# SAP COUNTY COORDINATION UPDATE
## February, 2019



**Prepared by: PA Network for Student Assistance Services (PNSAS)**
**www.pnsas.org**


## PENNSYLVANIA NETWORK FOR STUDENT ASSISTANCE SERVICES INTERAGENCY UPDATE

### 2019 PSA for Youth Suicide Prevention
Public voting is open for the PSA Contest for Youth Suicide Prevention Finalists until Thursday, February 7 at 12:00 PM.  Click here to access PSA contestants and to vote.  In order to vote, click on the "Thumbs Up" image under the PSA of your choice.  You will know your vote is registered, when you see the words "Thanks for your vote."  You may only vote for one entry per 24 hour period.

School-Wide Voting is also open until Thursday, February 7 at 12:00 PM.  To enter a school vote, please first review this document.  Once you are ready to enter the school vote, click here to access the survey.  Information on the voting process can be found in the Rules for Submission.  If you have any questions, please contact Rose Milani.

### Act 44 of 2018
On June 22, 2018, Governor Tom Wolf signed Act 44 of 2018 into law, creating a School Safety and Security Committee within PCCD.  The Committee is tasked with developing the criteria school entities are to use in performing school safety and security assessments, issuing a survey to school entities to measure school safety and security preparedness, and administering grants.

To better understand its requirements, an overview of the key elements of the Act has been developed and provided in the Overview of Act 44 (pdf).  If you have any questions, submit them to RA-CD-SSSC@pa.gov.

As part of Act 44, **Safe2Say** went live on January 14, 2019.  The "Safe2Say Something" (S2SS) anonymous reporting program, teaches students, teachers, and administrators how to recognize warning signs and signals, especially within social media, of individuals who may be a threat to themselves or others and "Say Something" to a trusted adult OR use its anonymous reporting system.  Click here for the Safe2Say kickoff webinar.  If you have any questions, click on to the FAQ here or go to info@safe2saypa.org.

## SAP BACK TO THE BASICS

**Tackling Poverty in the Classroom**

Poverty…there is no easy solution and the impact is vast, but it doesn't mean students are unable to be academically successful.  How do we accomplish this?  Educators need to first understand the impact of poverty, as well as understand the message behind the students' behaviors.  It is at that time student success can be addressed.

Poverty is a multifaceted, long-standing, and debilitating circumstance which affects the whole child's social, emotional, physical health and safety as well as educational development and advancement.  Generational poverty is a type of poverty that "[cyclically] passes from generation to generation and has its own distinct culture and beliefs (Payne, R., 2005)."  The National Center for Children in Poverty indicate that in 2016, 41% of children live on the 'brink' of poverty (www.nccp.org).

The effects of these circumstances could be demonstrated in the classroom in a variety of ways, including but not limited to: poor attendance, incomplete work, acting out behaviors, impatience, impulsivity, inappropriate emotional responses, gaps in social graces, and gaps in cognitive functioning.  According to Eric Jensen, rather than condemn these behaviors, help the student change the behavior.  The students need a caring and dependable adult, someone they can trust, and it is often the teacher whom students look for this support.  Teachers can demonstrate appropriate responses and then allow students to practice these necessary life skills.  Students from poverty most often don't receive this instruction from their primary caregivers.

Teachers aren't able to control what occurs outside of the school, but they can control what happens from the moment a student arrives until the student leaves each day.  There are some very general things that teachers can do every day that don't cost a penny, but reap huge rewards.

Connecting.  Validating.  Educating.  Responding.  Leading**.**  Sounds easy, doesn't it?  Building relationships with students can help diminish the despair that a student living in poverty often feels.  It doesn't have to be complicated. Simply put, it's a matter of listening to students, both verbally and nonverbally, learning their interests and incorporating them into the classroom environment.  This promotes a safe environment and shows the students they are cared about.

Through the establishment of a learning environment that has high expectations, consistency, engaging lessons, and opportunities to practice skill mastery, teachers will be able to better assist students that are struggling.  One size does not fit all and should not be a motto adopted in the classroom.  Effective instruction focuses on meeting each student at his/her level and helping each student achieve success, for his/her own circumstance.

