



full-service schools roundtable
partnering for Boston students' success

Full-service Schools Roundtable Newsletter

October 2008

In This Issue

[Roundtable Report](#)

[For Your Information](#)

[Upcoming Funding Opportunities](#)

[Conference/Training Announcements](#)

ROUNDTABLE REPORT

We are living in challenging times. With rising unemployment and increased food and home heating costs, families in the Commonwealth - indeed across the country - are under enormous stress and may not be able to meet their own most basic needs. These realities - coupled with the difficult fiscal situation in both our state and district - make the job of educating our children even more complex. Schools need to ensure that even more of their students have access to the array of supports they need - from housing to food to health and mental health services - and school communities have fewer resources with which to provide these services.

In this uncertain climate, our collective work on behalf of Boston's children is more important than ever. The Roundtable is monitoring developments at the state and local level closely and will continue to inform our policymakers about the necessity of school-connected services for our children.

We encourage you to follow the work of the Readiness Project as Governor Patrick and Secretary of Education Reville wrestle with financing their ambitious plan for education in Massachusetts. See [For Your Information](#) below for news of the Readiness Cabinet and an announcement of a Readiness Finance Commission Hearing on 11/5 (in [Conference/Training Announcements](#)).

We are also following, with great interest, Superintendent Johnson's Pathways to Excellence plan for consolidating schools in the Boston Public Schools. For the latest, be sure to check the Boston Public Schools website: www.bostonpublicschools.org/.

Regardless of the outcome of next week's election, we know that our sustained and energetic commitment to all our children is critical. We look forward to continuing this work together.

Best regards,
Abby R. Weiss

Roundtable Steering Committee

William Brown, DSS Area Director, Park St. Office

Joy Dryfoos, Author, Researcher, Member of Coalition for Community Schools Steering Committee

William Kelley (co-chair), Director of Comprehensive Support Services, Unified Student Services, BPS

Bob Kilkenny, Executive Director, Alliance for Inclusion and Prevention

Matt LiPuma (co-chair), Executive Director, Family Nurturing Center of Massachusetts

Catalina Montes, Principal-on-Assignment, Boston Public Schools

Carolyn Riley, Senior Director, Unified Student Services, BPS

Dina Siegal, Deputy Director, Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Relations

Bob Wadsworth, Consultant

Mary Walsh, Professor and Director, Center for Child, Family & Community School Partnerships, Boston College School of Education

Margot Welch, Educational Consultant, Writer

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Contact Us:

Abby R. Weiss
Executive Director
Full-service Schools
Roundtable
443 Warren Street
Dorchester, MA 02121
email: aweiss@boston.k12.ma.us

P: (617) 635-6537
F: (617) 635-8027

www.fssroundtable.org

EDUCATION WEEK



Ed Week Chat Featured Martin Blank

The Coalition for Community Schools is excited to announce that Martin Blank, Director of the Coalition, was the featured guest on the October 15th Ed Week chat! Marty discussed The Community Agenda and its role in the work of community organizations, social workers, health care providers, and other groups in helping improve the lives of students in the nation's low-performing public schools. To read the transcript of the chat, visit: http://www.edweek.org/chat/transcript_10_15_08.html.

To read the Community Agenda and add your organization's name to the list of endorsers, go to: www.thecommunityagenda.org/.

Governor Patrick Launches Readiness Cabinet

As recommended by the Readiness Project, Governor Deval Patrick just launched the Child and Youth Readiness Cabinet, an executive level, state leadership team focused on high yield, outcome-driven actions. Chaired by Education Secretary Paul Reville and Health and Human Services Secretary Judy-Ann Bigby, the Readiness Cabinet will tackle the academic achievement gap and other complex, cross-agency initiatives to improve services to the state's most vulnerable residents - children, youth and families throughout the Commonwealth.

Read the press release: www.mass.gov/?pageID=gov3pressrelease&L=1&LO=Home&sid=Agov3&b=pressrelease&f=100828_youth_readiness_cabinet&csid=Agov3.

Closing the Achievement Gap Series Publication

As part of their Closing the Achievement Gap series, Annie E. Casey Foundation released: "Closing the Achievement Gap: School, Community, Family Connections." This publication argues that community schools can improve student learning, increase parent participation, give teachers more time to focus on instruction, and contribute to making schools and the community safer. It highlights stories about the Harlem Children's Zone Practitioners Institute, parent organizing in Texas and Denver, one California school district's innovative parent engagement policy, and the Foundation's contribution to results measurements in the field. To read more, visit: www.aecf.org/~media/PublicationFiles/5Connections_r10.pdf.



