NFSTAC PRESENTS

Family Engagement in School Mental Health

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September 20, 2023 2-3:30pm ET

Disclaimer

The National Family Support Technical Assistance Center of Excellence (COE) Grant #1H79F6000160-Fam-CoE is supported by SAMHSA of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award with 100% funding by SAMHSA/HHS.

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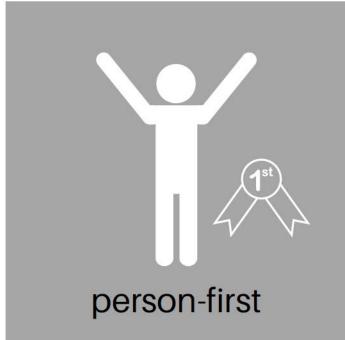








NFSTAC uses family-centered language!













Parenting

Born April 3, 2001....25 weeks....1lb 10 oz.

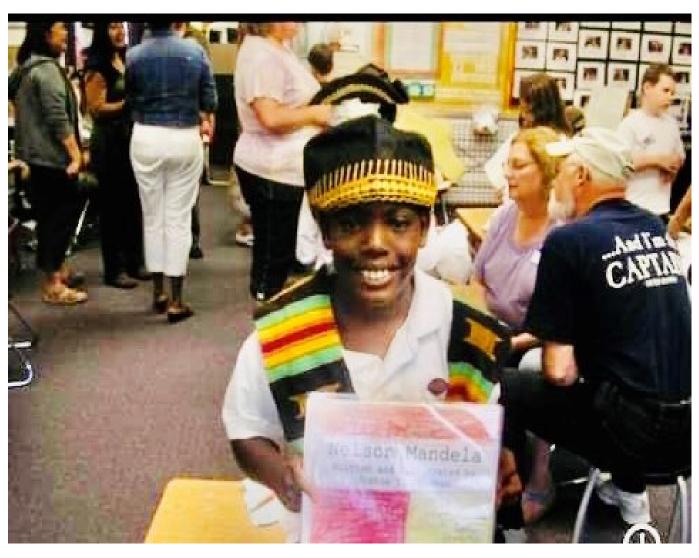






Early School Days









Systems in various states

- Dilworth
- Snowdrop Academy



Rockburn Elementary





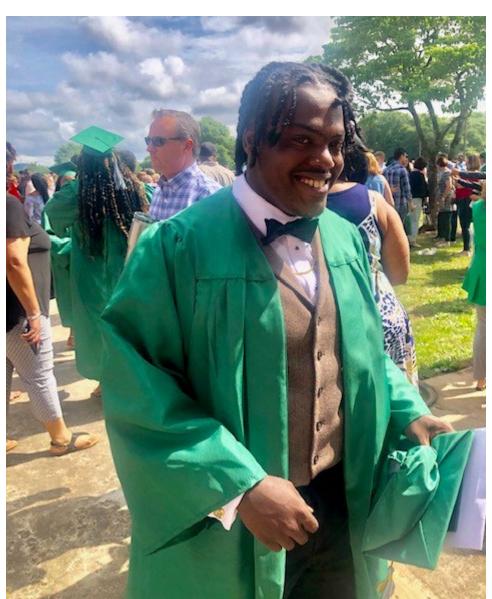
- Grier Middle School
- Gaston Christian School
- Ashbrook High School





