




A Communities in Schools Collaboration

*Serving Homeless Children
and Youth*

NAEHCY Conference
November, 2009
Denver, Colorado



Background Information Region 14 Education Service Center


Statistics on Homeless Students 2008-2009

- *Number of Homeless*



Abilene 791 Other 934
Total: 1725

- *Unaccompanied Youth*

Abilene 46 Other 132
Total: 178



What are the needs?





Assessments on Every Identified Student

Confidential SOS Student Assessment Form
Name of Student _____ School and Grade _____
Summary of Living Situation: (Doubled up? Number in Family? Siblings in School? Anticipated changes?) _____
Attended 2 or more schools this year _____

- Academic Information:
 - Attendance: No Concerns _____ Frequently Tardy _____ Excessive Absences _____
 - Current Grades: All _____ 8s and Cs _____ Failing one or more Courses _____
 - Last SACS scores available: All Passed _____ Non-Pass Math _____
 - Half-Pass Reading _____ Non-Pass Writing _____ Science _____ Social Studies _____
- Comments from current teacher regarding any areas of concern: _____
- Information on current teacher's or principal's staff: _____
- Needs assistance with Reading, Math or Other _____
- Needs assistance with English Language _____ Yes (Grade _____)
- Has student ever been retained in a grade? _____ no _____ Other (Please note) _____
- Enrolled in Special Programs: Special Ed _____ ESL _____
- Medical, Social, Emotional, and Family Concerns: _____
- Specific Interests and Goals noted by the student: _____
- Hobbies (check below) _____ Activities (Scout, Church, Sports) _____
- Awards and Honors _____

For High School Students:
 • Is the student an unaccompanied youth? _____ No _____ Yes _____
 • What are the student's next steps? _____ College _____
 • Other Education: Military _____ or Job _____ or Training _____
 • Does the student need assistance with college information, application help, or information on financial assistance? _____ Yes _____ No _____
 • Is there a need for credit recovery? _____ Yes _____ No _____
 • Comments and Recommendations: _____
 • Subsidy or Other Assistance: _____ Credit Recovery or Guidance for After Graduation _____
 • Counseling or Mental Health Referral: _____ Family Assistance _____
 • School Supplies: _____ Summer Program _____
 • Signature and Title _____
 • Date _____




Summary of Assessments

Total completed for
Abilene ISD: 292
(Elementary)

Total Completed for other
Districts: 462

Total for region: 754



Summary of Assessments

Tutoring: 213
College Application Assistance: 33
Credit Recovery: 31
School Supplies: 221
Family Assistance: 108
Counseling: 103



Communities in Schools

- *The mission of Communities in Schools is to champion the connection of needed community resources with schools to help young people successfully learn, stay in school and prepare for life.*



6 Core Areas of Focus

- Supportive Guidance
- Health and Human Services
- Parental and Family Involvement
- College Readiness
- Career Awareness
- Enrichment and Educational Enhancement



Communities in Schools Social Work Interns

- Terah Hatter and Rhonda Osby



Examples of Intervention

Attendance
Agency Referral
Self Esteem
Character Building
Crisis Intervention
School Supplies
Backpack Feeding
Academics Grades




2008-2009 Results

Abilene HS	7
Cooper HS	23
Madison MS	11
Mann MS	14
Fannin Elem	21
Ortiz Elem	18
Total	94




Results

	Number	Improved
Academic	37	20 -- 54%
Attendance	20	9 -- 45%
Behavior	52	34 -- 65%
Social Services	39	30 -- 77%
Total	148	93 --63%




2009-2010 School Year

Cooper HS	31
Abilene HS	43
Madison MS	18
Mann MS	27
Fannin Elem	16
Ortiz Elem	33
Total	168


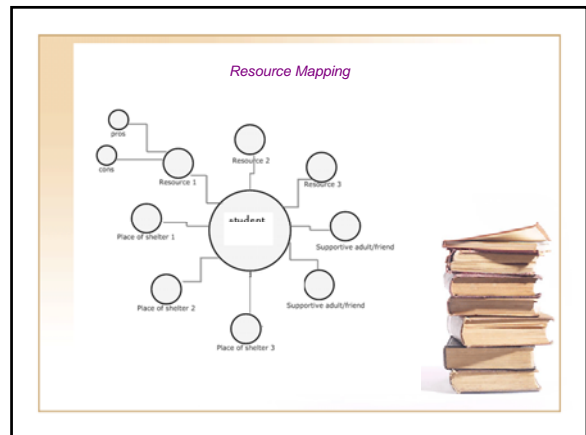


Michael Diers: CIS Campus Coordinator at Cooper High School




- 1875 Enrolled
- 145 CIS
- 31 Homeless

- Works with homeless liaison, counselors, teachers, community
- Supervises Social Work Interns





Get Plugged In

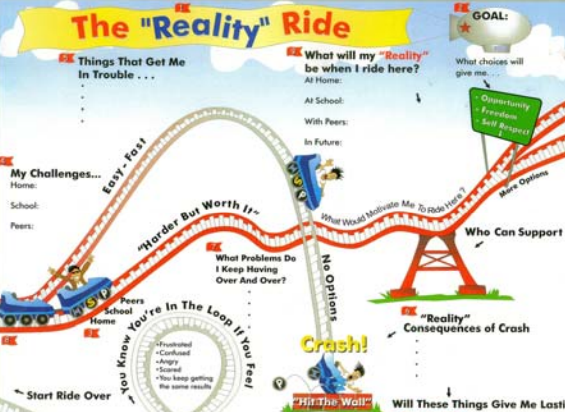


- Parent/Care Giver**
 - How much time am I spending with a parent or care giver? (If you're not spending at least 30 minutes a day then create and demand more time!)
 - What is one "conflict," "argument," or "power struggle" that I can give up today that won't hurt me but will help lower my parents anxiety about me?
- Positive Friend**
 - Remember "You know you have a "real" friend, when you are hanging out and they are doing things that help (not hurt) themselves or you.
 - What could I do to help a friend overcome peer pressure and deal with challenges at home and at school?
- Teacher/Counselor/School Official**
 - Make sure that someone at school knows the real you and what you can become with their help. Ask how they will help you reach your dreams and potential?
 - Let them know what you are willing to do and work together with them - (Identify three things you're willing to do)
- Positive Mentor**
 - Who can I identify that has accomplished goals and dreams similar to those that I want to accomplish?
 - What are three things (qualities) about them that I respect and admire, that I would like to develop also?
 - Take a risk - if possible ask them how they can help you achieve the same thing.
- Something that inspires or motivates you to do good**
 - What motivates me to not hurt myself or others?
 - "What do I do with my time that's "fun," gives me self respect and doesn't get me into trouble? (How can I do more of this?)

These 5 connections will help turn on the "light" to see your future more clearly.



The "Reality" Ride



GOAL: What choices will give me... *Overcome + Freedom + Self Respect*

Things That Get Me In Trouble . . .

My Challenges...

What Problems Do I Keep Having Over And Over?

What Will my "Reality" be when I ride here?

Who Can Support Me?

"Reality" Consequences of Crash

Will These Things Give Me Lasting Opportunity?

QUESTIONS

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Why Does CIS Work so Well?

- Short-term interventions, over time, *during the school day*
- Relationship Connection principal, counselor, teacher, community agency
- Advocate and intervene for the student



How Can Collaboration Work for You?

- If you already have CIS in your school...Collaborate!
- Research possibility to adding a CIS program
- Utilize interns from undergraduate or graduate social work or counseling programs



Your Presenters:

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