

# SAP COUNTY COORDINATION UPDATE

January, 2016



Prepared by: PA Network for Student Assistance Services (PNSAS)

[www.pnsas.org](http://www.pnsas.org)

## **PENNSYLVANIA NETWORK FOR STUDENT ASSISTANCE SERVICES INTERAGENCY UPDATE**

### **SAP Team Information Request**

PNSAS is updating their statewide SAP Team contact lists. Each SAP team should have received a letter with links to a SAP Team survey. If you have not already done so, we would appreciate your assistance in obtaining information from your building. Please click on the links to access the letter and SAP Core Team Information Form on the [SAP website](http://www.pnsas.org). Complete the form and return it to your regional coordinator by January 15, 2016.

### **SAP Liaison Information Request**

PNSAS is updating their statewide SAP liaison contact lists. Each liaison should have already received a letter and link to the Liaison survey. If you have not already done so, we would appreciate your assistance in obtaining information from your agency. Please click on the links to access the letter and SAP Liaison Questionnaire on the [SAP website](http://www.pnsas.org). Complete the form and return it to your regional coordinator by January 15, 2016.

## **SAP BACK TO BASICS**

### **Act 71 of 2014**

On June 26, 2014, Act 71 was signed into law in Pennsylvania. This law, which added section 1526 of the School Code, 24 PS § 15-1526, specifically requires school entities to: (1) adopt a youth suicide awareness and prevention policy; and (2) provide ongoing professional development in youth suicide awareness and prevention for professional educators in building serving students in grades 6-12. Additionally, section 1526 specifically permits school entities to incorporate curriculum on this topic into their instructional programs pursuant to their youth suicide awareness and prevention policies.

Act 71 of 2014 also added section 1527 of the School Code, 24 PS § 15-1527. Section 1527 permits school entities to provide age-appropriate instruction regarding child exploitation for students in grades K-8. If a school entity provides this instruction to its students, the school entity must provide professional development related to child exploitation awareness to those educators assigned to teach courses into which child exploitation awareness education has been incorporated. For more detailed information, contact Joseph Loccisano, Safe Schools Office, (717) 346-4253 or [click here](#) to go directly to PDE's Act 71 web page.

## **RESOURCES**

### **NCJFCJ Launches National Resource Center on School-Justice Partnerships**

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), in partnership with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), has launched the [National Resource Center on School-Justice Partnerships](#). This website serves as a “one-stop shop” for resources, training, and technical assistance to help school-justice partnerships realize positive school discipline reforms and reduce the school-to-juvenile justice pathway. The resource center will provide information on the following:

- Evidence-based practices
- Alternatives to arrest and formal court processing, including effective diversion models for youth with behavioral health needs
- Applications of current research

NCJFCJ’s core partners on this project include the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice (NCMHJJ), the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Association of State Boards of Education, and the National Child Traumatic Stress Network. [Learn more here.](#)

### **New Cultural Competence Resource from SAMHSA**

*TIP 59: Improving Cultural Competence* assists professional care providers and administrators in understanding the role of culture in the delivery of substance abuse and mental health services. This free resource discusses racial, ethnic, and cultural considerations and the core elements of cultural competence. Go [here](#) to download or to order a printed copy.

### **Support HHS/SAMHSA's #We Talked Thunderclap Campaign and Help Prevent Underage Drinking**

It’s never too early for parents to talk to their kids about the dangers of underage drinking – 10% of 9- to 10-year-olds have already tried alcohol, and about one fifth of underage drinkers begin before they are 13 years old. But parents have a significant influence on whether their kids drink, and can help prevent underage drinking by talking to their kids early and often about the dangers of alcohol.

As part of its “Talk They Hear You” campaign, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is encouraging parents, caregivers, and other adult role models to have ongoing conversations with kids about underage drinking, and then share their experiences on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram using the hashtag #WeTalked.

Please share your voice and support underage drinking prevention and the #WeTalked hashtag by signing up for the #WeTalked Underage Drinking Thunderclap, and inspire others to show their support by sharing this information on social media.

You can also to check out SAMHSA’s underage drinking prevention [website](#) for resources to help guide the conversation, including the interactive “Talk. They Hear You.” app that helps you practice for some of the most important conversations you may ever have.

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Fiscal Year 2016 Grant Announcements and Awards**

SAMHSA announces grant funding opportunities through [Funding Opportunity Announcements \(FOAs\)](#). Each FOA contains all the information you need to apply for a grant.

You should become familiar with all the components of the FOA before you apply. When you find an opportunity for which you would like to apply, be sure you meet all the eligibility requirements. To apply for a grant, you must register on [Grants.gov](#).

The [SAMHSA forecast](#) provides information on SAMHSA's upcoming FOAs. Prospective Applicants can learn more about SAMHSA's plans for release of FOAs including brief program descriptions, eligibility information, award size, award number and proposed release date. Please note: this information reflects current planning and is subject to change.

### **National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative – Category III Community Treatment and Services (CTS) Centers**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) is accepting applications for fiscal year (FY) 2016 National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative (NCTSI) – Category III, Community Treatment and Services (CTS) centers grants. The purpose of this program is to provide and increase access to effective trauma-focused treatment and services systems in communities for children, adolescents, and their families who experience traumatic events throughout the nation.

Eligible applicants are domestic public and private nonprofit entities. For example:

- State and local governments
- Federally recognized American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) tribes and tribal organizations
- Urban Indian organizations
- Public or private universities and colleges
- Community- and faith-based organizations

Application Due Date: Thursday, February 4, 2016. Anticipated Award Amount: Up to \$400,000.

