November 13, 2019

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

3:30  Check In Opens, Ballroom, 2nd floor

4:00  Welcome

4:15-5:10  Opening Session, Ballroom, 2nd floor
          Foundations of Comprehensive School Mental Health

5:20-6:00  Concurrent Sessions ONE (pages 2 & 3)

6:00-6:30  Buffet Dinner, Ballroom, 2nd floor

6:30-7:10  Concurrent Sessions TWO (pages 4 & 5)

7:20-8:00  Concurrent Sessions THREE (pages 6 & 7)
Session One, 5:20 – 6:00 pm

**NCSMH Module 2: Teaming**

*Chancellor’s Room (228)*

*Description:* The goal of this session is to help participants understand the importance of and best practices for school mental health teaming. By the end of the module, participants will be able to 1) Define a school mental health team and at least 3 functions of school mental health teams, 2) Describe at least 3 resources why school mental health teams are valuable, and 3) Describe best practices for teaming.

*Presenters:* MHTTC Staff

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**Preparing Future School Leaders:**

*Interdisciplinary Behavioral Consultation*

*Gallery Room (308)*

*Description:* There is a significant need for provision of quality systemic and intensive interventions to address the multifaceted needs of children with mental or behavioral health concerns. Unfortunately, educators report that they are inadequately prepared to handle significant challenging behaviors. Furthermore, in practice there is often limited collaboration across disciplines that serve these students. Through an Interdisciplinary Personnel Preparation Grant, we aim to develop practitioners with knowledge and skills to lead change in schools to address the diverse needs of students, families, teachers, and systems. This presentation will provide an overview of the training grant including the targeted student experiences, coordination with community partners, and practitioner competencies for meeting the needs of students with high-intensity behavioral health challenges. “Interdisciplinary Personnel Preparation in Systemic Behavioral Intervention to Serve School-Age Children with Significant Behavioral Concerns” grant funded by the U.S. DOE, Office of Special Education Programs, Award # H325K180032

*Presenters:* Sara Kupzyk, PhD, Assistant Professor, UNO Department of Psychology
Adam Weaver, PhD, Associate Professor, UNO Department of Psychology
Philip Nordness, PhD, Associate Professor, UNO Department of Special Education & Communication Disorders

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**Creating a Culture of Success:**

*Developing a Faculty/Staff Charter*

*Council Room (306)*

*Description:* Participants will learn how to work collaboratively with faculty/staff to develop a charter rooted in agreed upon core values of the team. The charter serves as the foundation for establishing a supportive and productive learning/work environment. A case study of the production of school-wide charter will be shared.

*Presenters:* Kristi Gibbs, EdD, Head of School, Brownell Talbot School
Jason Smith, Assistant Head of School, Brownell Talbot School
Session One, 5:20 – 6:00 pm

**NCSMH Module 4: Screening**  
Omaha Room (304)

*Description:* The goal of this session is to help participants understand the importance of and best practices for mental health screening in schools. By the end of this module, participants will be able to 1) describe the purpose and importance of mental health screening in schools, 2) explain two action steps to implement mental health screening in schools, and 3) Describe best practices for screening.

*Presenters:* MHTTC Staff

**NCSMH Module 3: Needs Assessment and Resource Mapping**  
Dodge A & B (302)

*Description:* The goal of this session is to help participants understand the importance of and best practices for school mental health needs assessment and resource mapping. By the end of this module, participants will be able to 1) define needs assessment and resource mapping, 2) Describe at least 3 reasons why needs assessments and resource mapping are valuable for schools, and 3) Describe best practices for needs assessment and resource mapping.

*Presenters:* MHTTC Staff

**Fostering Community Wellness: People, Programs, and Practices**  
Jenkins (301)

*Description:* Schools are places where students go to learn and adults go to work. Historically, schools were designed to raise levels of academic achievement for each student. Now, these academic areas of reading, writing, and arithmetic are coupled with additional Rs: responsibility, respect, resilience, and relationship. Attendees will synthesize various perspectives on how to support mental health for all individuals in our schools.

*Presenters:* Dr. Janet Cook, CADRE Associate, Millard Public Schools  
Jan Dahlgard, Curriculum & Instruction Facilitator, Millard Public Schools
Session Two, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

NCSMH Module 5: Mental Health Promotion for All (Tier 1)

Chancellor’s Room (228)

Description: The goal of this session is to help participants understand the importance of and best practices for mental health promotion (Tier 1) services and supports in schools. By the end of the module, participants will be able to 1) Define mental health promotion, 2) Describe at least 3 specific types of mental health promotion services and supports, and 3) Describe best practices for implementing high-quality mental health promotion services and supports for all students.

