



School District of New London

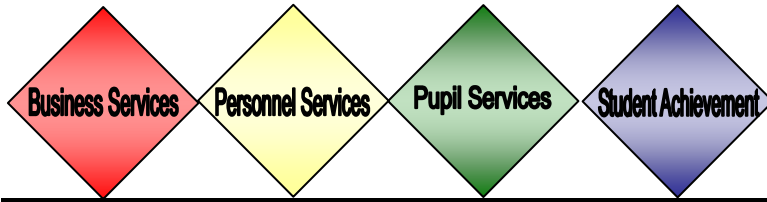
DIVISION

MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Ann Christopherson

Division: Pupil Services

Date: March 2010



Mental Health Training Collaborative

On March 16th and 17th, 2010 David Mays, M.D. Ph.D. will present Promoting Mental Health and Preventing Suicide: Building Safer Communities to an audience of education professionals. Ann Christopherson and Joe Green will represent New London on March 16th. The invitation-only event is a collaborative effort of several Fox Valley school districts and Lawrence University.

On March 17th, Amy Menchl, school psychologist, and Bill Storck, school counselor, will attend a one-day training for health, mental health, and educational clinicians and practitioners who assess and treat youth. The Advanced Clinical Assessment and Treatment of Suicidal Risk and Behavior will provide a greater understanding of the complex factors contributing to suicide risk and suicidal behavior, as well as insights related to intervening effectively and fostering resiliency and emotional well-being in our young people.

Dr. Mays is a forensic psychiatrist on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, who has received numerous awards for his teaching and clinical work, and is a highly sought after presenter on numerous topics in mental health.

The federal Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the J. J. Keller Foundation is providing funding through generous suicide prevention grant awards, which make it possible for us to share this opportunity with our community partners at no charge. The support allows an opportunity to bring Lawrence, neighboring campuses, and school partners together. All participants share a mission of promoting safety and well-being of our youth and young adults.

Youth Risk Behavior Survey: March 15- 18, 2010 @ NLHS

High school students will be given the on-line Youth Risk Behavior Survey (OYRBS) in March. Survey questions include the following categories: Health Status, Traffic



Safety, Weapons, Physical Fighting, Threats and Personal Safety, Bullying, Depression and Suicide, Tobacco, Alcohol, Marijuana, and Other Drug Use, Sexual Behavior, Weight Loss, Eating Habits, Physical Activity, Other Health Issues, and Social Supports.

For both surveys, parents of the classes selected will be given information about the survey and passive permission forms.

Data will be analyzed and used to raise awareness of important student health issues, to change community norms and perceptions, to apply for funding, and to assess the need for and monitor the impact of local prevention efforts (e.g. alcohol, drug, and tobacco use). Male and female students in New London will be compared to male and female students in the State of Wisconsin. Similarly, we will compare students according to their academic success rate. This information will be shared with individual schools, the Board of Education, and our New London community at a later date.

The YRBS is also being conducted this spring with all high schools within Outagamie County. Results will be shared as a collective to see if there is an opportunity to further develop services countywide to meet needs through trend data discoveries.