School Mental Health Policies for Teachers

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**Research Workgroup:**
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Background

• Project stemmed from Liz and Betsy’s World Café presentation in May
• Workgroup members’ research interests
• Gaps in research, training, and policy on teachers’ (pre-service and in-service) knowledge and professional development on school mental health
Conceptual Models

• Theoretical
  • Professional Development – theories of change models
  • Transformative Learning Theory
  • Capacity-Building Frameworks

• Methodological
  • Schwartz et al article
Purpose

• Research Question:
  • What are state policies on mental health training for teachers?

• Two Study Aims:
  • Develop and evaluate a coding system for state policies on mental health training for teachers
  • Describe state policies related to mental health training for teachers and other school professionals.
Sample

• All policies under “School Personnel Training” of the state statutes included in the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention’s, State Statutes – Suicide Prevention in Schools.

• This document was last updated 1/15/13 and, for some states, includes hyperlinks that connect directly to the entire state policy.

Building Coding System

- Content items selected from a review of the literature on mental health training for teachers, conceptual frameworks, and review of related policy evaluation tools (e.g., Schwartz et al. (2009)).

- Refine the codebook based on review from MHEDIC

- Apply the coding system to code each of the state policies
Small Group Activity - DETOUR

• Upon further review, state policies in our sample are brief and much of the language is vague

• Policies do not cover the majority of what is delineated in our initial code book
Group Discussion

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Our Next Steps

- Ongoing review of literature based on feedback from MHEDIC

- Refining the codebook based on feedback from MHEDIC

- Determine whether to continue with this sample, and if so, how to adapt codebook

- Quantitative data analysis

- Qualitative analysis of definitions of children’s mental health

- Synthesize and write-up for publication
THANK YOU!