High School to College









Let's Discuss College

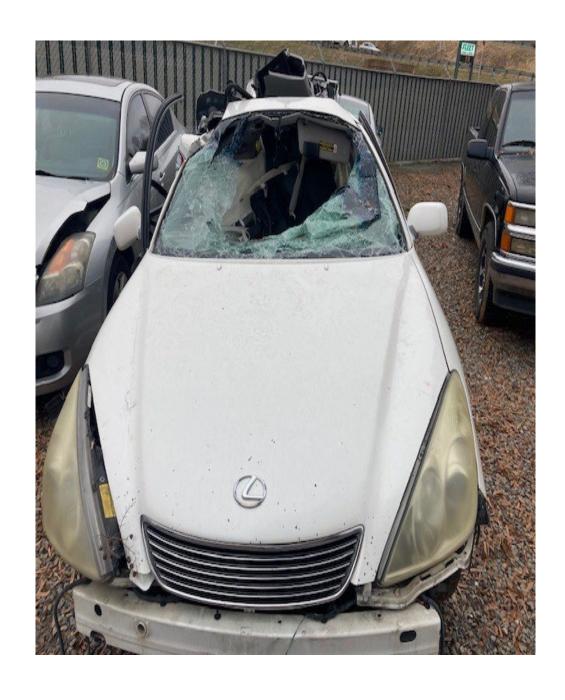








Covid, Trauma & College



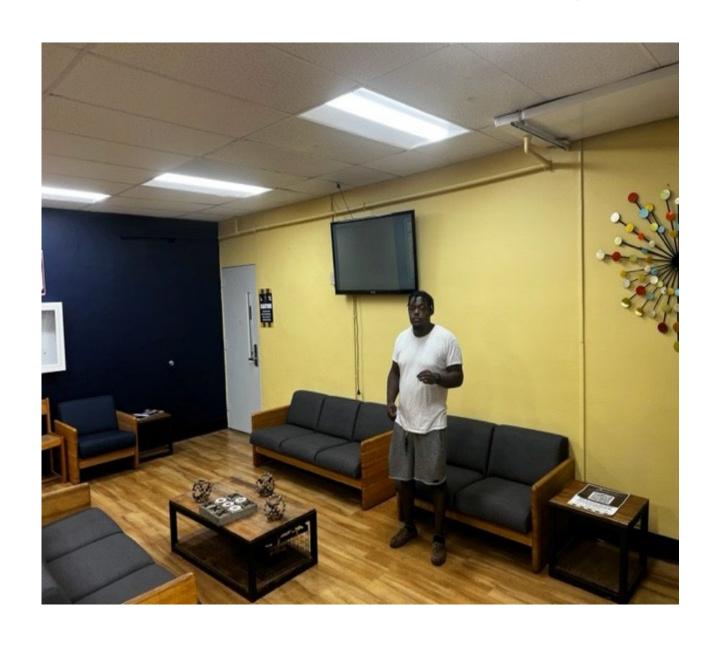




JCSU 2023



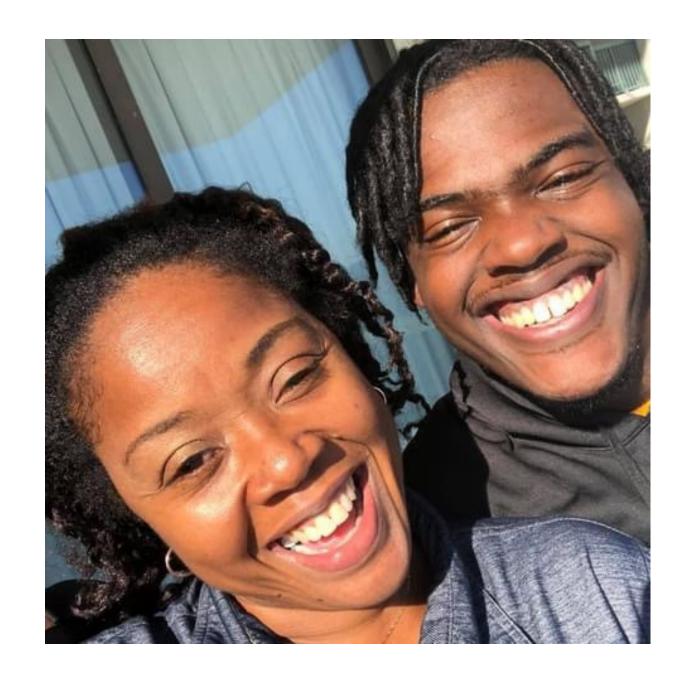








Relationship









Pa-Rent-Ing

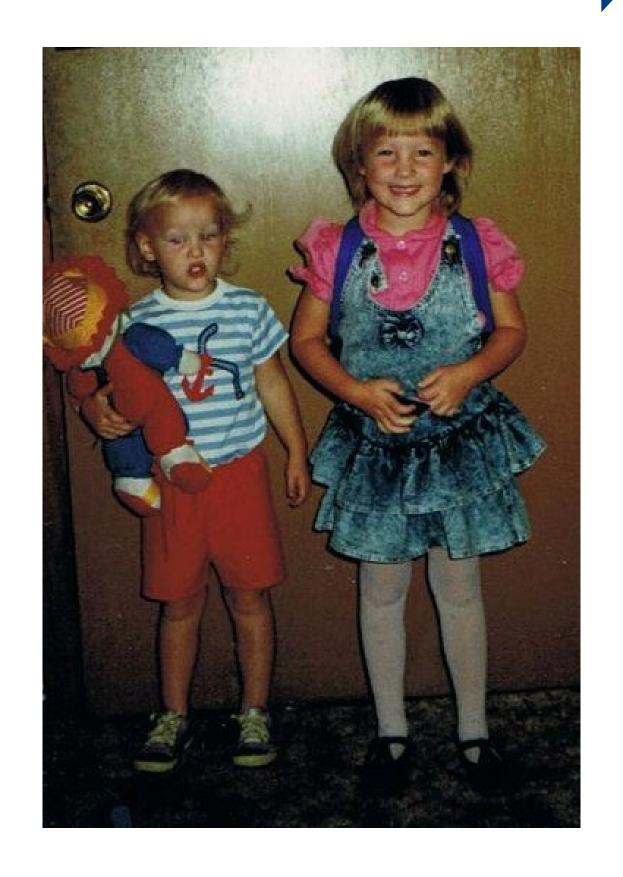




Playing Teacher

Lifetime dream of being a teacher...

- Career Day visit to elementary school
- Practicum in high school
- Elementary Education degree
- Preschool teaching in MO (and GA)
- Teaching toddlers to high schoolers in Japan
- Masters in Educational Psychology
- 2nd grade SPED inclusion class in GA elementary school
- Kindergarten class in NYC charter school







Back to School...What's going on?

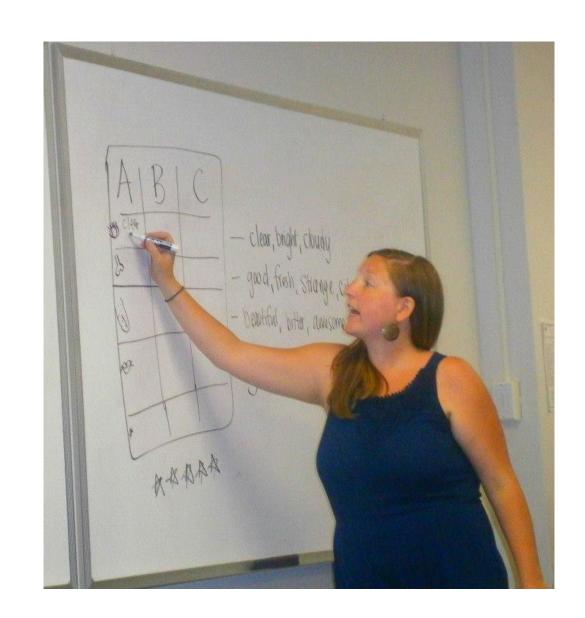
Optimism

Frustration

Fear

Overwhelm

Despondency

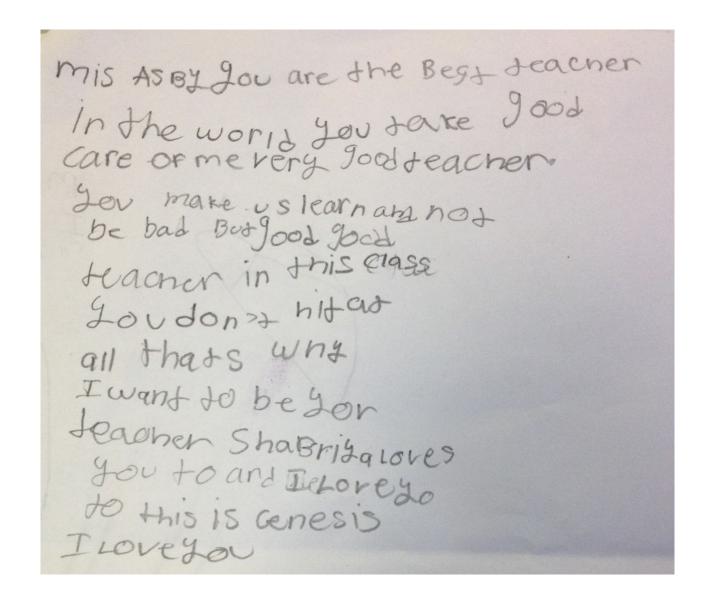


Burn Out





Another Good Teacher Leaves the Field



A breaking point...

leaving teaching to make a difference in education policy through developmental psychology research!





