

FAQ Corner

“Who Shouldn’t?”

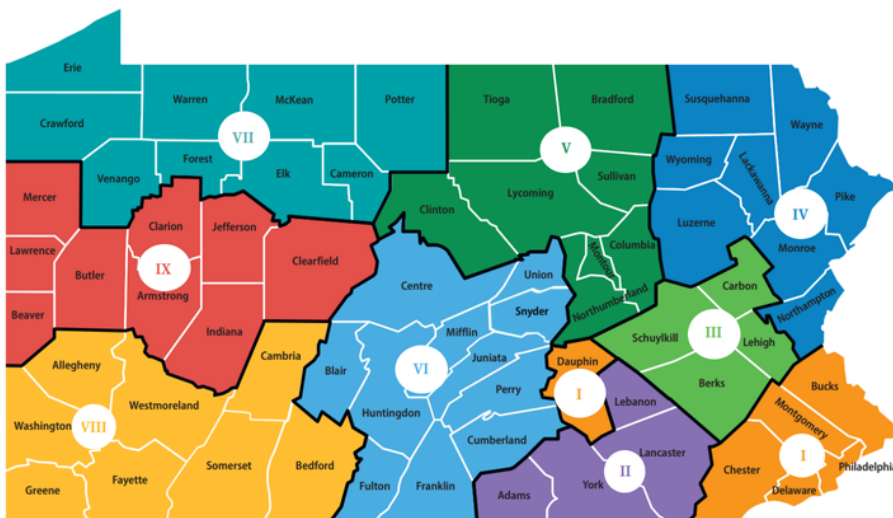
School SAP teams are approached by many agencies that want to assist students. It is always helpful to know legal and ethical boundaries when outside agencies want to attend SAP Team meetings. The following is an excerpt from the SAP Frequently Asked Questions and Best Practice Document.

61. How can an outpatient treatment provider communicate information to the SAP team?

A communication mechanism should be developed, with appropriate releases, between the outpatient treatment provider and SAP team to share educationally relevant information that may help inform appropriate action planning.

It is best practice to only have SAP Liaisons at the table with the school SAP Team members. Other providers need to use their time and resources to work with youth. They can be SAP trained and provide updates on the students they work with. However, they should not be present when other students are discussed. There is an important document you and your team should review when working with school-based outpatient treatment providers: “Outpatient Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment Disorder Treatment Services in Schools: Considerations for Schools and Providers”.

Contact your PNSAS SAP Regional Coordinator for assistance.



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SAP Interagency

Department of Drug & Alcohol Programs (DDAP)

PA Department of Education (PDE)

Department of Human Services (DHS)



Training Opportunities

SAP Training - For upcoming training opportunities, click [here](#).

STAR-Center Virtual Conference - To be held 5/10/24 - click [here](#) for details.

Children’s Interagency Conference will be held April 22nd-25th. Please visit the [conference website](#) for more information and to register.



Grants

For open PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) grant opportunities, click [here](#).

Liaison FAQ Corner

“How Can Liaisons Help Teams?”

SAP liaisons may provide a good perspective in assisting a team in following best practices. Sometimes liaisons are asked to help struggling teams. When in doubt, review your LOA with the school and discuss with your supervisor to determine your role. The excerpts below are from the Liaison Frequently Asked Questions.

8. How do liaisons best help teams maintain program fidelity?

Connect the SAP team to their Regional Coordinator for assistance. Encourage the team to participate in team maintenance. Review best practices with the team. Bring any concerns to the team’s attention when they come up.

9. What do liaisons do/say if there are problems with the team functioning and process, (since they have an allegiance to teams but this may conflict with agency role)? Example: Team is not meeting, team uses meeting time to discuss inappropriate topics, team is not utilizing data such as behavior checklists, etc.

The liaison is a team member and can provide technical assistance on appropriate SAP process and procedures. It could be appropriate to suggest best practice to the team. Liaisons should follow the conflict resolution process and speak with their supervisor about any greater concerns that affect team functioning or their role as a liaison. Some suggestions are:

- *Suggest teams check PNSAS website for sample forms such as behavior checklists and meeting agenda and other team maintenance tools such as the fidelity checklist or satisfaction surveys.*
- *Team maintenance should be scheduled once per year.*
- *The liaison supervisor could conduct supervision meetings and attend team meetings. This could be an opportunity for someone that does not have a personal connection to the team to provide unbiased feedback.*
- *The liaison supervisor could meet with the building principal.*
- *Ask Regional Coordinator for technical assistance.*
- *A Regional Coordinator can provide suggestions and options to address team concerns at a Networking Day or SAP Coordination/District Council meetings.*

If you need assistance helping your SAP Teams, contact your SAP Regional Coordinator.



Information

2023-2024 PDE4092 revised instructions are available. Visit the Safe Schools website to download the updated form and/or updated instructions. Check that the correct staff have a login and access so you’re ready for data entry due by June 30th.

2023-2024 SAP Liaison Annual Reporting system will open in May. Visit the website to download a blank form. Check that the correct staff have a login and access so you’re ready for data entry due by July 31st.

PA Department of Education has released pre-recorded jokes, advice, and words of encouragement from PA students. Dial **(717) 772-4737** for the You’ve Got a Friend in PA Pep Talk Phone Line!

Stop by and visit the PNSAS exhibitor booth at the Children’s Interagency Conference on April 22nd-25th. Come say hello and visit with Regional Coordinators and Interagency staff members.

Nominate someone for a 2024 PA Prevention Award as the Commonwealth Prevention Alliance highlights the individuals and groups who are making significant contributions to improving their communities, schools, and beyond through prevention and positive mental health initiatives. Visit their site to learn more or to nominate by March 25th.