These actions communicate to students that they matter, regardless of any challenges that have to endure.  Poverty doesn't eliminate the chance for educational success for students, but lack of effective education allows the cycle of poverty to continue.  According to Cynthia Johnson (AMLE Magazine, Nov/Dec 2013), effective educators are the answer to bridging the gap between a culture of despair and a future of hope for children living in poverty.  SAP teams are a vital resource in each school building; one that is available to support teachers and offer direction for whatever needs a student may have.

Resources:
Johnson, Cynthia.  Leading Learning for Children From Poverty.  AMLE Magazine, November/December 2013.
National Center for Children in Poverty, www.nccp.org
Payne, Ruby K.  Framework for Understanding Poverty.  Highlands, TX:  Aha!  Process, 2005.

## RESOURCES

**Suicide Reporting Recommendations: Media as Partners in Suicide Prevention**
The American Association of Suicidology (AAS) has released *Suicide Reporting Recommendations: Media as Partners in Suicide Prevention*. It includes updated, evidence-based recommendations for journalists and media organizations that report on suicide and prevention efforts.

**Teen Dating Violence**
Healthy relationships consist of trust, honesty, respect, equality, and compromise.  Unfortunately, teen dating violence-the type of intimate partner violence that occurs between two young people who are, or who were once in, an intimate relationship-is a serious problem in the United States.  A national survey found that ten percent of teens, female and male, had been the victims of physical dating violence within the past year and approximately 29 percent of adolescents reported being verbally or psychologically abused within the previous year.

Teen dating violence can be any one, or a combination, of the following:

- **Physical.** This includes pinching, hitting, shoving, or kicking.

- **Emotional.** This involves threatening a partner or harming his or her sense of self-worth. Examples include name calling, controlling/jealous behaviors, consistent monitoring, shaming, bullying (online, texting, and in person), intentionally embarrassing him/her, keeping him/her away from friends and family.

- **Sexual.** This is defined as forcing a partner to engage in a sex act when he or she does not or cannot consent.

It can negatively influence the development of healthy sexuality, intimacy, and identity as youth grow into adulthood and can increase the risk of physical injury, poor academic performance, binge drinking, suicide attempts, unhealthy sexual behaviors, substance abuse, negative body image and self-esteem, and violence in future relationships.

Teen dating violence can be prevented, especially when there is a focus on reducing risk factors as well as fostering protective factors, and when teens are empowered through family, friends, and others (including role models such as teachers, coaches, mentors, and youth group leaders) to lead healthy lives and establish healthy relationships. It is important to create spaces, such as school communities, where the behavioral norms are not tolerant of abuse in dating relationships. The message must be clear that treating people in abusive ways will not be accepted, and policies must enforce this message to keep students safe.
For more information go to https://youth.gov.

**Break The Cycle**
A national, nonprofit organization (supported by many philanthropic organizations, government entities and senators, and members of the entertainment industry) which addresses teen dating violence, Break the Cycle's mission is to engage, educate, and empower youth to build lives and communities free from domestic violence. Break the Cycle provides resources and information for teens, educators, parents, supporters, and the media.  The Break the Cycle website provides information about curricula, policy information, legal help and services, public awareness campaigns, and trainings related to teen dating violence.  Click here to access the Break The Cycle website.

**Love is Respect**
This web resource provides information and resources on dating violence and healthy dating attitudes and relationships for youth.  The site includes an overview of the issue (e.g., early warning signs, types of abuse, the cycle of abuse), quizzes for teens to determine whether they are experiencing or inflicting abuse, a live chat feature that connects youth with a peer advocate 24/7, videos, a blog, and more.  In addition to the live chat, Love is Respect

connects youth to the National Dating Abuse Helpline at 1-866-331-9474 or 1-866-331-8453.  Youth can also reach out for help by texting "loveis" to 22522.  Click here to access more information on Love is Respect.

**SAMHSA Launches the 2019 Communities Talk: Town Hall Meetings to Prevent Underage Drinking**
Alcohol continues to be the most widely used substance of abuse among America's youth. Recognizing the power of community to raise awareness of the prevalence and consequences of underage alcohol use and mobilize local action to prevent underage drinking, SAMHSA supports the Communities Talk: Town Hall Meetings to Prevent Underage Drinking.