Applying Research to Address Trauma in Schools and Bring Families into the Conversation

Teaching Skills, Facilitating Reflection, Sharing Experiences

- 5 min: Opening mindfulness practice
- 10 min: Strategies to address mental health alongside school staff
- 15 min: Reflective questions
- 15 min: Sharing challenges
- 15 min: Sharing solutions and successes



Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network

Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Family Compassionate Conversations: Fostering Connection

Activities to Increase Connection

Feeling Connected as a Family

Understand the importance of connection and what it looks like.

- Humans are hardwired to desire connection with one another. Our brains send signals that mimic those of physical pain when we experience isolation and loneliness. Being together in harmony has been integral to our survival as a species.
- When families feel a sense of connection—that they <u>care for one another, will support one</u>
 another, understand each other, and are on the same team—a bond of love can increase while
 conflict reduces.

Self-assess. How are your connections?

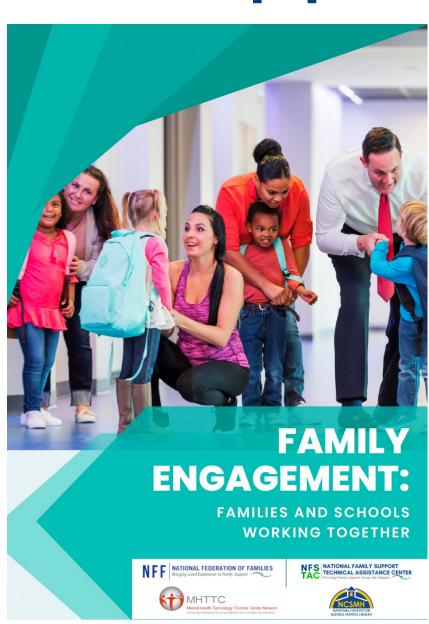
- <u>To create a culture of belonging, family members can start with themselves</u>. Ask yourself some of these questions:
 - Do I have strong connections with peers at work?
 - Do I have strong connections with those I manage or mentor?
 - Do I have strong connections with my partner and/or children?
 - Do I have strong connections with other family members, friends, or neighbors?
- If you do have strong connections with others, think about the steps you took to build and deepen those connections. It will be most genuine if you start forging new relationships or deepening existing ones using the tools and strategies that come naturally to you.
- If you do not have strong connections with others, <u>consider first connecting with yourself</u> using mindfulness techniques to increase self-compassion and compassion for others.
 - The Loving Kindness Meditation can help us increase our love for self and others.





Family Peer Specialists: Liaisons and Supports for Navigating SMH





Family Peer Specialists have four central roles:

- 1) Offering peer support to family members,
- 2) Mentoring families to become confident advocates for their children's desired supports and family-driven systems,
- 3) Helping families navigate multiple systems, and
- 4) Teaching skills to maintain personal and family well-being.





I would really appreciate more of a breakdown specifically of our area in Northwest Georgia. These are the programs. These are the acronyms. I want a breakdown of day-to-day, these are the people, and these are the roles. You can tell me that you're a manager of whatever title, but I don't understand what that means. That's not telling me what your job is. I understand what Ms. Hope and Angela's duties are. I've seen evidence of what [they] do, but there's still things I'm learning every time we [interact]. Everything is so vast and it's like a never-ending story, because there's so many things going on. Don't hand me a pamphlet about ADHD. We can get ADHD information everywhere. I need to know what is right here, right now that I have access to. I want to know about the therapy group, which I wouldn't have known about if it wasn't for Angela. Having those parent groups has been a tremendous help. I wouldn't have known that if we didn't get referred to [this program]. I wouldn't have known that had the school not finally had somebody in there saying, 'Hey, look, this is available to you.'





Take HEART!



COMPASSIONATE SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH MODEL



www.heartcollective.info



Tips for Advocating for School Mental Health Needs

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, youth mental health was a burgeoning public health crisis, with the number of youth experiencing serious mental health challenges, substance misuse, and suicidal ideation rising exponentially year after year (Twenge et al., 2019). The global pandemic of coronavirus disease has exacerbated this problem, shedding light on the multiple factors responsible for this crisis, while increasing pressure on governmental, public, and community groups to respond. We developed this tip sheet to help jumpstart your own advocacy efforts to improve mental health services for youth. We address the basics—how, where, who—and give practical, targeted, and effective recommendations to help you explain why there is an urgent need to increase school mental health services.

How to Advocate



Make a list and check it twice

Compile a list of policymakers, policy drivers, leaders in education, and influencers you'd like to contact. First, focus on the contacts who represent your community and state. Collect their contact information-name, phone number, email address-and list the representatives you plan to contact.



Know with whom you are speaking

Analyze your audience. Research the viewpoints, voting records, and careers of the stakeholders you meet. Weave this information into your pitch.

Come to the meeting with an understanding of the staff member's power to affect change directly or indirectly with their higher-ups. Tailor your message to their interests, attitudes, and level of understanding.

Follow recommendations from the National Association of School Psychologists (2020)

Ready to Learn, Empowered to Teach promotes these seven guiding principles for maintaining a high-quality public education system:

- Review, evaluate, and reconstruct or replace existing school structures, policies, and procedures that lead to inequitable outcomes.
- Combine high expectations for all students with high-quality instruction across a well-rounded and culturally responsive curriculum for general and special education students.
- Create positive school climates that balance physical and psychological safety for all students.
- Provide access to comprehensive school-based mental and behavioral health services and ensure adequate staffing levels of appropriately trained school-employed mental health professionals.
- Increase family and community engagement to support student success.
- Create systems that support the recruitment and retention of properly trained and prepared professionals that reflect the diversity of the school community.
- Create accountability systems that use a broad set







NFF Definition



Family engagement is a collaborative and strengthsbased process through which professionals, families, and children build positive and goal-oriented relationships.

It is a shared responsibility of families and staff at all levels that requires mutual respect for the roles and strengths each has to offer.



Effective Practices in Education

- 1. Shared decision making
- 2. Value families as partners and leaders
- 3. Bidirectional
- 4. Culturally responsive



Effective Practices in Mental Health

- 1. Psychoeducation
- 2. Accessibility
- 3. Understanding of family view on mental health
- 4. Culturally responsive



How do we monitor and improve family engagement in school mental health?

