



International Network for School Social Work

<http://internationalnetwork-schoolsocialwork.htmlplanet.com>

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Editor: Marion Huxtable

News from Japan

In some municipalities in Japan school social workers have recently started to provide services to students who are experiencing difficulties within their environment. Although there have been pilot programs for many years, the number of school social workers has remained small. Groups of social workers have however remained determined to introduce school social work into the school system in order to help students who are increasingly struggling with school problems. The Japanese Society for the Study of School Social Work (JSSSSW) is one group that continues to promote the concept of bringing social work to schools.

Koji Kadota, President of the Society, writes that the Society will present its second annual congress in Osaka on July 7, 2007 focusing on the development of training programs for school social workers. Symposiums and other presentations will be provided.

Center for Mental Health in Schools

The Center for Mental Health in Schools can provide resources and technical assistance. Contact the Center at smhp@ucla.edu. You can also write to Center for Mental Health in Schools, Dept. of Psychology, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1563 and use the web site at <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu>.

The monthly newsletter (ENEWS) is also helpful. To receive it, send your e-mail address to smhp@ucla.edu or subscribe online: <http://lists.ucla.edu/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/mentalhealth-L>. The Center has just mailed the Summer issue of "Addressing Barriers to Learning", the Center's quarterly newsletter. It contains an important article on **Evidence-Based Practices in Schools: Concerns About Fit and Implementation**. The article applies to more than just mental health. It is relevant to all of school social work. It raises concerns about evidence-based interventions, for example whether the intervention has been tested in real-life situations. The article is well worth reading. It discusses issues relating to implementation of evidence-based practices, such as policy issues and how change happens in systems. Putting proven approaches into practice requires leadership, training and motivation to introduce and sustain systemic change. You can see the entire article online at <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/Newsletter/summer07.pdf>.

Other matters featured in the Center's Summer newsletter are:

- Research-base for a Comprehensive System of Learning Supports
- Using Data Wisely
- Center News & Resources

The web site at <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/news.htm> gives you access to previous issues of the newsletter.

Research in school social work

In most countries there is little research about school social work or journals dedicated to school social work. Yet there is increasingly a requirement to use evidence-based methods. There should be no conflict between using methods that are shown to be effective and maintaining a child-centered, caring relationship with the pupil. Below is a request from Ulrika Gustafsson of Norway for help in designing a study that focuses on how pupils work with school social workers to improve their school lives. Research such as this can inform how school social workers interact with the pupils as they implement methods that are effective. There are about 400 school social workers in Norway with little research to guide them. The Government is currently planning to increase the number of school social workers, so research will become an important tool to guide the planning and implementing of the services to be offered.

Request for assistance from Ulrika Gustavsson

I have been working as a school social worker for twenty years in Norway and am planning a research project on school social work for my Master's thesis. I will interview pupils aged 13 through 16 about their experiences of working with a school social worker. The topic is important at this time as the Government is developing a plan for bringing more social workers into the schools. Since there is little research on school social work in Norway, I would appreciate input on designing this study. Please contact me if you have experience with research in which you asked pupils about their experience working with a school social worker.

Reply to Ulrika Gustavsson at <jherdal@online.no>

Conferences

The 11th National School Social Work Conference, sponsored by the School Social Work Association of America, will be held April 3-5, 2008 in Denver, Colorado. If you are interested in attending it is a good idea to plan ahead to be sure of obtaining a visa. The call for papers has been sent out and you can find out how to submit a paper by contacting the SSWAA. Submissions of overseas proposals for presentations at the conference are always welcome.

News

Please send news and items for future issues of the newsletter to [Marion Huxtable](#).