Click here for more information on this blog.


**TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

**2018-2019 PASAP Webinar:**
Wednesday, February 13, 2019 broadcast begins at 2:00 PM.
"Toward a Common Understanding: MTSS with Susan Tarasevich and Michael McGaughey".
This leading-edge webinar dives into the MTSS framework and clarifies the current vocabulary of PBIS, RtI, and SAP. Further, participants explore the similarities and differences between each of the initiatives. Finally, Titusville School District elementary educators share their journey toward a common framework that addresses academics, behavior and emotional support.

PASAP members click here for more information and to register.

**Promoting Connectedness for Youth Through Social Networks and Sources of Strength**
Injury Control Research Center for Suicide Prevention (ICRC-S)
February 22, 2019 from 2:00-3:00 PM
Sources of Strength is a universal suicide prevention program that builds protective factors and reduces the risk of suicide for vulnerable youth through a strengths-based focus on social connectedness and peer group norms.  In this webinar, Dr. Peter Wyman, PhD, from the Center for the Study and Prevention of Suicide at the University of Rochester, will review research on the influence of school-based social networks to adolescent risk and protective factors for suicidal behaviors, discuss adolescent exposure to risk factors for suicide, and discuss how school-based social networks can be used to promote social connectedness and address adolescent relational needs.  Dr. Wyman will also review research findings regarding the Sources of Strength impact on and through school based networks. Scott LoMurray, Deputy Director, from Sources of Strength, will provide an overview of Sources of Strength as an evidence-based universal upstream intervention, review how diverse peer leaders and trusted adults use social connectedness as a protective factor to transform behavior and social norms at a school-wide level, and examine how the shared risk and protective factor framework and interventions like that of Sources of Strength can impact a variety of negative behaviors and outcomes. Presenters will briefly review replication of Sources of Strength with populations such as LGBTQ and Tribal youth, to promote social connectedness and positive group norms.

Click here to register for this webinar.

**PASAP-PAMLE Conference**
February 24-26, 2019
Penn Stater Conference Center
State College, PA
Go here to register.

**Webinar on Family Reunification Process at Schools**
The Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Technical Assistance (TA) Center recently hosted a webinar on how schools can conduct a secure, safe, and successful family reunification process after an emergency.  The presenters discussed topics related to family reunification, including lessons learned and strategies moving forward.  To view a recording of the webinar or additional resources, please visit the REMS TA Center's website.

**Holistic Measures for School Success**
The PA Project LAUNCH Partnerships is offering Online Professional Development Modules addressing Trauma & Implicit Bias as foundational learning to support social emotional development. The courses are self-paced online learning opportunities for professionals serving children birth through 8 years.  There are scholarships available for both courses. Click here to access the FAQ regarding the courses and scholarships.  Click here to apply for a scholarship by March 1st. Both courses are 5 weeks long and provide Act 48 credits.

- **Too Mad & Too Sadd to Add:  The Impact of Early Childhood Trauma and Its Effect on Children's Learning and Development.**
    - o This course explains how toxic stress disrupts development and can lead to behavioral challenges. Strategies are also reviewed.
    - o Starting April 1st

- **Understanding Implicit Bias:  Cultural Humility and Institutional Racism**
    - o This course helps school teachers and administrators to consider the attitudes, reactions, and stereotypes and categories that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in unconscious manner.
    - o Starting May 5th


## SAVE THE DATE

**PDE Conference 2019 Making a Difference: Educational Practices That Work!**
Click here for more information on the conference.
Monday, March 11, 2019 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Tuesday, March 12, 2019 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Wednesday, March 13, 2019 from 9:00 AM to 12:45 PM
Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, PA


This annual statewide conference offers an opportunity to learn and engage with nationally-recognized presenters, as well as colleagues from across the state, highlighting effective instructional strategies and interventions designed to make an educational difference for all students. Conference topics include: Reading, Writing, Mathematics,

Secondary Transition, Behavior, Autism, Family Engagement, Leadership, Equity, Cultural Responsibility, Inclusion, Behavioral Health, STEM, and Legal Issues.