2 Domains

Activities for caregivers

Quality of services and supports

Input

Analysis of SMHQA

Feedback from Caregivers – FREDLA

Feedback from School-Based Mental Health

Instructions

15-20 minutes

Never (1), Rarely (2), Sometimes (3), Often (4),

Almost Always (5), Always (6)

Results

Strategic Planning Guide Continuous Quality Improvement Quality Guide





Comprehensive School Mental Health Systems

- Provide a full array of supports and services that promote positive school climate, social emotional learning, mental health and well-being, while reducing the prevalence and severity of mental illness
- Built on a strong foundation of district and school professionals, including administrators and educators, specialized instructional support personnel (e.g., school psychologists, school social workers, school counselors, school nurses, other school health professionals) in strategic partnership with students, families and community health and mental health partners
- Assess and address the social and environmental factors that impact health and mental health





DOMAINS

School Mental Health National Quality Assessment Overview of Domains and Indicators





Teaming



- · Have multidisciplinary team
- · Use best practices for meetings, role delineation, and data sharing
- Avoid duplication and promote efficiency
- · Make mental health referrals to school-based and community-based services
- · Meaningfully involve youth and families
- Facilitate effective school-community partnerships
- · Address each tier of the multi-tiered system of support
- Use data to determine service needs

Needs Assessment/ Resource Mapping



TIER 283

- · Assess student mental health needs
- · Assess student mental health strengths
- · Use needs assessment to determine appropriate services and supports
- Conduct or access current resource mapping
- · Use current resource map to inform decisions about services and supports
- Align existing mental health services and supports

Mental Health Promotion Services & Supports

evidence-informed services

considerations

· Allocate time for staff to deliver needed Tier 1

Determine evidence to support Tier 1 services

· Determine and implement school-wide positive

Support training and monitor fidelity for Tier 1 services

· Proactively build healthy relationships and community

Assess and improve school climate and staff well-being

Ensure Tier 1 services match unique school

Reduce exclusionary discipline practices





Impact

- Determine evidence to support Tiers 2 & 3 services Ensure Tiers 2 & 3 services match unique school
- considerations
- Support training for Tiers 2 & 3 services
- Monitor fidelity of Tiers 2 & 3 services
- Monitor individual student progress across tiers
- Implement systematic protocol for crisis response
- · Create SMART intervention goals
- · Place staff with allocated time to deliver needed Tier 2 evidence-informed services
- · Place staff with allocated time to deliver needed Tier 3 evidence-informed services

· Promote mental health literacy

· Support social & emotional learning

behavior expectations



Screening · Screen for student distress and well-being to identify

and refer students for additional supports.



· Document and report the impact of your comprehensive school mental health system on educational, social/emotional/behavioral and services outcomes to a wide range of stakeholders

Funding and Sustainability

- Use multiple and diverse funding and resources
- Leverage funding and resources to attract potential contributors
- Have strategies to retain staff

- Maximizer expertise and resources of all stakeholders
- · Monitor federal, state, and local policies that impact funding
- · Support funding and resources at each tier
- · Maximize opportunities to bill for eligible services

For a full copy of the school mental health national quality assessment, visit www.theSHAPEsystem.com





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Almost Always (5), Always (6)

Results

Strategic Planning Guide Continuous Quality Improvement Quality Guide





How often does my school...

Share information

 provide information about different ways that caregivers can be engaged in school mental health

Invite to caregiver to school teams

• invite caregivers to participate in school mental health teams related to planning and implementation

Hold accessible meetings

hold meetings at days/times/locations that are accessible for parents to attend

Provide alternatives

 provide alternative options for parents to be engaged in decision-making if they cannot attend meetings

Assess perspectives

 assess caregiver perspectives and priorities related to student mental health strengths, needs, and services

Inform policies and procedures

 invite families to learn about and inform mental health screening policies and procedures





How often does my school...

Invest time

• invest time and resources into building positive relationships with caregivers

Establish communication

 establish and maintain bidirectional communication with caregivers

Maintain proactive and positive communication

 establish and maintain proactive and positive communication with caregivers

Be culturally responsive

 use culturally responsive approaches in building relationships with caregivers





How often does my school...

2

Evaluate Fit

 involve caregivers to evaluate the fit of interventions with respect to the strengths, needs, and cultural/linguistic considerations of students, families, and communities

Build consistency between home-school environments

• share and receive information from caregivers to encourage consistency between home-school environments

Invite to trainings

• invite caregivers to trainings and events related to mental health, behavior, and well-being

Seek and incorporate input

• seek and incorporate caregiver input about mental health trainings for i) staff; ii) caregivers; iii) students

Co-Lead Trainings

• seek family partnership in leading trainings about mental health, behavior, and well-being (e.g., leading SEL lesson, contributing expertise to school professional development training, presenting to the school board)





3

Share data

• share data with families related to student use of mental health services

Involve in dissemination

• involve caregivers in dissemination of mental health information to youth and families

Review data on outcomes

• partner with families to review data on school mental health system outcomes to inform ongoing mental health programming

Partner for fundraising

 partner with families to plan fundraising events that support school mental health programs

• engage caregivers to collaborate on pursuing and securing funding (e.g., applying to grants; speaking to funders and collaborators)

Inform use of funding

 partner with families to prioritize how to best use funding for school mental health services/supports



How often





Calculate Score for First domain





How often does my school...

Provide training for school staff

• Provide trainings on student mental health for school staff, including knowledge about signs and symptoms of child psychopathology, support strategies, promoting positive mental health, and culturally responsive strategies for diverse students/families.

Provide training for caregivers

• Provide trainings on youth mental health and related topics for caregivers (e.g., promoting positive mental health, signs and symptoms of concern, routine setting for homework, behavior management at home)

Provide training for students

 Provide training for students on how to support their peers with mental health and behavioral difficulties

Share information on referral processes

• Provide information about available school mental health supports and the referral process to students and families

Implement evidence-based interventions

• Implement evidence-based school mental health programs and supports





How often does my school...

Incorporate SEL

 incorporate social emotional learning into daily school activities

Sponsor wellness events

 sponsor mental health and wellness events for students (e.g., mental health fairs, book fairs on youth mental health)

Check in on wellbeing

 check in with students about their wellbeing regularly





How often does my school...

Have mental health professionals

 have mental health professionals readily available to support students and families

Maintain regular contact

 have mental health professionals who are in regular contact with caregivers regarding services and supports for their students

Seek input on strategies

• seek input from caregivers about their child's strengths, challenges, and what strategies work best for the student and family

Be culturally responsive

 provide mental health services appropriate for the children's cultures, languages, and values

Use accommodations

 use accommodations successfully to support student's mental health strengths and needs





3

How often does my school...

