SAP COUNTY COORDINATION UPDATE
November, 2015

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

PENNSYLVANIA NETWORK FOR STUDENT ASSISTANCE SERVICES INTERAGECY UPDATE

PA Department of Education:
The PA Department of Education, Safe Schools Office, anticipates offering no-cost K-12 Student Assistance Program (SAP) training for LEAs this school year. The funds are currently still pending based on finalization of the state budget. As you know, SAP is a mandated K-12 program in Pennsylvania as per Chapter 12, 12.42 of the PA School Code and Act 211 of 1990 (24 P.S. 12.12.42-1547). Correspondence was sent to LEAs regarding this training opportunity.

The trainings need to be completed by June 8, 2016. Substitute costs, meals, travel, etc. will not be funded. PDE will direct all training monies to the respective Commonwealth Approved Trainers (CAT's) and not to the individual districts. Act 48 credits will be available for the K-12 SAP training.

This year, K-12 SAP Team training for up to 4 new SAP team members will be available for districts with enrollment under 10,000. Since SAP is mandatory K-12, priority will be given to those districts interested in starting new Elementary Student Assistance Teams. Although every effort will be made to satisfy all districts' training requests, it will be based on availability of funds and/or each CAT's training schedule. New Elementary Student Assistance team requests will be our first priority.

Contact your SAP Regional Coordinator for a copy of the PDE Funded K-12 SAP Training Request Form. The Request Form should be electronically submitted to your SAP Regional Coordinator no later than 4:00 p.m. November 16, 2015. Only one request form per district will be accepted. Your Regional Coordinator will contact your district to let them know the status of the funding request.

PA Department of Human Services:

PSA Contest for Youth Suicide Prevention
It's time for the Pennsylvania Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative's Annual High School PSA contest for youth suicide prevention. Your students are invited to create a public service announcement that promotes a message of hope. There are four categories for submission:
- Video PSA - 30 seconds
- Video PSA - 60 seconds
- Audio PSA - 30 seconds

- PSA Poster- 2'x3'

Each high school is invited to submit one entry per category. The winners for each category will be honored in the Spring of 2016. Entries are due no later than December 18, 2015. Contest details and entry form maybe found at http://payspi.org/psa/2016psa/.

SAP BACK TO BASICS

Statewide Resources for SAP Teams
Our SAP county coordination team is looking for a speaker on. . . We're having a lot of referrals about . . . Where can we get more information on this issue? What's a good program for . . .? Questions! Questions! Questions! But where do you find the answers?   Student Assistance teams need to be aware of what's out there to assist them in their work with students. There are many statewide resources that are worth checking out. Here are a few to get you started.

- **Pennsylvania Network for Student Assistance Services (PNSAS)**

The mission of the Pennsylvania Network for Student Assistance Services is to provide leadership for developing a safe and drug-free environment and mental health wellness in schools and communities across the Commonwealth. Barriers to learning will be removed and student academic achievement will be enhanced through collaborative prevention, intervention, and post-intervention services.

On the network's new website at http://pnsas.org/Home you can find many resources that your SAP team can use including: a downloadable SAP parent brochure that you can customize for your school's program; a checklist to complete to see if your SAP team is operating with fidelity (how closely your team is following the Pennsylvania approved model for SAP teams); a list of Commonwealth Approved SAP trainers across the state; and SAP satisfaction surveys that you can distribute to your students, staff, and parents. You can also find links to recent webinars produced by the network. The website also lists the contact information for your SAP regional coordinator who is available to provide technical assistance to your SAP team. The map and contact information can be downloaded here.

- **Office for Safe Schools**

Office for Safe Schools coordinates school safety and security programs, collection of the annual school violence statistics, coordination of anti-violence efforts, and development of policies and strategies to combat school violence. It supports and provides technical assistance and professional development programs in the following areas and security-related activities to support school safety: crisis intervention, school police training, violence prevention, and social/emotional wellness and safety provides services to all local school entities.

