Caring Across Communities
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

School Outreach Program

Family Service Association of Bucks County, Pennsylvania

Successes & Challenges in Program Sustainability
Prelude to RWJF Grant

- FSA providing services in schools since 1988
- Foundation Grants
- State funding through County Children & Youth Agency
Impact of RWJF Grant

- Strengthened partnerships with key stakeholders
- Provided opportunities for innovation
- Key stakeholders are motivated to support and promote service model
- President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health
Signs of Change

- Pennsylvania Dept. of Education's *Positive Behavioral Supports Initiative* promotes services in schools

- Various State & County Departments promote of use M.A. dollars to pay for services
Changing Funding Environment

Previously received:

• Grants from private sources
• Program funding from public sources

Changing to:

• Units of service payments
• Fee-for-service reimbursements
• Fewer grant opportunities
Readiness to Change

- FSA already a licensed M.A. provider
- Willingness of partners to expand access to services for children in schools
- Approval of alternative strategies for meeting licensing requirements
Several schools have been licensed as satellite sites

Presently 4 schools are licensed and credentialed. Will have 5 additional in 2010-2011

Other treatment providers in 2010-2011 will be in 10 additional schools

Receiving M.A. fee-for-service payments
Challenges

• Some components still without funding mechanisms - case mgt. & home visits

• Schools required to assign permanent adequate space to program

• Fee-for-service model limits counselor and school personnel interactions

• More schools need & desire services
More Challenges

- Only children on M.A. receive service
- Positions changed from salaried to independent contractors
- Difficult to supervise many small sites
Future Goals

- Obtaining funding streams for case management, home visits, etc.
- Private insurance coverage for services
- Expansion to more schools
Sustainability Factors

• Significant involvement of stakeholders with influence
• Experience and solid reputation
• Knowledgeable about current trends
• Flexibility in program design & function
• Developing a model that’s appropriate for our County & State

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