Monitor implementation

 monitor how well staff and teachers are implementing programs and share information with caregivers

Monitor outcomes

 monitor how students are responding to programming and share information with caregivers

Communicate with transparency

• communicate transparency in its evaluation procedures and interpretation of any assessments about student mental health

Collaborate

 collaborate with community organizations and partners to host fundraising events that support school and community mental health programs

Secure Funding

 secure funding and develop community partnerships to ensure adequate mental health coverage (e.g., school-employed and community-partnered) and services/supports.





Calculate Score for Second domain



Did your scores match your expectations?

Emerging – Domains where contributors reported the practices within the domain do not exist yet within the school or they are observed infrequently. The overall mean falls between 1.0-2.9.

Progressing – Domains where contributors reported the practices within the domain exist and they are carried out at least some of the time but they are not standard within the school. The overall mean falls between 3.0-4.9

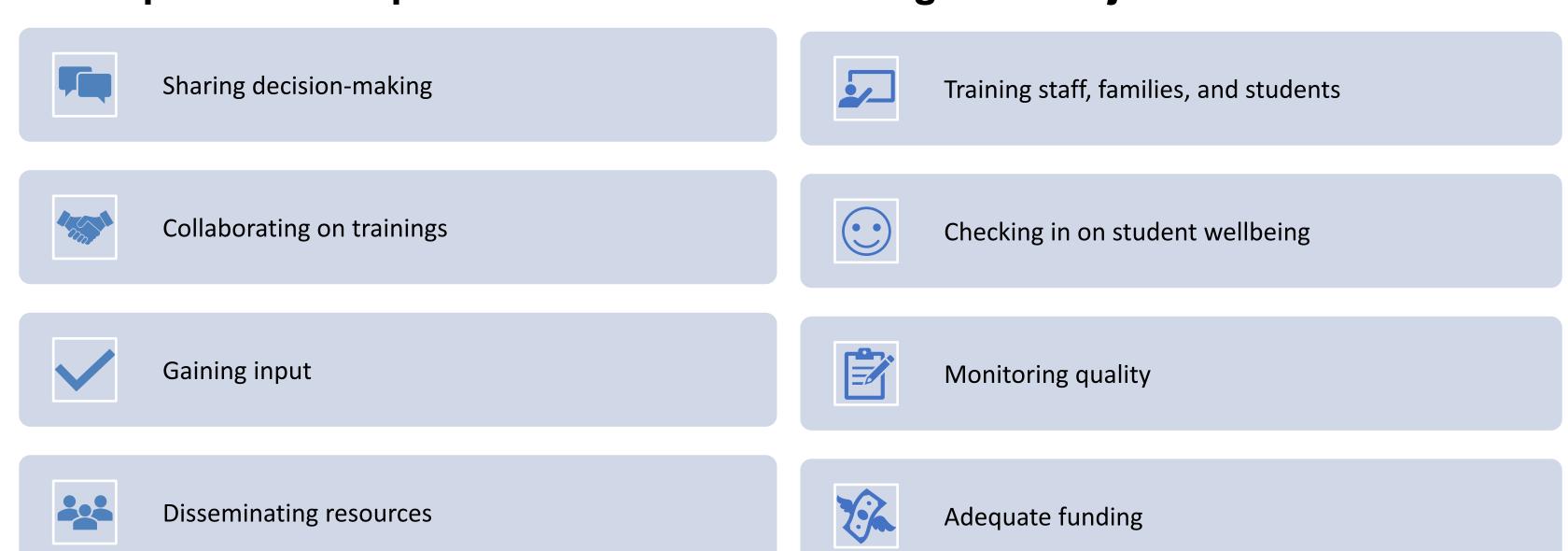
Established – Domains where contributors reported of the practices within the domain are part of the every-day practice and happening almost always. The overall mean falls between 5.0-6.0.



Action Planning

How are we creating space for families in our policies and procedures?

How inviting is the environment we are asking them to join?







How do I want to be involved?



- Participate on teams
- Share expertise
- Attend trainings
- Co-lead trainings
- Support fundraising
- Review and select screeners and interventions
- Communicate with my child's therapist





What can caregivers do?

Connect with local, district, and state resources to support family engagement!

- Review school, district, and/or state education websites
- Connect with parent organizations
- Statewide Family Engagement Centers

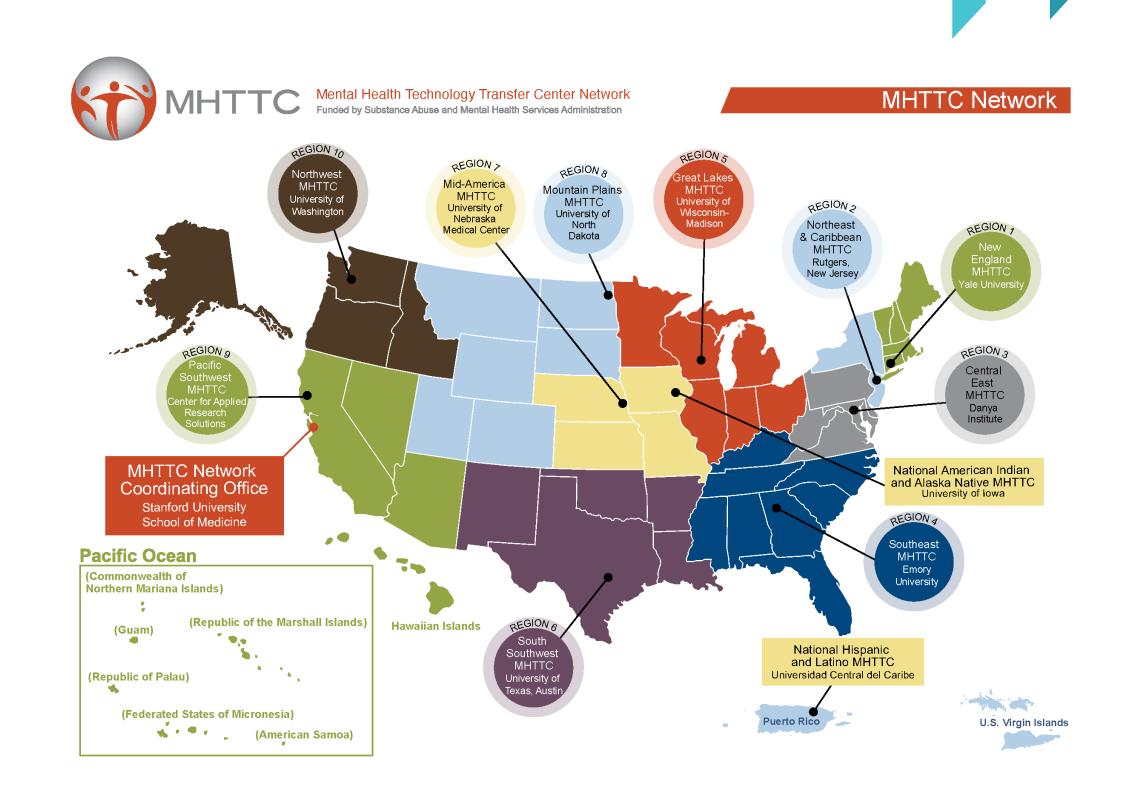




About the MHTTC Network

- Accelerate the adoption and implementation of mental health related evidence-based practices across the nation
 - Develop and disseminate resources,
 - Provide training and technical assistance,
 - Deliver workforce development opportunities for the mental health field

https://mhttcnetwork.org/







MHTTC School Mental Health Initiative



Bringing awareness, disseminating information, and providing technical assistance and training on the implementation of mental health services in schools and school systems