The Office for Safe Schools sponsors the PA Bullying Prevention Consultation Hotline which is a toll-free number that allows individuals experiencing chronic and unresolved bullying to discuss effective strategies and available resources to deal with school-based bullying. This supportive resource has been developed in collaboration with the Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (CHPDP), and is available, at no cost, to students, parents/guardians and school districts across the state of Pennsylvania.

At their website you will also find a variety of resources including ones for emergency planning, the PA Truancy Reduction Toolkit as well as a Model Dating Violence Policy. Go here to learn more about what the Office for Safe Schools has to offer.

- **Pennsylvania Association of Student Assistance Professionals (PASAP)**

PASAP is the professional organization for Student Assistance Program (SAP) teams and related support agencies in Pennsylvania. According to Lisa Sviben Miller, the President of PASAP, "The organization's board of directors is comprised of educational professionals and community-based program specialists with a core mission to support schools and agencies in meeting the needs of Pennsylvania youth in the areas of education, prevention, intervention, referral, and support services.   Our purpose also is to encourage the advancement and improvement of practices and services as a means to remove barriers to learning and promote success/achievement in school and in life."

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According to Ms. Miller, PASAP, which has been in existence since 1990, is a membership-driven association that produces an annual conference, numerous regional workshops, webinars and other related professional development activities. She states that "In addition, PASAP provides a forum for sharing resources, common needs, experiences and outcomes in an effort to enhance the services provided to the youth in our Commonwealth. "   To learn more visit the PASAP website at http://www.pasap.org/.

- **STAR Center**

STAR-Center Outreach is available to provide training to school districts and agencies throughout the Commonwealth on an array of topics as they relate to students at risk. These services are provided at no cost because of the generous support STAR-Center receives from the PA General Assembly. Here is a sampling of topics that Star-Center Outreach has presented on in the past:

--Beyond the Blues: A Look at Depression and Anxiety in Our Youth.
--Bullying Prevention and Intervention: Creating Safe and Caring Schools.
--Crisis Management and Postvention Training for Schools.
--Redirecting Bullying Behavior, Engaging Targets and Empowering On-lookers: What Caring Adults Need to Know

In addition to their education and outreach, the STAR Center also provides postvention and crisis response services. According to their website "When a suicide or tragedy occurs in a school district, our outreach staff consults with educators on how to provide postvention services. As always, our staff continues to be available by telephone to any district or agency 24/7 at 412-864-3346. Many school districts across the country have come to rely on our Postvention Standards Manual: A Guide for a School's Response in the Aftermath of a Sudden Death. STAR-Center Outreach staff is available to consult with educators regarding how to provide postvention services following a suicide or tragedy that occurs in their school community." Learn more at http://www.starcenter.pitt.edu/

- **Center for Safe Schools**

On their website, the Center for Safe Schools states that the Center "in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Education supports schools, local agencies and parents in developing and practicing emergency management and crisis response plans; creating positive school environments; implementing evidence-based programs; and institutionalizing proactive safety measures in partnership with law enforcement and other community entities to address local needs. Through expert staff, as well as access to a network of state and national researchers and practitioners, the Center provides state-of-the-art professional development, technical assistance and resources to schools throughout the Commonwealth."

The Center has several initiatives including: Bullying Prevention, Emergency Management, Internet Safety and Mission Homefront. In addition, the Center sponsors a free "Third Thursday Bullying Prevention" webinar series each month from 3:00 PM – 4:15 PM. They also host the "Safe Schools Conference" each year which is focused on the latest research in how to create a positive school culture that supports academic success and provides a safe teaching and learning environment. According to the conference's description, "This conference is designed to provide quality professional development opportunities for school administrators, student support personnel, teachers, school nurses, SAP team members, school resource officers, local law enforcement and other community partners." To learn more about the services go to http://www.safeschools.info/.

