are from these areas and want to schedule a YMHFA Training or get information about Project AWARE, please contact:

Cuyahoga County ESC: Mary Wise; (216) 901-4201; mary.wise@esc-cc.org

Warren County ESC: Vycki Haught; (513) 695-2900 x3103; vycki.haught@warrencountyesc.com

Wood County ESC: Angela Patchen; (419) 354-9010 x228; apatchen@wcesc.org

Additional Resources

Mental health and cultural competency (National Association of School Psychologists):

http://www.nasponline.org/resources/culturalcompetence/ethnicity_mh.pdf

SAMHSA's Caring for Every Child's Mental Health resources:

<http://www.samhsa.gov/children>

SAMHSA's Identifying MH and Substance Use Problems in Children/Adolescents:

<http://store.samhsa.gov/product/Identifying-Mental-Health-and-Substance-Use-Problems-of-Children-and-Adolescents-A-Guide-for-Child-Serving->