Presenters: MHTTC Staff

Increasing School-Based Mental Health Services with a "Grow Your Own" School Psychologist Program

Gallery Room (308)

Description: Mental health is currently being highlighted across the nation and the pressure to address the mental health of our students is on the rise. With that recognition comes the conversation of how educational systems can utilize the professionals we have in schools to their maximum capacity. The proposed project is rooted in Iowa and highlights that through increasing the number of school psychologists in our school systems and utilizing them to their full training capacity our students will benefit. This data driven proposal can be duplicated through continued partnerships with Institutes of Higher Education across the nation. The purpose of the proposed program it is to develop a “grow your own” distance school psychology program that will increase the number of school psychologists in high need, rural areas of western Iowa increasing student access to mental health services in this high need areas.

Presenters: Stephanie Dredge, EdS, EdD, Field Director; School Psychologist, Green Hills AEA and David VanHorn, PhD, Executive Director of Specialized Supports & Services, Green Hills AEA

Suicide Prevention in Schools:
Boys Town National Hotline Outreach Program

Council Room (306)

Description: This presentation will feature an overview of services for schools provided by the Boys Town National Hotline. Many school districts partner with the hotline’s call, text, and chat services to provide assistance and resources for their students and parents. Personnel from the hotline also provide on-site suicide awareness and prevention training for high school age youth. Presenters will share information about the hotline, as well as program evaluation data from the school outreach program and the hotline’s call, text, and chat services.

Presenters:
Brian McKevitt, PhD, NCSP, UNO School Psychology Professor
Kaitlin Cloonan, MS, UNO School Psychology Graduate Student
April Minor, BS, UNO School Psychology Graduate Student
Session Two, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

**NCSMH Module 4: Screening**
Omaha Room (304)

*Description:* The goal of this session is to help participants understand the importance of and best practices for mental health screening in schools. By the end of this module, participants will be able to 1) describe the purpose and importance of mental health screening in schools, 2) explain two action steps to implement mental health screening in schools, and 3) Describe best practices for screening.

*Presenters:* MHTTC Staff

**Trauma-Informed Care and Advocacy in Schools**
Dodge A & B (302)

*Description:* This presentation will cover the basics of trauma-informed care (SAMHSA, 2014) and the advocacy model endorsed by the American Counseling Association (Toporek, Lewis, & Crethar, 2009). I will provide a brief description of each model and practical examples on how to apply these in an educational setting. Participants will leave with a better understanding of individual actions they can take to contribute to a trauma-informed environment and how that aligns with advocating at an individual, group, and systemic level for students in a variety of education settings.

*Presenters:* Charmayne Adams, PhD, UNO Counseling, Assistant Professor

**Preparing Education Professionals to Understand Mental Health in the Schools**
Jenkins (301)

*Description:* Schools present an important opportunity for recognizing early signs of mental health problems in children. Mental illness is not a one-size-fits-all diagnosis. Therefore, it is important for school personnel to recognize signs or symptoms of presenting mental illness, understand the systems in place to support students, identify resources in the community, and be familiar with existing programs or interventions available in schools. This presentation will cover broad and basic information related to each of these areas as well as provide existing training options that can accessed by education professionals to cover more depth for topics related to mental health in the schools.

*Presenters:* Jacqueline Huscroft-D’Angelo, PhD, Associate Research Professor, Academy for Child and Family Well Being
Session Three, 7:20 – 8:00 pm

**NCSMH Module 5: Mental Health Promotion for All (Tier 1)**  
Chancellor’s Room (228)

*Description:* The goal of this session is to help participants understand the importance of and best practices for mental health promotion (tier 1) services and supports in schools. By the end of the module, participants will be able to: 1) Define mental health promotion, 2) Describe at least 3 specific types of mental health promotion services and supports, and 3) Describe best practices for implementing high-quality mental health promotion services and supports for all students.

*Presenters:* MHTTC Staff

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**Creating Trauma-Sensitive Practices in Schools**  
Gallery Room (308)

*Description:* This session will present the rationale for creating trauma-sensitive practices in schools as well as how this can be done within a school or district. Research that demonstrates positive outcomes after implementing trauma-sensitive practices in schools will be shared as well as information regarding what is being done in the state of Nebraska to promote trauma-informed practices within our schools.