Supporting the Mental Health Needs of Students Attending Tribal Colleges

Publication Date: November 6, 2021

Developed By: Mid-America MHTTC

Supporting the Mental Health of Autistic Students

Publication Date: August 9, 2022

Developed By: Southeast MHTTC



Supporting Student Mental Health: Resources to Prepare Educators

Collaborating TTC: Global MHTTC Publication Date: January 14, 2020



Well-Being Wednesdays

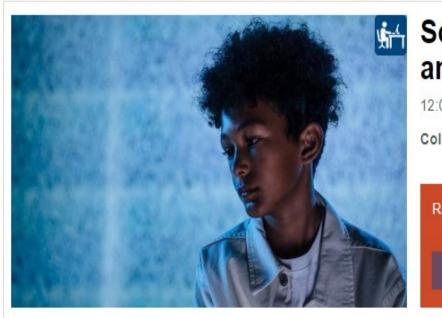
Taking Care of Teachers
Who Take Care of Kids



Publication Date: January 26, 2021

Developed By: New England MHTTC





Social Influencers of Health and Suicide in Black Youth

12:00pm - March 1, 2023 | Timezone: US/Eastern

Collaborating TTC: Central East MHTTC

Registration Deadline: March 1, 2023

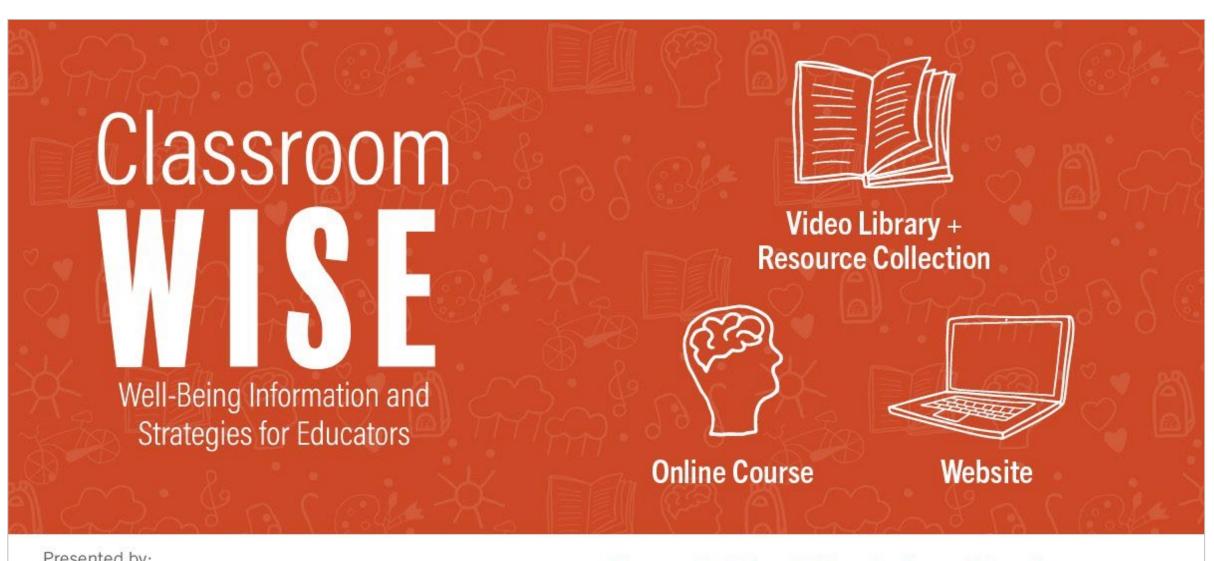
REGISTER

Contact us at webinars@danvainstitute.org





Classroom WISE: Well-Being Information & Strategies for Educators











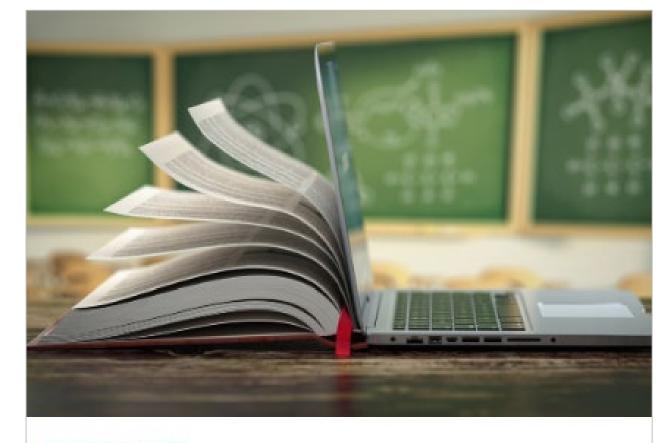
Free 3 Part Training Package www.classroomwise.org





Classroom WISE Online Course

- Self-paced online course with a 5 contact hour certificate of completion
- Includes evidence-based strategies to promote student mental health and support students with mental health challenges
- Skills are based on the scientific literature on school climate, mental health literacy, social emotional learning, and school-based interventions for mental health problems.



School Mental Health

Classroom WISE: Well-Being Information and Strategies for Educators









Classroom WISE Video Library



How Teachers Can Show Interest

Teachers can help keep students engaged by showing interest. In this video, students of various ages describe ways that teachers have shown interest in them and their lives.

