SUPPORTING SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19

Speaker Biographies

Wednesday, August 19, 2020

Session 1: 9:00 am - 10:00 am ET
Welcome and Mental Health: Through the Eyes of a Teenager

Ann Murphy, Ph.D., CPRP
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Ann Murphy is an Associate Professor and Director of the Northeast and Caribbean Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC) in the Department of Psychiatric Rehabilitation and Counseling Professions at Rutgers, School of Health Professions. Dr. Murphy conducts research focused on interventions to improve the lives of people with mental illnesses, and previously provided psychiatric rehabilitation services. She has been a primary or contributing author on several federally funded grants. She also teaches within the MS in Rehabilitation Counseling and PhD in Psychiatric Rehabilitation programs at Rutgers. Dr. Murphy served as the Program Director for the PhD in Psychiatric Rehabilitation from 2016 to 2019, developing a new Counselor Education and Supervision track during that time. Currently, Dr. Murphy is the Director of the MHTTC, a federally funded center to enhance the capacity of the behavioral health workforce to provide evidence-based mental health interventions. Dr. Murphy’s work is informed by her lived experience in recovery from mental illness.

Amy Molloy, MSW, M.Ed.
amolloy@manys.org
Amy Molloy is the Director of the School Mental Health Resource and Training Center at the Mental Health Association in NYS, Inc. (MHANYS), where she has worked since 2016. She is also a member of the Queensbury Union Free School District’s Board of Education, the Warren County Community Services Board and the Warren-Washington Association for Mental Health Board of Directors. Amy is an accomplished trainer and presenter, and believes that through learning and honest conversations we can increase our understanding about mental health concerns and reduce the stigma that often serves as a barrier to treatment and support.

Caroline Shea
carolineshea0227@gmail.com
Caroline Shea is a 2020 graduate of Point Pleasant Boro High School. This fall she will be attending Johnson and Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island where she will be studying in New Jersey Sports Entertainment and Event Management. In high school Caroline helped create a website called DAWN (Depression Anxiety Wellness Network) to help kids and students navigate day-to-day activities, giving them access to resources and coping skills.
Liz Warner
liz@schoolcultureandclimate.org

Liz Warner has spent the last ten years building coalitions, connecting schools and developing resources and supports that help schools and students thrive in the 21st century. Her approach has been founded in the belief that social-emotional skills are the foundation for academic, work and life success and the understanding that we all accomplish more together than alone (also a lot more fun!).

As co-founder and co-director (with Patricia Heindel, Ph.D.) of the School Culture and Climate Initiative, based at the Center for Human and Social Development at Saint Elizabeth University, Liz has been at the forefront of creating supports and resources for schools. Liz is also the President of SEL4NJ the state affiliate of SEL4US.

Liz often speaks both regionally and nationally on collaboration building as well as the importance of a coordinated approach to SEL and school climate improvement. Previous to moving to NJ 12 years ago, Liz spent 16 years in higher education publishing and although originally from Wisconsin, spent almost 19 years living on the other side of the Atlantic in the UK and Denmark. In her spare time Liz loves to travel and has been known to share her remarkable story of attempting the ‘Last Degree’ in 2005 — her 10 day unsupported trek trying to reach the North Pole.

Erica Brentan, M.Ed.
erica@schoolcultureandclimate.org

As a member of the School Culture and Climate Initiative team, Erica Brentan supports schools through a three year school climate improvement process and also is the lead SEL Coach for the Initiative.

An educational consultant with expertise in instructional practice and behavior management, Erica Brentan believes that every student in this country deserves a high-quality education—and that this vision is best realized through comprehensive training that prepares teachers for the complex needs of their students. After working for 15 years as a teacher, coach, and professional development specialist at a range of public, private, and charter schools in the New York City area, she developed a unique perspective on how every school can reach its full potential. With this pursuit in mind, in 2015 she founded School Works, a consultancy that partners with school administrators to equip teachers with the tools they need for success and to enhance overall school performance. Her practice is built on a foundation of social/emotional principles, and schools that have partnered with School Works have demonstrated higher student engagement, greater teacher satisfaction, stronger classroom communities, and improved school culture.

Erica holds a BA in Journalism from the University of Maryland College Park, and a Master’s in Education from Pace University in New York City. She has advanced certification in Responsive Classroom and extensive training in cognitive coaching, transformational coaching and cooperative learning.

Patricia Heindel, Ph.D.
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Dr. Patricia (Trish) Heindel is a professor of psychology and Dean of the School of Professional Studies at Saint Elizabeth University (SEU). She is director of the SEU Center for Human and Social Development and the co-director of the Center’s School Culture and Climate Initiative with Elizabeth Warner. In addition, she and Maurice Elias, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Rutgers University, are co-directors of the Academy for Social-Emotional Learning in Schools, an online professional learning community and certificate program in social-emotional learning and character development.

Both the School Culture and Climate Initiative and the Academy for Social-Emotional learning in Schools have been recognized nationally for their exemplary work in supporting educators and schools. Under Trish's leadership, the Center for Human and Social Development at SEU was a founding member of the New Jersey School Health and Climate Coalition. Trish serves on the leadership team of SEL4NJ, a statewide organization that is part of the national SEL4US network.