Learn more [here](#).

## **TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Pennsylvania Association for Student Assistance Professionals: Can't Quit Now! Games, Apps and the Internet Webinar**

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

PASAP Member Registration – Free Members Only webinar

Webinar Description: Participants will learn about popular video games, apps and Internet hot spots that captivate young people's attention. During this webinar, attendees will examine genres of games that have the potential to become addictive and hear about free and affordable parental controls. Click [here](#) to register.

### **Center for Safe Schools Third Thursdays Bullying Prevention Webinar Series**

#### **Screaming Mimis? Two-Headed Snakes? Influence of Adult Bullies on School Climate**

January 21, 2016 - Presented by Deborah Wilson Gadsden, Program Support Specialist/Olweus Trainer at Family Design Resources in Harrisburg, PA.

Participants will receive information on the prevalence of workplace bullying and characteristics of adults who bully and their bully targets. The session will discuss injurious adult behavior and its counter effects on student bullying prevention efforts. [Register now.](#)

#### **Using Compassion to Address Bullying**

February 18, 2016 - Presented by June Jenkins, Director, Positive Connection, LLC.

This webinar will discuss how important relationships within the classroom are – those include teacher-student and student-student relationships. Participants will learn practical strategies on how to model and teach compassion and empathy to children to help address bullying. [Register now.](#)

#### **Creating a Safe Space for LGBTQ Students**

March 17, 2016 - Presented by Louie Marven, Executive Director, LGBT Center of Central PA.

In this session, we will: work toward creating a common language around LGBTQ youth in schools; discuss the environment faced by LGBTQ youth in schools; and learn strategies for creating a safe learning environment for LGBTQ youth on individual and institutional levels. [Register now.](#)

#### **PASAP-PAMLE 2016**

February 28-March 1, 2016

Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel

State College, PA

Conference registration is now open

Go [here](#) for more information and to register.

#### **SAVE THE DATE**

#### **PBIS Implementer's Forum**

May 5-6, 2016

Hershey Lodge and Convention Center

Hershey, PA

Registration details available in February, 2016

Go [here](#) for a Save the Date flyer.

#### **Services for Teens at Risk (STAR-Center) Conference**

Friday, May 6, 2016

Program information coming soon [here](#)

## Center for Safe Schools Third Thursdays Bullying Prevention Webinar Series

### Identifying Peer Abuse and Clearing the Haze: Eliminating Hazing from Our Schools

May 19, 2016 - Presented by Dr. Brian Crow, Professor, Sports Management, Slippery Rock University.

In this session participants will also be provided with a clear definition of hazing and identify how it is different from bullying. While most research on hazing has been conducted among college students, more recent studies have focused on hazing at the high school level. Strategies for teachers, administrators, coaches, students, and parents to recognize and eliminate hazing from schools will also be discussed. [Register now.](#)

## NEWS

### **National Drug & Alcohol Facts Week**

*National Drug & Alcohol Facts Week*<sup>SM</sup> (NDAFW) is a national health observance for teens to promote local events that use NIDA science to *SHATTER THE MYTHS* about drugs. This online guide gives you everything you need to plan, promote, and host your NDAFW event.

You Host an NDAFW Event January 25–31, 2016

NIDA Provides Free Materials for Teens & Together We *SHATTER THE MYTHS*

<https://teens.drugabuse.gov/national-drug-facts-week>

NIDA has new [toolkits and publications](#) to help with your events.

### **Bullying Exposure Associated with Adult Psychiatric Disorders Requiring Treatment**

Exposure to bullying as a child was associated with psychiatric disorders in adulthood that required treatment in a study of Finnish children, according to an article published online by *JAMA Psychiatry*.

Andre Sourander, M.D., Ph.D., of the University of Turku, Finland, and coauthors examined associations between bullying behavior at age 8 and adult psychiatric outcomes by age 29. The study used data from 5,034 Finnish children and assessments of bullying and exposure to bullying were based on information from the children, their parents and teachers. Information on the use of inpatient and outpatient services to treat psychiatric disorders from ages 16 to 29 was obtained from a nationwide hospital register.

Study participants were divided into four groups: those who never or only sometimes bully and are not exposed to bullying; those who frequently bully but are not exposed to bullying; those who were frequently only exposed to bullying; and those who frequently bully and are exposed to bullying.

The treatment of any psychiatric disorder was associated with frequent exposure to bullying, as well as with being a bully and being exposed to bullying. Exposure to bullying was associated with depression, according to the results. Study participants who were bullies and exposed to bullying at age 8 had a high risk for several psychiatric disorders that required treatment when they were adults. The authors note the main limitation of the study is the lack of understanding about how bullying-exposure to bullying may lead to psychiatric disorders.

"Future studies containing more nuanced information about the mediating factors that occur between childhood bullying and adulthood disorders will be needed to shed light on this important question. ... Policy makers and health care professionals should be aware of the complex nature between bullying and psychiatric outcomes when they implement prevention and treatment interventions," the study concludes. Learn more about the study [here](#).

### **Study: Prescription Opioid Use in Teens Associated with Future Misuse**

Adolescents' legitimate use of prescription opioids is associated with increased risk for misusing the painkillers when they are adults, according to a new study. This especially holds true for teens who disapprove of illegal drug use and have little experience using drugs. Read more [here](#).