

The HEART Collective: Supporting Leaders in Education and Healthcare in School Mental Health Collaborations



The [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#)'s [Region 1 Office, Health Resources and Services Administration \(HRSA\)](#)'s [Office of Regional Operations in Region 1](#), and the New England MHTTC's [Childhood-Trauma Learning Collaborative](#) have collaborated to convene the Healthcare workers and Educators Addressing and Reducing Trauma (HEART) Collective to **enhance collaborations between schools and community health centers, mental and behavioral health agencies, and/or community-based organizations to support positive mental health and well-being for youth in a school-based setting.**

We help teams working in schools design and refine their comprehensive, inclusive school mental health systems to promote holistic mental health for the entire school community.

HEART Collective Resources

Are you looking for ways to develop collaborations around comprehensive school mental health supports? Visit the HEART Collective [website](#) for resources on the impact of childhood-trauma and ways to build the critical collaborations needed to create compassionate school communities. Access tip sheets, toolkits, and a wealth of resources around trauma-skilled, recovery-oriented school mental health practices, including:

- Comprehensive school mental health
- Collaborations
- Equity Considerations
- Funding Considerations
- Logistic Design
- Mental Health Supports
- Privacy Considerations
- Staff Well-Being
- Voice and Engagement

Join our HEART Community and stay up-to-date on HEART and New England School Mental Health Initiative [events](#) and [news](#).

Featured Resources

- [Best Practices for Collaboration on School-Based Mental Health Supports for Schools and Healthcare Centers Using the Compassionate School Mental Health Model](#)
- [Overcoming Barriers to Effective Collaboration On School Mental Health System and Service Delivery](#)
- [HEART Webinar: Effective Collaborations for School-Based Mental Health Services](#)

Visit our website for more HEART [resources](#).

About the HEART Collective

From September 2020 to January 2021, the HEART Committee—a group of New England leaders in community healthcare, education, and with lived experience of mental health challenges—met regularly to discuss the barriers to collaboration and brainstorm ways to better support the staff involved in these collaborations. We continued to build community with other educators with the *Compassionate Conversations in Schools* series, where Collective members came together to learn

about staff and community wellness practices and share challenges and successes around efforts to promote positive well-being in their schools and healthcare centers. During the 2021-2022 school year, we continued to facilitate co-learning and networking among education, healthcare, and mental and behavioral health leaders in the HEART Collective and beyond with our New England School Mental Health Peer Support Hour series.

For more information about the HEART Collective, please contact the New England MHTTC's Education Coordinator, Dana Asby, at dana.asby@yale.edu.

Take HEART: A Public Mental Health Awareness Campaign

Help us spread the word about the importance of collaborative approaches to wraparound services that support the mental health and well-being of everyone in the school building.

Our schools need more trauma-skilled personnel—administrators, educators, behavioral health and other professionals to help youth and their families cope with the impact of trauma. Everyone in the school building can help to create and sustain a compassionate school community that fosters respect, promotes equity, and improves the resilience of students and staff so that they can lead more productive and healthier lives.

How can you help?

- [Educate yourself](#) and others to understand the impact of childhood-trauma and build the critical collaborations needed to create compassionate school communities that provide a sense of safety, support student and staff mental health, and cultivate a culture of joy that drives engagement, meaningful relationships, and positive connections.
- [Advocate](#) for resources to train and support educators and better healthcare and mental health services for children and families in your community.
- Remember to always [promote hope!](#) Fill your toolkit with a cohesive set of strategies and practices to create a school community that works together to reduce and respond compassionately to trauma.



HEART Collective Leadership and Members

We would like to thank all of the leaders in education, communications, healthcare, mental and behavioral health, family and youth advocacy, and with lived experience of mental health challenges as youth who contributed to this work.

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To access more resources like this to enhance your school-based mental health collaborations, visit the HEART Collective website at www.heartcollective.info

