



Waterford School District

Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant Activities

June 10, 2009

Counseling Connections Center - School Based Clinic

On May 7, 2009, the Counseling Connections Center (CCC) officially opened. Many staff, parents and the SS/HS partners stopped to tour the clinic and learn about our services. The center will serve children and adolescents, with an emphasis on elementary students who live within the Waterford School District boundaries. An intake case manager and a licensed school social worker have been hired to work with children by providing individual and group therapy sessions, coordinate mental health referrals to community agencies, and assist school staff in early identification of mental health issues. These services are free to students and families regardless of their need or income.

Nonviolent Crisis Intervention (NVCI) Training

To date, one hundred sixteen (160) staff members have participated in two full days of training on Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training. Fourteen Waterford School District social workers, who are certified NVCI trainers, are providing the training for these workshops that have been scheduled throughout the school year.

The Nonviolent Crisis Intervention program is a safe, nonharmful behavior management system designed to help human service professionals provide for the best possible care, welfare, safety, and security of disruptive, assaultive, and out-of-control individuals. Survey results from participants have been very positive.

Academic and Character Education Program (ACE)

The ACE program is an after school program for identified at-risk students who may have issues with truancy, social skills, and poor academic performance. The ACE program is offered at all middle schools, both high schools, and the high school alternative education program. Currently, seventy-eight students participate in the after school program at the various school sites. The ACE coordinators have indicated that this after-school program has provided students the support that they need with homework and class projects, there has been a reduction in truancy, and grades have improved.

Kettering High School and Manley Alternative Education have had the opportunity to participate in bi-monthly activities at Oakland University. Students have been engaged in workshops that focus on preparing for college. In addition, they have been assigned a college mentor and participate in career activities that are in alignment with their career pathway.

Anger Management Curriculum

Waterford Youth Assistance conducted an Anger Management program at Beaumont Elementary School and Grayson Schools. In addition, they are offering a program for teenagers this spring at their office.

Approximately, fifteen students, in grades 3-5, participated in the activity-based program. The program operated weekly for six weeks during the school day.

Project Alert

Project Alert is a nationally recognized, middle school level, substance abuse program that gives students insight, understanding and actual skills for resisting substance abuse. Project Alert successfully addresses tobacco, alcohol, marijuana and inhalants, the substance teens are most likely to use. This past school year, approximately 700 seventh graders participated in the program.

Olweus Bullying Prevention Program

The two middle school prevention specialists attended the Trainer of the Trainer model workshop on Olweus. The prevention specialists have met with the middle school building principals and working with the building administrators in the process of indentifying staff who will serve as members of the Olweus coordinating committee. Committee members will receive in-depth training on Olweus during the summer. The Olweus program will be implemented during the 2009-2010 school year. Student surveys on bullying have been completed this spring.

Reconnecting Youth

Reconnecting Youth is a recognized U.S. Department of Health and Human Services model program that targets youth at risk for school dropout and who may exhibit multiple behavior problems, such as substance abuse, aggression, depression, or suicide risk behaviors.

High school prevention specialists and ACE after school staff participated in four days of intense training at the Lutes Campus in May learning how to deliver interventions that address drug involvement, increased school performance, and decreased emotional distress.

Incredible Years Program

The Incredible Years program is being implemented at two school sites - Donelson Hills and Riverside. Seven elementary schools are participating in this year's program. The schools are Beaumont, Burt, Donelson Hills, Grayson, Riverside, Sandburg, and Waterford Village. The Incredible Years program is an evidenced based parent training and child social skills training proven to be effective in reducing children's aggression, behavior problems, and increasing social competence at home and school. Catholic Social Services, who is a member of the Core Management team, provides the social workers, parent training and family meals. Families who have completed the twelve-week program will participate in a celebration ceremony in June.

First Families

The First Families program is now located at the Leggett Senior Center. Sherri Richards, First Families instructor, has been busily working with families who have children between the ages of birth to three years of age. The families meet once a week for ninety minutes and spend time together in the classroom to learn what is considered developmentally appropriate learning for the various age groups.

Head Start Outreach Program

The Head Start team works with three and four year old students who are eligible for Head Start as a means of preparing the students to attend school. The Head Start team makes home visits on a weekly basis, provides parent education, assesses children's developmental needs, and assists with referrals to community agencies.

Hispanic Preschool Program

The increase of staff support for the Hispanic Preschool program has resulted in being able to provide preschool experiences to Hispanic children, ages 3-6 years of age. In addition, the staff has been able to provide adult literacy services to Hispanic parents. The Hispanic Preschool Program has 24 students enrolled.