



Great Lakes Mental Health Technology Transfer Center: Year Four in Review: August 15, 2021–August 14, 2022

The Great Lakes Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC) provides training and technical assistance to behavioral health providers and other stakeholders in HHS Region 5: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Our mission is to promote the implementation of evidence-based mental health practices and respond to the identified needs of our region by delivering comprehensive and innovative training and technical assistance.

Year Four Highlights

The Great Lakes MHTTC continues to build relationships with key stakeholders across the region, including consumer and family-run organizations, state behavioral health authorities, local behavioral health and primary care providers, and others. Central to this network of relationships are our subcontracts with behavioral health provider associations in each of our six states. In collaboration with these organizations, we can better assess and meet varying needs at the state and local levels.

In Year 4, the
Great Lakes
MHTTC provided
120 total events
attended by **9,273**
participants

During Year 4, the Great Lakes MHTTC offered 87 trainings and technical assistance events attended by over 7,070 participants. Of this number, 48 events were sponsored by our state subcontractors. Events included a mix of virtual trainings/webinars, intensive technical assistance projects, and several conference sponsorships. Additional details and highlights about specific projects from Year 4 are featured in the following sub-sections.

Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) Series

This series was first offered in fiscal Year 3 and had incredible attendance rates. It later became an intensive technical assistance (ITA) project that occurred in Year 4 which was fully sponsored by Wisconsin Department of Health Services in partnership with the Great Lakes MHTTC and the University of Wisconsin–Green Bay Behavioral Health Training Partnership. This ITA project was developed for Wisconsin practitioners wanting to become board-certified. Eight total teams from across Wisconsin participated in this year-long ITA project. The Great Lakes MHTTC offered this series again, however an eighth session addressing substance use disorders was added. This was co-sponsored by Great Lakes ATTC.

Trauma Informed Care

The Great Lakes MHTTC partnered with Blue Collar Consulting, LLC to offer eleven sessions and three learning collaboratives between April 2022 and September 2022 on how to develop a Trauma Informed Care organization. This series will continue into Year 5 as an intensive technical assistance project supporting two organizations within Region 5 on how to fully implement and sustain trauma informed practices within their agencies.



Contributions of Subject Matter Experts

The Great Lakes MHTTC works closely with Subject Matter Experts (SME's) or "nodes" in each of the six states within our region. Here are a few examples of notable activities from these on-going working relationships.

Crisis Academy: Emergency Hospitalization/Pink Slip

This presentation is intended to assist community mental health professionals and their community partners in understanding Ohio's emergency hospitalization process and obtaining a working knowledge of its application. The roles and responsibilities of the various professionals involved in the emergency hospitalization process will be addressed as well as the requirements for pink slips. A panel discussion will offer the perspectives and inputs of the professionals involved in the process. (877 participants)

Culturally Responsive Counseling Practices with Individuals & Families

This class uncovers how our cultural identities and experiences shape the way we make meaning of the world and relate to others. Outcomes are usually improved when services are adapted to a person's cultural needs and preferences. As such, effective workers can skillfully navigate cultural conversations, and form sustainable working relationships with the people they support. This training looks at practical strategies for learning about an individual within the context of their culture. One of the specific strategies is the DSM 5 Cultural Formulation tool. (226 participants)

Communications

Our team followed a strategic communications plan to increase the visibility of the Great Lakes MHTTC and the MHTTC Network. Our communications plan includes the following projects and activities:

Great Lakes MHTTC Website Updates

We update the Great Lakes MHTTC website on a weekly and monthly basis, focusing on SAMHSA awareness events, national awareness campaigns, new products and resources for the mental health workforce, and featuring breaking news and current events in the fields of mental health and school-based mental health.

New Resources for Marketing Communications

All marketing communications for the Great Lakes MHTTC, including *The Great Lakes Current* e-newsletter, are now being sent via a new platform called Eloqua. Eloqua has capabilities equivalent to Databank for outreach and audience analytics, and it offers increased capabilities for content formatting and complex campaign management. In addition to this, the Great Lakes MHTTC continues to distribute our weekly update emails promoting upcoming events and new products and resources from our region.

Social Media

The Great Lakes MHTTC expanded our social media presence. We launched our LinkedIn account on September 14, 2022, and we gained 56 followers between the launch of our account and November 1, 2022.



Multi-media Production

The Great Lakes MHTTC continues to increase the production of podcast episodes and series. In September–October 2022, we published our Center’s first bilingual podcast episode (Spanish) to honor National Hispanic Heritage Month and discuss the importance of providing culturally appropriate mental health services for Hispanic/Latinx populations.

Accessibility

As always, the Great Lakes MHTTC continues to promote and create accessible content according to Section 508 accessibility standards. We perform 508 accessibility checks on all our content, including products, webpages, and presenter materials. We also strive to offer as many accessibility options as possible during live virtual events.

Great Lakes MHTTC School Mental Health Supplement

Under the direction of a full-time School-Based Mental Health Project Manager, we continued our relationships with a variety of stakeholders in state government, school districts, and community mental health centers to identify ongoing needs and provide targeted technical assistance and training opportunities. In addition to working with the Network Coordinating Office and other regional MHTTC school mental health leads to develop and deliver national initiatives responding to COVID-19 and racial violence, significant accomplishments from our Center includes:



- Coordinated 33 training events for 2,203 participants
- Developing a supplemental team discussion guide for implementing Classroom WISE and conducting a four-part webinar series on integrating Classroom WISE within existing school frameworks
- Conducting a webinar titled "Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) in K012 Schools: Identifying Risk and Preventing School Violence" (1,297 participants)
- Leading a year-long (18 sessions) ITA project focused on implementing and improving comprehensive school-based suicide prevention programming with 18 districts from six states
- Leading an ITA project focused on implementing and supporting Teen Mental Health First Aid (tMHFA) in high schools with 10 sites and 20 participants, including 6 professional learning community sessions and 4 tMHFA training sessions
- Leading a learning series and regional collaboration meeting for all Project AWARE grantees



Connect with the Great Lakes MHTTC

- ✓ [Great Lakes MHTTC Website](#)
- ✓ Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#)
- ✓ Subscribe to the [Great Lakes Current YouTube Channel](#)
- ✓ Discover our full catalogue of podcasts on the [Great Lakes Wave Anchor Channel](#)

Sherrie Nichols, MS, LMFT: MHTTC Co-director
sherrie.nichols@wisc.edu

Sarah McMinn, MSW: School-Based Mental Health Program Manager
sarah.mcminn@wisc.edu

Jen Winslow, Project Coordinator
jmwinslow@wisc.edu