Presenters and Disclosure

Olga Acosta Price
Center for Health and Health Care in Schools
George Washington University
School of Public Health and Health Services

Donna Behrens
Center for Health and Health Care in Schools
George Washington University
School of Public Health and Health Services

The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

No relationships to disclose
Children’s Mental Health Policies and Funding Arrangements from State and Local Perspectives

Children’s Mental Health Research and Policy Conference
March 4, 2013
Session Objectives

- Describe two separate, but related, studies of policies and financing strategies impacting sustainability of children’s MH services
- Highlight findings from studies
- Engage in discussion of key issues
METHODOLOGY

Two qualitative studies using semi-structured key informant interviews of professionals

**State CMH Study**
- 11 States
- N= 47
- Governor’s office; State MH, education, health agencies; child advocacy orgs

**Case Studies**
- 3 Communities
- N= 14
- Program administrators, local mental health providers, Medicaid officials
Challenges include:

• State budget deficits and fragmentation that limit access to quality care

• Financial and political pressures = Prevention competes with Treatment for money and attention

• **Bright Spots** emerged as a result of collaboration, advocacy, & cross-sector partnerships
Despite the “bright spots” and positive trends, the availability of mental health services remains insufficient to help many children who need care.

Only 20 percent of children with diagnostic disorders saw a mental health specialist.

Only 40 percent of children diagnosed with a serious emotional disorder saw a specialty mental health clinician.

Fewer than ten percent of children receiving mental health services got them for more than three months.

Schools fill a gap
So how do we scale up and sustain SMH?

• Barrier – financing
• 3 Case studies -- how programs developed sustainable funding
  • Bucks County
  • Washburn Center
  • Washington DC School Mental Health Program
Critical Elements in Successful Business Planning

- Establish Contracts
- Develop strong collaborations and partnerships
- Collect good data and invest in evaluation
Lessons from the 3 Case Studies

• They left no money on the table
• They used clout as needed
• They adopted a “no margin, no mission” approach to their program
• They invested in billing infrastructure
• They knew the 3 E’s essential to third party reimbursement
QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

• How does the current fiscal and political environment impact your sustainability efforts? What strategies are you employing to combat these challenges?

• What discussions, if any, are being held about the implementation of health care reform (and mental health parity) in your state and how much is focused on children’s behavioral health?

• Given the recent spate of gun related violence and the media tying these incidents to unaddressed mental health problems, is this a “trigger event” (i.e., opportunity) to address mental health service gaps?
The Center for Health and Health Care in Schools

Olga Acosta Price & Donna Behrens

Email addresses: oaprice@gwu.edu    dbehrens@gwu.edu

2121 K Street, NW, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20037
202-466-3396 (phone)

www.healthinschools.org
www.facebook.com/healthinschools

Department of Prevention and Community Health, School of Public Health and Health Services, The George Washington University