

Bucks County Behavioral Health & Education Initiative

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Caring Across Communities

Program Overview

A partnership of human service agencies, schools, community organizations and the Bucks County Behavioral Health System that will provide:

- school-based behavioral health services
- psychiatry provided by a child psychiatrist
- case management
- psycho-educational groups

for Liberian refugees, other immigrants and at-risk youth and their families at a middle school in Bristol Township, PA

Program Overview

- Program will respect and incorporate cultural elements and values
- Efforts will be made to provide support in child's natural environment and to meet multiple needs
- Clinician and Case Manager will address family's concrete needs and will work to build strong supportive relationship with family

Case Management Services

- Help families obtain legal or immigration assistance
- Housing
- Health Care
- Appropriate school placement

As families stabilize their lives, their children will be more able to benefit from mental health treatment and to have a positive educational experience

Mental Health Counseling

- Child psychiatrist and psychiatric nurse
- Psychiatric evaluations
- Medication education and monitoring
- Training for school personnel and other team members on mental health issues common among refugee children
- Education for parents on the impact of mental illness on child development and success in school

Psycho-educational Groups

- Open to any child
- Opportunity to establish relationship with child and family
- Socialize opportunity for children

Target Audience

- All children of Franklin D. Roosevelt Middle School in Bristol Township, PA
- Special consideration given to Liberian families
- Other immigrant children and their families

Referral Sources

Children will be identified for services by:

- School
- Case manager
- Community groups
- Churches
- The family themselves

What Makes this Program Unique?

The strength of this program lies in the collaboration among:

- School
- Numerous social service agencies
- Community Organizations

A case manager who is already familiar with the Liberian population will work to connect children and their parents to a continuum of care.

Who are the Major Partners?

- Family Service Association of Bucks County (Mental Health Services)
- Catholic Social Services (Case Management Services)
- Franklin D. Roosevelt Middle School
- Bucks County Behavioral Health System
- Bristol Township Community Partnership

Partners

In addition to the partners already recognized, other groups are critical to implementation of this project including:

- A local Liberian community organization that can help introduce the project to Liberian immigrants
- A Latino mental health agency that has the capacity to serve immigrant children from Mexico, the 2nd largest immigrant group in Bristol Township
- Ministers from churches who work closely with immigrant populations by providing access to the basics every family needs...food, shelter, clothing

Goals of the Program

- **Promote** the mental health of immigrant and refugee children through advocacy, networking, service and support
- **Enable** parents of children with mental health needs to access appropriate, culturally sensitive services
- **Insure** that children and youth with emotional, behavioral, or mental health disorders succeed in school, have positive family relationships, and become productive adults

Objectives of the Program

- **Link** children to mental health services
- **Increase** the social and emotional skills of children
- **Reduce** referrals for behavioral problems among at-risk students
- **Reduce** the environment stressors contributing to the mental health challenges of children
- **Improve** the relationship between refugee/immigrant parents and the school



...Strengthen Individuals, Families and Communities since 1953

4 Cornerstone Drive
Langhorne, PA 19047
215-757-6916
www.fsabc.org

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Caring Across Communities