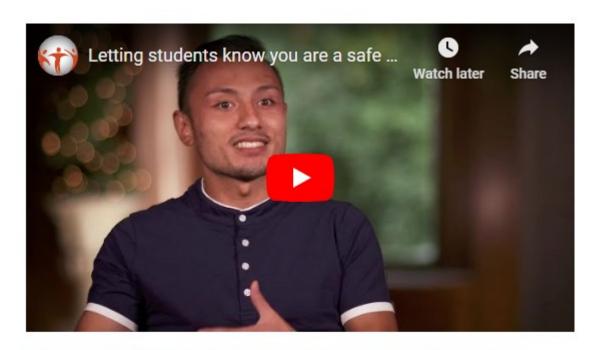
1min 10sec



Supporting Students in Distress

Imin 33sec

Teachers can be great sources of support for students in distress. In this video, teachers describe how they initiate a conversation, listen non-judgmentally, provided reassurance, and come up with plans to support students.



Letting Students Know You Are a Safe and Supportive Person

Students often look to teachers when they are experiencing distress. In this video, teachers describe how they let students know they are a safe and supportive person.

3min 21sec

Available at https://www.classroomwise.org/video-library





Classroom WISE Resource Collection



Module 1: Creating Safe and Supportive
Classrooms



Module 2: Teaching Mental Health Literacy and Reducing Stigma



Module 3: Fostering Social Emotional Competencies and Well-Being



Module 4: Understanding and Supporting Students Experiencing Adversity and Distress



Module 5: The Impact of Trauma and Adversity on Learning and Behavior



Module 6: Classroom Strategies to Support Students Experiencing Distress

Available at https://www.classroomwise.org/resource-collection





Cultural Inclusiveness and Equity WISE

- A companion training to Classroom WISE
- Educators learn:
 - How inequities in education impact student mental health
 - How implicit bias influences our perceptions and responses
 - Culturally inclusive classroom strategies to support student mental health



Module 1: Understanding How Social Injustices Impact Student Mental Health



Module 3: Engaging in Culturally Inclusive Classroom Actions to Promote
Student Mental Health



Module 2: Understanding How Educator Bias Impacts Student Mental Health



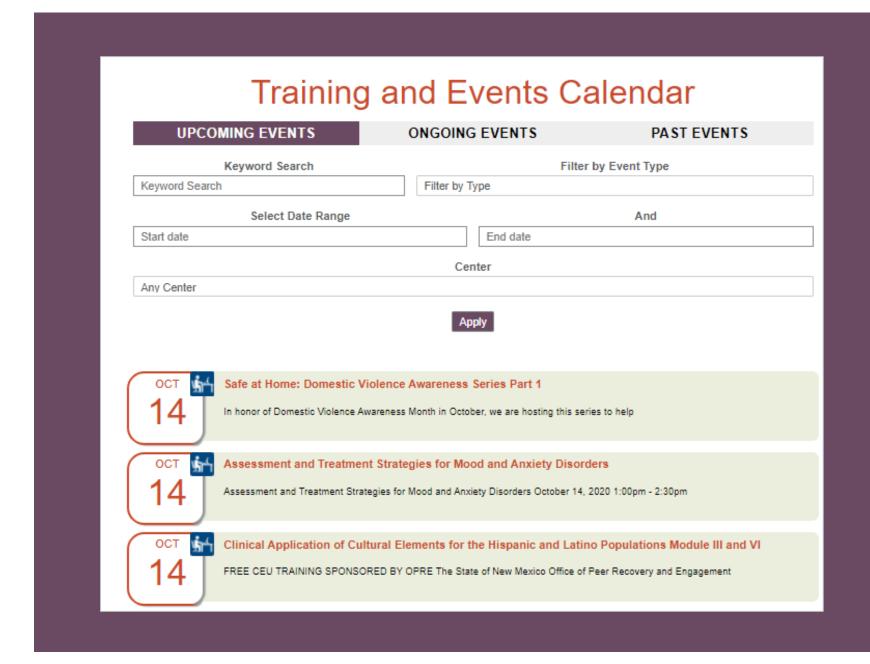
Module 4: The Impact of Trauma and Adversity on Learning and Behavior





Access all MHTTC Events & Resources

Visit our Training and Events Calendar and Products and Resources Catalog on our MHTTC website

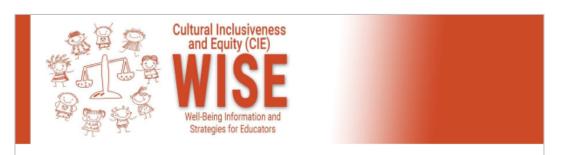


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| Great Lakes MHTTC Year 2 in Review Great Lakes MHTTC Year 2 in Review provides an overview of the regional center's activities, accomplishments and challenges. Download the full Great Lakes MHTTC Year 2 in Review provides an overview of the regional center's activities, accomplishments and challenges. Download the full Great Lakes MHTTC Year 2 in Review provides an overview of the regional center's activities, accomplishments and challenges. Download the full Great Lakes MHTTC Year 2 in Review provides an overview of the regional center's activities, accomplishments and challenges. Download the full Great Lakes MHTTC Year 2 in Review provides an overview of the regional center's activities, accomplishments and challenges. Download the full Great Lakes MHTTC Year 2 in Review provides an overview of the regional center's activities, accomplishments and challenges. Download the full Great Lakes MHTTC Year 2 in Review provides an overview of the regional center's activities, accomplishments and challenges. Great Lakes MHTTC Year 2 in Review provides an overview of the regional center's activities, accomplishments and challenges. Great Lakes MHTTC Year 2 in Review provides an overview of the regional center's activities, accomplishments and challenges. Great Lakes MHTTC Year 2 in Review provides an overview of the regional center's activities, accomplishments and challenges. Great Lakes MHTTC Year 2 in Review provides an overview of the regional center's activities, accomplishments and challenges. Great Lakes MHTTC Year 2 in Review provides an overview of the regional center's activities, accomplishments and challenges. Great Lakes MHTTC Year 2 in Review provides an overview provides and the regional center's activities Great Lakes MHTTC Year 2 in Review provides Great Lakes MHTTC Year 2 in Review provides | | | |





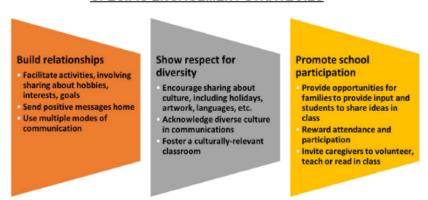
MHTTC Family Engagement Resources



Guide for Engaging Families

Educators can increase youth and family engagement in school and in the classroom by reaching out to establish positive relationships with youth and families, demonstrating respect for diversity, and identifying ways to engage students and families in ways that are meaningful to fostering positive relationships and promoting student success and well-

SPECIFIC ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES



Build Relationships with Families and Students:

- . Use "All About Me" activities, where families, students, and teachers share their hobbies, interests, and goals.
- Send positive messages home.
- . Communicate often and use multiple methods of communication, including phone calls, written notes, text messages, links to recorded video messages, etc.



