



Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education

Fall 2022

Mental & Behavioral Health Newsletter



Greetings from the TEA Mental Health and Wellness Team!

Meet TEA's MHW Team below.

The MHW Team is housed in TEA's Division of Supportive Schools, in the Office of Educator Support.

Reach out to the MHW Team if we can assist your school system with connecting to resources or information to support mental health and wellness in your school.

Contact the MHW Team at: mentalandbehavioralhealth@tea.texas.gov

Julie Wayman, MSSW, is the Director of Mental and Behavioral Health Coordination, leading the Mental Health and Wellness Team. Joining TEA in 2008, Julie has worked on policies and programs for youth at-risk, dropout prevention and recovery, special populations, and state initiatives to integrate school mental health and safety best practices. During her 40-year career, Julie has served in a variety of capacities providing student support services and leadership within rural and urban public schools, mental health treatment settings, juvenile court, non-profit and state agencies to execute on our aligned missions and shared goals.

Rohanna Sykes, LPC-S, CSC, is the Project AWARE Expansion Consortium State Coordinator. Throughout her twenty-year career she has worked as a kindergarten teacher, elementary school counselor and related services special education counselor. She is dedicated to the mission of promoting mental health awareness, expanding access to resources and increasing implementation of evidence-based practices to ensure students achieve life-long success.

Ashton Millet, MPP, is a Mental Health Programs Specialist serving on Project AWARE. He has worked in education for nearly 5 years as a teacher, coach, and public policy professional. Ashton is driven by his passion for increasing access to school mental health and improving outcomes for all students throughout the state of Texas.

Tammy Gendke, LSSP, has served for 19 years in various roles in education including an at-risk counselor, Lead LSSP and Special Education Coordinator for Behavior. Her passion for mental health promotion in the schools led her to ESC Region 3 as the Community Project Manager for the AWARE Texas grant. Tammy is now serving at TEA as the Project AWARE State Coordinator.

Visit the Texas School Mental Health Website hosted by the MHW Team:

<https://schoolmentalhealthtx.org/>

NEW School Mental Health Resource Database

The School Mental Health Resource Database was created in response to Senate Bill 11 during from the 86th Texas legislature. The purpose of the database is to make it easier for education community leaders to locate and access the resources available in their local communities, and

2023 Mental & Behavioral Health Webinar Series

The MHW team will host speakers to build knowledge of mental and behavioral resources

statewide, that promote the mental health of students, families, and schools. This database contains over 1300 resources available to school systems. The site allows users to search resources based on characteristics like school districts, ESC region, zip code, and types of resources available throughout the Texas mental health eco-system. Bookmark the link! ESC's and TEA collaborate across-systems and will continue to make updates to the amazing resource tool for school systems!

Pursuant to Senate Bill 11, the identified resources include evidence-based, promising programs and best practices that are intended to:

- Create school environments that support the social, emotional and academic development of students
- Identify students who may need additional behavioral or mental health supports before issues arise
- Provide early, effective interventions to students in need of additional support
- Connect students and their families to specialized services in the school or community when needed
- Assist schools in aligning resources necessary to address the mental health of students.

Access the Texas School Mental Health Resource Database: <https://schoolmentalhealthtxdatabase.org>

on topics of interest.

This Webinar Series is sponsored by
Project AWARE Texas
for the purpose of advancing wellness and resiliency in education.

**Save the Dates
and Time via Zoom**

11:00 am-12:00 pm (CST)

January 11th

February 8th

March 8th

April 12th

May 10th

June 14th

Watch for the webinar details to be announced soon in the newsletter.

Plan to join us!



**Advancing
Behavioral Health Collaboration (ABC)
Summit - 6th Annual: *Integrating School
Mental Health to Support the Whole Child***

November 29th, November 30th, and December 1st

9:00 am - 2:00 pm (CST)

Registration is Free!

via Zoom

The 2022 ABC Summit will take place via Zoom and this year's theme is *Integrating School Mental Health to Support the Whole Child*. Presenters will share information to support the whole child by advancing school mental health practices, making meaningful connections to state programs and policies, and strengthening community partnerships. The ABC Summit will showcase best practices, share insights and ideas, and provide resource information to advance school mental health and wellness in Texas.

Each of the three days will highlight tiered and integrated student support services with facilitated discussions around universal prevention, targeted early intervention, and intensive specialized services. Leadership examples and strategies for your own wellness will also be highlighted each day.

Participation is encouraged for professionals working in education service

centers, local education agencies, state agencies and community organizations who desire to support schools, learn from colleagues and strengthen school mental health in Texas. CEU's will be provided.

The ABC Summit is sponsored by Unified Services for All Children (USAC) and partner state agencies. USAC is an interagency workgroup facilitated by TEA that collaborates across systems to strengthen mental health and wellness for school-aged children, youth, and their families.

Join us! Register here:

<https://schoolmentalhealthtx.org/abc-summit>

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The Texas Education Agency will improve outcomes for all public school students in the state by providing leadership, guidance, and support to school systems.



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