Bucks County Behavioral Health & Education Initiative

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Caring Across Communities
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
Pyscho-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
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 2\textsuperscript{nd} 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
Family Service Association

...Strengthen Individuals, Families and Communities since 1953

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