School MH Best Practices 'Always and Now' Learning **Series: Teaming**

Collaborating TTC: Global MHTTC, National American Indian and Alaska Native MHTTC. South Southwest MHTTC

Publication Date: February 24, 2021





More than a DSM Code: **Addressing Stigma Experienced by Families | Podcast**

Publication Date: June 5, 2023

Developed By: Northwest MHTTC

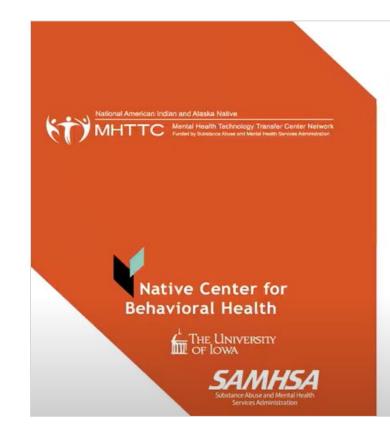








MHTTC Family Engagement Resources



From Longhouse to Schoolhouse: Al/AN School Communities Coming Together

Collaborating and Communicating Effectively with Parents

Hosted by: Teresa Brewington, Coharie, Lumbee, MBA, M.Ed.

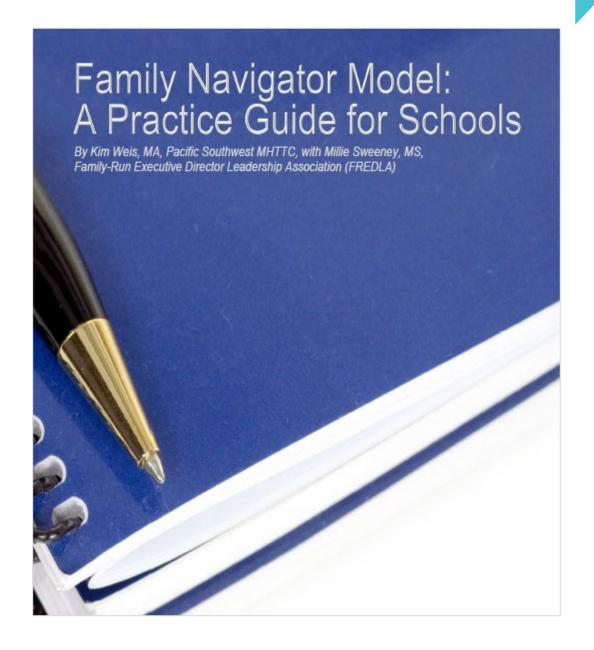


Learning From and With Students, Caregivers, Advocates and Systems Leaders

Publication Date: July 31, 2020

Developed By: Southeast MHTTC









MHTTC Family Engagement Resources



Mental Health and Children: Perspectives from Families on Screening, Diagnosis, and Support



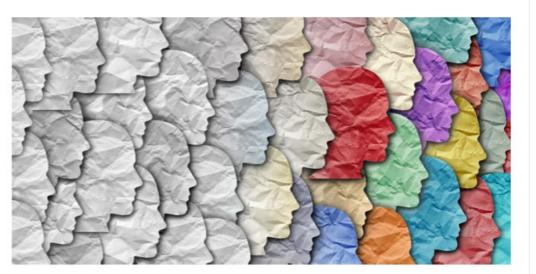


Providing Culturally Relevant Services to Families of LGBTQ+ Youth

Leah Love, MSSA, LISW (She/Her)

Consultant to National SOGIE Center

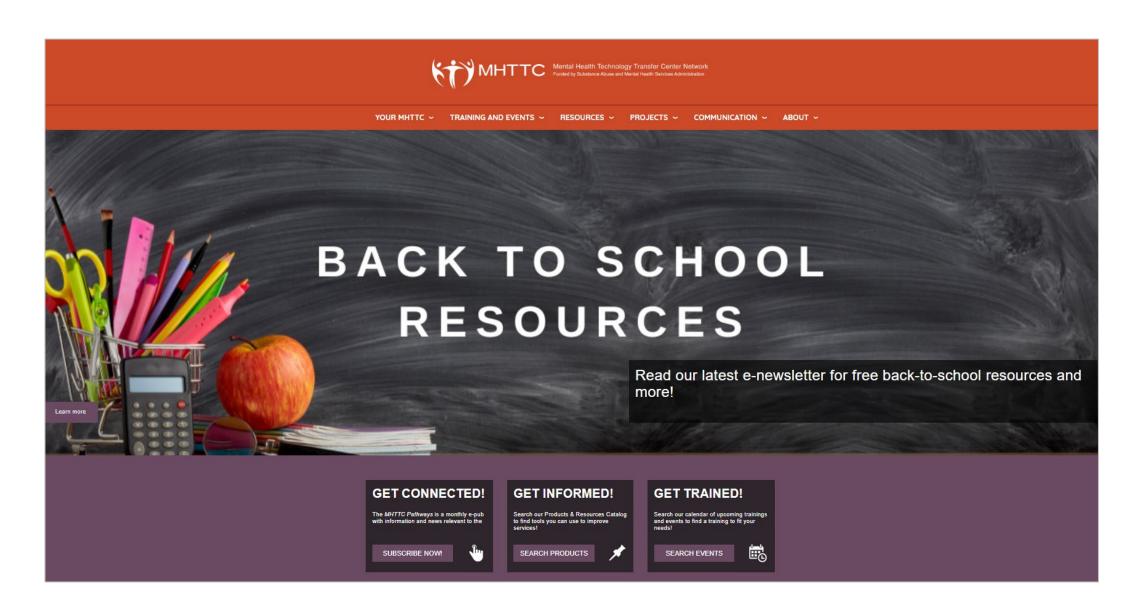
Angela Weeks, DBA (She/Her)







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For questions about the MHTTC School Mental Health Initiative, contact Jessica Gonzalez jegonzalez@stanford.edu

Follow Up and Next Steps



In our follow up email, within 3-5 business days, look for:

- A link to the recording of today's presentation
- Today's presentation slides
- Invitations to upcoming events
- Additional resources
- Ways to stay connected with us
- A letter of participation emailed to you

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Upcoming event announcement



Cutting-Edge Practice Skills for the Family Peer Workforce Presented by Gail Comier and Lachelle Freeman





Feedback Survey



Thank you for joining us!

Please complete the SAMHSA-required Feedback Survey you will be directed to when the webinar ends.



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Thank you for joining us!



