MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education  
Secretary-Treasurers and Supervisory Officers of School Authorities  
Executive Directors, Child and Youth Mental Health Agencies  
CEOs, Public Hospitals with Children’s Mental Health Programs  
Executive Directors, Family Health Teams  
Executive Directors, Youth Addiction Programs  
Executive Directors, of Community Health Centres

FROM: Barry Pervin  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Instruction and Leadership Development Division  
Ministry of Education (EDU)  

Aryeh Gitterman  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Policy Development and Program Design Division  
Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS)  

Adalsteinn Brown,  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Health System Strategy Division  
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC)

DATE: April 20, 2010

SUBJECT: Student Support Leadership Initiative

We are pleased to inform you that the Student Support Leadership (SSL) initiative will continue to be funded for three more years. The SSL initiative began as a joint project between EDU and MCYS and continues to be an integral part of EDU’s safe schools strategy and of MCYS’ implementation plan for *A Shared Responsibility: Ontario’s Policy Framework for Child and Youth Mental Health*.  


The SSL initiative also aligns with the 10-year Mental Health and Addictions Strategy which is under development, and its goals to promote mental health, prevent mental illness and addictions problems and improve access, integration and quality of services.

Participating clusters will receive funding over the next three years (details of the funding for 2010-11 are in the Education Programs Other (EPO) memo dated March 26, 2010). This funding is being provided to grow and expand the SSL initiative.

When it started, the SSL initiative fostered leadership within and across 29 clusters of school boards/authorities and child and youth mental health agencies to form and enhance local partnerships and coordinate services between schools and agencies. The funding for SSL clusters will continue to flow through the school boards, be dispersed locally, based on cluster plans related to activity that meets the criteria for each year, and are approved by the ministries.

The next phase of the SSL initiative will continue to empower system leaders and build on past successes. We understand that current partnerships between school boards and community agencies are at different stages of development. We expect that, in the first year (2010-11), the SSL initiative will build on the work that clusters have been doing over the last three years by deepening partnerships between schools and child and youth mental health agencies at the community level, and also conducting outreach to include health sector partners. Specifically, clusters are being asked to invite appropriate health sector partners (e.g., hospitals that offer child and youth mental health services, Family Health Teams, Community Health Centres, addictions service providers) to participate and to develop joint referral processes with schools, school boards, child and youth mental health agencies. The next phase will complement the implementation of Working Together For Kids’ Mental Health, a collaborative initiative among MCYS, EDU and MOHLTC (planned for implementation in 2010/11), as an important activity of SSL continuation. This work focuses on examining decision-making processes and tools that support professionals to better understand, effectively identify and appropriately respond to mental health concerns of children and youth. A detailed memo including the expectations of clusters for the first year of the initiative will follow.

In the second year (2011-12), clusters will be expected to expand to include a focus on prevention of unsafe or inappropriate behaviours, while maintaining and continuing partnerships to include a mental health and addictions focus. Details regarding the second year will be given to clusters before the beginning of year two.

Should you have any questions, please contact Dan Shultz, Learning Environment Branch, Ministry of Education at (416) 325-2677 or dan.shultz@ontario.ca or Caroline Parkin, Children and Youth At Risk Branch, Ministry of Children and Youth Services at (416) 314-7662 or caroline.parkin@ontario.ca or Bobbi Clifton, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care at (416) 326-2368 or bobbi.clifton@ontario.ca.

Original signed by: Barry Pervin
Original signed by: Aryeh Gitterman
Original signed by: Adalsteinn Brown

Attachments

c: Kevin Costante, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education
       Judith Wright, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children and Youth Services
       Saäd Rafi, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Grant Clarke, Assistant Deputy Minister, Learning and Curriculum Division, Ministry of Education
Gilbert Tayles, Assistant Deputy Minister, Youth Justice Services, Ministry of Children and Youth Services
Nancy Matthews, Assistant Deputy Minister, Service Delivery Division, Ministry of Children and Youth Services
Darryl Sturtevant, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy and Planning, Ministry of Children and Youth Services
Trinela Cane, Assistant Deputy Minister, Business Planning and Corporate Services, Ministry of Children and Youth Services and Ministry of Community and Social Services
Barry Finlay, Director, Special Education Policy and Programs Branch, Ministry of Education

Cluster Leads
Julie Williams, A/Director Special Education Policy & Programs Branch, Ministry of Education
Susan Paetkau, Director, Health Program Policy and Standards Branch, Health System Strategy Division, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Elizabeth Harding, Director, Learning Environment Branch, Instruction and Leadership Development Division, Ministry of Education
Marian Mlakar, Director, Children and Youth At Risk Branch, Policy Development and Program Design Division, Ministry of Children and Youth Services,
Marg Connor, Director, Leadership Development Branch, Instruction and Leadership Development Division, Ministry of Education
Trish Moloughney, Director, Planning & Program Development Branch, Youth Justice Services Division, Ministry of Children and Youth Services

Ministry of Education Regional Managers
Deborah Hammons, CEO, Central East Local Health Integration Network
Mimi Lowi-Young, CEO, Central West Local Health Integration Network
Dr. Robert Cushman, CEO, Champlain Local Health Integration Network
Gary Switzer, CEO, Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network
Pat Mandy, CEO, Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network
Bill MacLeod, CEO, Mississauga Halton Local Health Integration Network
Bernie Blais, CEO, North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network
Louise Paquette, CEO, North East Local Health Integration Network
Laura Kokocinski, (A) CEO, North West Local Health Integration Network
Paul Huras, CEO, South East Local Health Integration Network
Michael Barrett, CEO, South West Local Health Integration Network
Bonnie Ewart, (Interim) CEO, Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network
Sandra Hamner, CEO, Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network
Tom Closson, CEO, Ontario Hospital Association
Jan Kasperski, CEO, Ontario College of Family Physicians
Dr. Anne DuVall, President, Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario
David Kelly, Executive Director, Ontario Federation of Community Mental Health and Addiction Programs
Lorne Zon, CEO, Canadian Mental Health Association
Norma Medulun, President, Addictions Ontario
Adrianna Tetley, Executive Director, Association of Ontario Health Centres