Caring Across Communities
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

School Outreach Program

Family Service Association of Bucks County, Pennsylvania

Prelude to RWJF Grant

- FSA providing services in schools since 1988
- Foundation Grants
- State funding thru 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
Signs of Change

• Philosophical changes in how to best serve children

• President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health
More Signs of Change

• Pennsylvania Dept. of Education’s 
  *Positive Behavioral Supports Initiative*
  promotes services in schools

• Various State & County Departments
  promote use of 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
Successes

- Several schools have been licensed as satellite sites
- Receiving M.A. fee-for-service payments
- Two other treatment providers now in six additional schools
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