Trish sits on many regional and statewide committees including the New Jersey Department of Education Social Emotional Learning Standards Advisory Group, Health Impact Assessment of ESSA Rulemaking Advisory Group as well as the National Collaborative on Education and Health. She presents regionally and nationally on social-emotional learning, school culture and climate and the importance of data-informed school improvement planning.
Session 3: Noon - 1:15 pm ET
When School Starts Back: Helping Students Cope with Crisis and Loss during the COVID-19 Pandemic

David Schonfeld, MD, FAAP
schonfel@usc.edu
David Schonfeld established and directs the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement (http://www.schoolcrisiscenter.org), located at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles; the Center coordinates the Coalition to Support Grieving Students (http://www.grievingstudents.org), comprised of approximately 100 organizations including the major educational professional organizations (AASA, AFSA, AFT, ASCA, NAESP, NASN, NASP, NASSP, NEA, and SSWAA, along with the NCSCB and the New York Life Foundation, were the founding members). Dr. Schonfeld is a developmental-behavioral pediatrician and Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. He has authored more than 150 scholarly articles, book chapters and books (e.g., The Grieving Student: A Teacher’s Guide, Brookes Publishing) and has given more than 1,000 presentations on the topics of pediatric bereavement and crisis. Schonfeld has provided consultation and training in the aftermath of school crisis events and disasters within the United States and abroad, including the COVID-19 pandemic; school and community shootings in Santa Clarita, CA; Parkland, FL; Newtown, CT; Benton, KY; Las Vegas, NV; Thousand Oaks, CA; Spokane, WA; Marysville, WA; Osaka, Japan; Corning, CA; Aurora, CO; Platte Canyon, CO; Chardon, OH; and Townville, South Carolina; flooding from hurricanes Maria in San Juan, Sandy in NY and NJ, Katrina in New Orleans, and Ike in Galveston, Texas; tornadoes in Joplin, MO and AL; wildfires in Butte County, CA; Sonoma County, CA and in the Great Smoky Mountains in Sevierville, TN; and the 2008 earthquake in Sichuan, China. He coordinated the training for school crisis response teams for the NYC DOE after the events of September 11, 2001. He has also conducted school-based research (funded by NICHD, NIMH, NIDA, the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, William T. Grant Foundation and other foundations) involving children’s understanding of and adjustment to serious illness and death, as well as school-based interventions to promote adjustment and risk prevention.

Session 4: 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm ET
Supporting Student Mental Health Through Uncertain Times

Amy Malloy, MSW, M.Ed.
amolloy@mhanys.org
Amy Malloy is the Director of the School Mental Health Resource and Training Center at the Mental Health Association in NYS, Inc. (MHANYS), where she has worked since 2016. She is also a member of the Queensbury Union Free School District’s Board of Education, the Warren County Community Services Board and the Warren-Washington Association for Mental Health Board of Directors. Amy is an accomplished trainer and presenter, and believes that through learning and honest conversations we can increase our understanding about mental health concerns and reduce the stigma that often serves as a barrier to treatment and support.

Sue Wollner, MPA
swollner@mhanys.org
Sue Wollner is an Education Consultant for School Mental Health Resource and Training Center at the Mental Health Association in New York State. She taught Social Studies for 20 years at Maple Hill High School in Schodack, New York and was very involved as an advisor to several clubs and a committee member of the Child Study Team and the Shared Decision-Making Team. Sue taught many Psychology courses at Maple Hill, including Introduction to Psychology for both high school and college credits and created a new elective course for students about mental health and wellness which she taught for 10 years. She also worked for several years as a newspaper reporter and editor. Sue currently lives with her family in Delmar, outside of Albany.
Thursday, August 20, 2020

Session 1: 9:00 am - 12:30 pm
The Power of Resilience-Based, Trauma-Sensitive, Strength Focused Communication in Working with Youth

Ken Ginsburg, MD, MS. Ed.
kgtalks@gmail.com

Dr. Ken Ginsburg practices Adolescent Medicine at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and is a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He directs Health Services at Covenant House Pennsylvania, where he serves Philadelphia’s youth enduring homelessness. Dr. Ginsburg practices social adolescent medicine -- service with special attention to prevention and the recognition that social context and stressors affect both physical and emotional health. His research over the last 30 years has focused on facilitating youth to develop their own solutions to social problems and to teach adults how to better serve them.

He is the Founding Director of The Center for Parent and Teen Communications which works with key influencers to empower parents with the strategies and skill-sets that will strengthen their family connections and position them to guide their teens to become their best selves. It works to shift the cultural narrative about adolescence from being a time to survive to one in which development is to be optimized and celebrated. It’s parenting website - [http://parentandteen.com](http://parentandteen.com) - was awarded the 2019 Seal of Approval from The National Parenting Center.


He has been honored to offer consultation in building resilience and developing strong youth to The Boys and Girls Clubs of America, The National Congress of American Indians, and the Military Child Education Coalition, among others, over the last decade. He currently works with Covenant House Internation’s 35 sites to solidify and magnify their practice model rooted in the healing power of loving and respectful adult connections with youth.

Session 2: 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
A Mindfulness Approach to Educator Wellness: Developing Acceptance Skills and Strengthening Commitment to Act

Imad Zaheer, Ph.D.
imadzaheer@gmail.com

Dr. Imad Zaheer is an Assistant Professor of School Psychology in the Department of Psychology, at St. John’s University. Dr. Zaheer is a pediatric school psychologist and has worked on numerous projects in clinics, hospitals, and public and alternative school settings that involve direct and indirect (consultation) services across individual, group (classrooms) and systems level. His areas of interest are in developing assessments and interventions for children with emotional and behavioral challenges and creating comprehensive school-based prevention programs by integrating school mental health (SMH), social emotional learning (SEL) and school-wide positive behavioral interventions and supports (SW-PBIS). For his work in these areas, Dr. Zaheer was awarded the Council for Exceptional Children’s (CEC) Professional Performance Award in 2019. Additionally, Dr. Zaheer sits on the steering committee for the national group, Family School Community Alliance (FSCA), which is an organization dedicated to creating robust collaboration and engagement across schools and families/community settings. Dr. Zaheer is the co-founder of the Nurturing Environments Institute (NEI).

Contact

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