*Presenters:* Lisa Epp, Special Education & Communication Disorders Instructor  
Kathie Garabrandt, Nebraska State Education Association Board Member

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**How Do Emotions Impact the College Exploration and Application Process?**  
Council Room (306)

*Description:* During this presentation, the college counselors will share how they keep emotions at the forefront as they work with students throughout the college exploration and application process, in an effort to breakdown the stigma surrounding mental health. College counselors will share their approach with both students and parents, tools and resources they use, and how they serve as an advocate for students as they forge relationships with parents as well as colleges.

*Presenters:*  
Stacey Evert, Director of College Counseling and Guidance, Brownell Talbot School  
Brianna Vander Vorst, Assistant Director of College Counseling and Guidance, Brownell Talbot School
Session Three, 7:20 – 8:00 pm

**NCSMH Module 8: Impact**

Omaha Room (304)

*Description:* The goal of this session is to help participants understand the importance of and best practices for documenting and demonstrating impact of their school mental health system. By the end of this module, participants will be able to 1) State at least 3 ways that schools and/or districts can document and disseminate the impact of their comprehensive school mental health systems, 2) Describe how to document and report the impact of comprehensive school mental health systems across tiers, and 3) describe best practices for assessing and documenting the impact of comprehensive school mental health systems.

*Presenters:* MHTTC Staff

**NCSMH Module 6: Early Intervention and Treatment (Tiers 2/3)**

Dodge A & B (302)

*Description:* The goal of this session is to help participants understand the importance of and best practices for mental health early intervention and treatment (tiers 2 and 3) in schools. By the end of this module, participants will be able to 1) Define mental health early intervention and treatment, 2) Describe at least 3 reasons why mental health early intervention and treatment are important for student well-being, and 3) Describe best practices for implementing high-quality mental health early intervention and treatment services and supports for students who need them.

*Presenters:* MHTTC Staff

**Addressing Barriers to Student Academic Success Through the Collaboration of School-Based Mental Health Personnel and Services**

Jenkins (301)

*Description:* School based mental health services are an invaluable resource for students who would not otherwise receive the support they need. A study of more than 900 Midwest teachers and administrators found that 93% were concerned about student mental health, and 85% believed additional training was needed (Moon, Williford, & Mendenhall, 2017). Awareness of the need for more comprehensive mental health student services is apparent, but addressing the need is overwhelming. Through a deeper understanding of roles, importance of adaptability, and advocacy for services, attendees will leave empowered to embark on collaborative systemic change. This presentation will provide attendees with current research regarding barriers to student academic success in schools, roles of mental health personnel in schools, and current school based mental health programs. Attendees will engage in a group discussion to address barriers and utilize the information provided to draft collaborative plans of action that thoroughly utilize mental health student resources.

*Presenters:* Elizabeth Tolliver, PhD, LIMHP, School Counseling Program Coordinator, Assistant Professor
            Thang Tran, MS, Counseling Program, Instructor
Sincere gratitude for the people involved in planning tonight’s event:

Dr. Brandy Clarke – UNMC Mid-America MHTTC School Mental Health Director  
Dr. Stephanie Dredge – Green Hills AEA Field Director School Psychologist  
Dr. Dan Kissinger – UNO Department of Counseling Chair  
Mrs. McKayla LaBorde – ESU 3 Student Services Director  
Dr. Brian McKevitt – UNO School Psychology Program Professor  
Dr. Kris Swain – UNO Special Education & Communication Disorders Chair  
Dr. Tami Williams – UNO Educational Leadership and PDK Chapter #0116

In particular, the support from HHS Region 7, Mid-America Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network has made tonight’s event possible. Thank you!

The mission of the Topics in Education Symposium (TIES) is to foster discussion, inspire innovation, and provide educators with a regional forum to disseminate research findings, share best practices, discuss current educational topics, and provide other innovative thinking and creative activities across all areas of education.

2017-2018 TIES focus: Assessment  
2018-2019 TIES focus: STEM Education  
2019-2020 TIES focus: Mental Health in Schools  
2020-2021 TIES focus: ?

Submit your suggestion for next year’s TIES focus during dinner.

Let’s keep learning together.

Annual Board of Education Event  
January 22, 2020  
5:30 pm – 8:00 pm  
$35, Dinner and Speaker  

Topic: Mental Health in Schools  
UNO Milo Bail Student Center  