2008 National Family Week

The Alliance for Children and Families has just announced that National Family Week will be from November 23 - November 29. They hope that you will promote National Family Week to your constituents by posting a news release (www.nationalfamilyweek.org/2008/2008News_Release.htm) on your website and including it in other appropriate communications vehicles. Resources and materials for planning observances are available, at no charge, on their website: www.nationalfamilyweek.org.

Partnership seeks new federal approach for public education

Over the past decade, says the Learning First Alliance in a call to action, "the federal effort to help states and school districts improve public education has become distorted. We now have top-down micromanagement of our public schools without the support they require to succeed. What states and districts need from the federal government is the right kind of support to guarantee every child equal access to an excellent public school." To improve the situation, the Alliance - a partnership of 18 major national education associations - has put forth six principles for "appropriate and constructive federal involvement in education." The principles are "a broad vision of student learning," "adequate funding for students in need," "shared accountability for student learning," "a comprehensive approach to supporting students and families," "support for education research and development," and "support for the education profession."

Read more at www.publicschoolinsights.org/resources.dyn/LFAFederalRoleFINAL.pdf.

The Full-service Schools Roundtable is grateful for generous support from Children's Hospital Boston and an anonymous foundation.

The mission of the Full- service Schools Roundtable is to advance the healthy development and academic success of students in Boston through integrated



What is a Comprehensive Approach to Student Supports?

The School Mental Health Project/Center for Mental Health in Schools has seen an increased stream of statements related to the ESEA reauthorization calling for "a comprehensive approach" to student supports. Too often, however, what is being identified as comprehensive is not comprehensive enough, and generally the approach described is not about developing a system of supports but a proposal to enhance coordination of fragmented efforts. Many times the emphasis mainly is on health and social services, usually with the notion of connecting more community services to schools. Although this work is important, most proposals to improve supports still fail to escape old ways of thinking about what schools need both in terms of content and process. The Center for Mental Health in Schools has put together a brief of what does and doesn't constitute a comprehensive approach. The brief is available at: <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/whatiscomp.pdf>



New Executive Director for Thrive in 5: John Lippitt, PhD, Selected for Leadership Position

After a three month search, Mayor Thomas M. Menino and Michael Durkin, President of United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley, announce the appointment of John Lippitt as the Executive Director of Thrive in 5.

Mr. Lippitt currently works at the MA Department of Public Health as director of a project to provide comprehensive services to substance-exposed newborns and their mothers and families. He served on Boston's 2007-2008 65-person School Readiness Action Planning Team ("the APT"), which developed the Thrive in 5 ten-year roadmap for preventing the achievement gap in Boston's next generation of students. On the APT, Mr. Lippitt co-chaired the workgroup focused on ways to improve and integrate health care and other systems that serve young children, their families and their communities. He also served on Governor Patrick's recent Readiness Project team.

To find out more about John Lippitt, visit: www.thrivein5boston.org/.

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

Love Your Veggies

The Love Your Veggies grant program will award grants to elementary schools (grades K-6) across the US in support of programs that help provide students with increased access to and consumption of fresh, healthy foods made available through an on-campus vegetable consumption program.

The program will award ten grants of \$15,000 each. Each grant award will support an elementary school in developing a program offering fresh vegetables and fruits lasting through the 2009-10 school year. For more information, visit: www.loveyourveggiesgrants.org/apply.php.

DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 7, 2008

Toyota Family Literacy Teacher of the Year

The National Center for Family Literacy and Toyota are accepting applications for the 2009 Toyota Family Literacy Teacher of the Year. Family educators from across the US are eligible for the award.

The winner will receive \$7,500 for his or her family literacy program as well as a free trip to the 2009 National Conference on Family Literacy in Orlando, Florida. In addition, several finalists will be selected to receive a \$500 scholarship.

Program guidelines and nomination forms are available at the NCFL Web site at www.familit.org/site/c.gtJWJdMQIsE/b.3136491/.

DEADLINE: DECEMBER 5, 2008

2008-09 Principal's Leadership Award

The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and Herff Jones, Inc. are proud to co-sponsor the 2008-09 Principal's Leadership Award (PLA). This scholarship award affords high school principals the opportunity to recognize a student leader by nominating him or her for a national scholarship.

Scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$12,000 will be awarded to 100 outstanding seniors from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. NASSP and Herff Jones have awarded the PLA scholarships since 1988, providing more than \$3.5 million in scholarship awards to outstanding students from across the nation. Students cannot apply for this award but must be nominated by their high school. High school principals or their designee may nominate only one senior per school to compete.

For more information, visit: www.principals.org/s_nassp/sec_inside.asp?CID=538&DID=48172.

DEADLINE: DECEMBER 5, 2008

Do Something's "Increase Your Green" School Competition

Do Something is inviting America's middle and high schools to reduce their carbon footprint this fall through the "Increase Your Green" competition. Participants must make concrete efforts toward reducing the environmental impact of their school during the eight-week competition. All initiatives must be youth-designed and -led. Winners will be chosen based on the impact of their school's actions during the competition.

The competition is open to middle and high schools. Participating schools are eligible for a first-place prize of \$1,500, a banner, plaque, and eco-friendly gift bags. Three second-place prizes of \$500 each will also be awarded. Winners will be featured on the Do Something Web site and in local press.

Visit the Do Something Web site for complete program guidelines and application procedures at: www.dosomething.org/increase_your_green.

The competition is currently open and closes December 8.

The deadline for online submission forms detailing action taken during the competition is December 15, 2008.

Community Service Agency: Request for Response

Significant changes are being made to behavioral health services for MassHealth-enrolled youth under the age of 21. These changes include improvements to behavioral health screening administered by primary care providers, improvements in behavioral health assessment practices and the development of new MassHealth behavioral health services. The Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), JudyAnn Bigby, M.D., developed the Children's Behavioral Health Initiative (CBHI) to coordinate EOHHS' activities with respect to Children's Behavioral Health. CBHI is an interagency initiative whose mission is to strengthen, expand, and integrate Massachusetts state services into a comprehensive, community-based system of care, and to ensure that families and their children with significant emotional and behavioral health needs obtain the services they need for success in home, school, and community.

In order to ensure that Massachusetts has the infrastructure to successfully support and implement the CBHI, the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP), in collaboration with the four MassHealth-contracted managed care organizations (MCOs) is procuring a network of Community Services Agencies (CSA). A CSA is a community-based organization whose function is to facilitate access to, and ensure coordination of, care for youth with serious emotional disturbance (SED) who require or are already utilizing multiple services or are involved with multiple child-serving systems and their families.

In total, 32 CSAs will be selected: 29 that are geographically consistent with the current 29 service areas for the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and three culturally and linguistically specialized CSAs to address the needs of specific cultural or linguistic groups in Massachusetts. These culturally or linguistically specialized CSAs must have demonstrated expertise at providing behavioral health services to one or more cultural or linguistic populations. Specialized CSAs will be selected for their demonstrated ability to reach deeply into specific cultural or linguistic communities and tailor their services to engage and serve their specialized populations.

For complete information, visit: www.masspartnership.com/provider/pdf/CSARFRFINALVERSION10-21-08.pdf.

There will be two bidders' conferences:

November 5th, 10:00 AM - Noon at the Worcester Crowne Plaza

November 6th, 10:00 AM - Noon at the Holiday Inn in Woburn

DEADLINE: LETTER OF INTENT: NOVEMBER 21, 2008

RFR RESPONSE: JANUARY 6, 2009

Readiness Finance Commission Hearing
Wednesday, November 5th
5:00 - 7:00 PM
Dwight Hall (Howe Building), Perkins School for the Blind
175 North Beacon Street, Watertown

The Executive Office of Education has scheduled a public hearing of the Readiness Finance Commission.

Directions: www.perkins.org/contact/directions/

Campus Map: www.perkins.org/assets/downloads/campusmap2003.pdf

Join Our List

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Quality Environments for Youth: Promoting Positive Behavior
Thursday, November 6th
10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON
Boston Public Library, Mezzanine Conference Room,
700 Boylston Street, Boston

Behavior support training based on BOSTnet's innovative PPB model. The best practices and lessons learned from two years of piloting in Boston and the surrounding area will be covered giving attendees practical advice and skills to use on-site. This event is approved for 2.5 hours of training by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC).

Please RSVP by November 5th by visiting: www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=ftcO4I3bOVBFEdS_2fjIDuhw_3d_3d.