- **The Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General**

The Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General's Education and Outreach Unit offers a number of free educational programs to help school personnel, students, parents and the community empower children with knowledge to keep them safe and to make good decisions. According to their website: "Our Education and Outreach staff provides presentations throughout the state of Pennsylvania on topics ranging from drug awareness, cyber safety, and cyber bullying. These unique programs feature, interactive learning along with a powerful message. All the presentations are updated to remain consistent with the rapid changes of our society. The Education and Outreach Unit programs are also able to be tailored to the needs of your audience; given the content as it relates to the jurisdiction of the Office of

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Attorney General. All of the above topics can also be presented to parents to educate them on how to better protect their children."

Click here to find the Education and Outreach Specialist in your area to schedule a program for your school or community group. The link will take you to the Attorney General's web site. Once there, click on "Go to the Main Site" and you will reach the Education and Outreach page. Scroll down to see the map of education and outreach specialists and their contact information.

- **EPISCenter**

The Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support Center (EPISCenter) represents a collaborative partnership between the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), the Bennett Pierce Prevention Research Center, the College of Health and Human Development, Penn State University, with funding and support from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) and the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS).

The EPISCenter website states that "the EPISCenter aims to promote the greater use of prevention and intervention programs that have proven their effectiveness in rigorous scientific evaluations. The Center's primary goal is to advance high quality implementation, impact assessment, and sustainability of these evidence-based programs to maximize the positive impact of prevention science on outcomes for youth, families, and communities."

On their website you can find links to descriptions of evidence-based programming, information on participating in and utilizing the PAYS Survey, as well as current funding opportunities.   Go to http://www.episcenter.psu.edu/to learn more.

RESOURCES

Finding Programs to Address Bullying
If you're looking to implement a program to address bullying, you might start by reviewing what's working (or not) in other programs. Child Trends' What Works database is a searchable database of evaluated social interventions for children. You can search for programs that address bullying behaviors, including characteristics of the groups they target in your search. They have synthesized some of these programs into a brief.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

PASAP Trainings- Go to the Events page of the PASAP webpage at http://www.pasap.org/

PASAP Eastern Regional Workshop
Thursday, November 5, 2015
8:30 AM – 3:00 PM
Caron Treatment Center
Family Education Program Conference Room
150 Galen Hall Rd
Wernersville, PA 19565
PASAP Member – $25.00
PASAP Non-Member – $75.00

PASAP Current Social Media Apps with Youth Webinar
Wednesday, November 11, 2015
Webinar from 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM
PASAP Member Registration – **Free**
Members only webinar

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Webinar Description: Participants will learn about popular social media apps currently being used by youth. During this webinar, attendees will learn about different categories of apps, how they are utilized and potential maladaptive behaviors with each app and how to communicate with youth about responsible social media usage.

Reducing Chronic Absenteeism
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2015
Time: 4 p.m. Eastern)
Webinar description: Join Jessica Sprick for Reducing Chronic Absenteeism, a free webinar on how to address absenteeism and truancy from kindergarten to 12th grade. Learn to proactively prevent absenteeism problems with the majority of your students by implementing simple, universal procedures. Then increase the efficacy of your tiered intervention systems by implementing function-based approaches.
To register click here.

PASAP Northwest Region Workshop (Grove City)
Wednesday, December 02, 2015
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Midwestern IU4, 453 Maple Street Grove City, PA 16127
Base fee:
PASAP Member Rate – $25.00
PASAP Non-Member Rate – $75.00

PASAP Can't Quit Now! Games, Apps and the Internet Webinar
Wednesday, January 06, 2016
2:30 PM - 3:15 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.

The 2016 PASAP-PAMLE Conference
February 28, 29 and March 1, 2016
Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College, PA.
Registration is scheduled to open on Monday, November 16, 2015.
Click here for more information about the conference.

NEWS

PASAP
Here's a great way to thank those who work so hard for our students. Pennsylvania Association of Student Assistance Professionals (PASAP) is accepting nominations to award individuals and groups who work tirelessly to advance the mission of Student Assistance Programming and help students remove barriers to their learning so they can achieve school success. The winners will receive their award at the annual PASAP-PAMLE Conference in State College on February 28 – March 1, 2016. For more information about the award categories, please visit the PASAP website and submit your nomination by December 31st.