Target Audience: General education and special education administrators and teachers, career and technical education administrators and teachers, speech and language therapists, school psychologists, paraprofessionals, higher education faculty, professional development staff, parents and families are encouraged to attend.

Keynotes:
- Paul Hernandez, Ph.D.
  Author of *The Pedagogy of Real Talk*: Engaging, Teaching, and Connecting With Students at Risk
- Drew Dudley
  Author of *This is Day One: A Practical Guide to Leadership That Matters*

- Dan Habib
  Producer and Director of *Including Samuel, Intelligent Lives* and *Mr. Connolly Has ALS*

Registration questions: Contact Debra Jordan, at djordan@pattan.net or 610-878-7224.  Content questions: Contact Barbara Gilligan at bgilligan@pattan.net or 610-878-7247.   Click here to register for the conference.

**PASAP Southeast Region Workshop**
Thursday, March 21, 2019
Caron Treatment Centers
Wertz Training Center
65 Werner St., Wernersville, PA
Click here for more information.

**2019 Pennsylvania Suicide Prevention Conference**
May 1st & 2nd, 2019
Best Western Premier
800 E Park Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17111
Click here for more information.

**Mental Health Awareness Day**
Harrisburg, PA
May 8, 2019
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**PaPBS Implementer's Forum**
May 14- 15, 2019
Hershey Lodge and Convention Center
Hershey, PA

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

**Funding Announcement: 2019 Community Violence Prevention/Reduction**
**Due Feb 7, 2019** to PCCD's Egrants
The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency's (PCCD) School Safety and Security Committee announces the availability of state School Safety and Security funds to implement projects to address violence in Pennsylvania's communities. One aspect of Act 44 of 2018 provided for up to $7.5 million in funding for local efforts to reduce and/or prevent violence for certain specific purposes including:

- Increasing access to quality trauma-informed support services and behavioral health care by linking the community with local trauma support and behavioral health systems.
- Providing health services and intervention strategies by coordinating the services provided by eligible applicants and coordinated care organizations, public health entities, nonprofit youth service providers and community-based organizations.
- Providing mentoring and other intervention models to children and their families who have experienced trauma or are at risk of experiencing trauma, including those who are low-income, homeless, in foster care, involved in the criminal justice system, unemployed, experiencing a mental illness or substance abuse disorder or not enrolled in or at risk of dropping out of an educational institution.
- Fostering and promoting communication between the school entity, community and law enforcement.
- Any other program or model designed to reduce community violence and approved by the committee.

 Click here for complete details.

**SAMSHSA Targeted Capacity Expansion: Special Projects Grants**
SAMHSA is accepting applications for Targeted Capacity Expansion: Special Projects (TCE – Special Projects) grants. The purpose of this program is to develop and implement targeted strategies for substance use disorder treatment provision to address a specific population or area of focus identified by the community. The purpose of the TCE program is to address an unmet need or underserved population; this program aims to enable a community to identify the specific need or population it wishes to address through the provision of evidence-based substance use disorder treatment and/or recovery support services.  SAMHSA plans to issue 22 grants of up to $375,000 per year for up to 3 years.

**Application Due Date**: Monday, March 25, 2019

Click here for more information about this grant opportunity.

## NEWS

**National Drug and Alcohol Drug Trends: Vaping on the Rise Among Teens While Opioid Misuse Declines**
E-cigarette use among teens has risen dramatically in the past year, according to the annual **Monitoring the Future survey**.  Increases in teen vaping from 2017 to 2018 were the largest ever recorded in the past 43 years for any teen substance use in the United States, the survey found. The percentage of 12th grade students who reported vaping nicotine in the past 30 days almost doubled—from 11 percent to 21 percent.  Teens' use of other illicit drugs was flat or decreased. The percentage of 12th grade students who misused a prescription opioid in the last 12 months declined to 3.4 percent in 2018—almost two-thirds lower than the peak of 9.5 percent recorded in 2004.  Binge drinking among 12th grade students significantly declined in 2018 by 2.8 percentage points, to 14 percent.