

Project AWARE TA Tidbits

August 2023



Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Project AWARE TA Tidbits are technical assistance updates aimed at providing a birds-eye view of the impactful technical assistance, training, and collaboration/relationship-building activities each one of our Centers lead with Project AWARE grantees in their regions.

NEW ENGLAND MHTTC

Our Center's School Mental Health Initiative recently developed a series of infographics to share key facts and statistics about the mental health experiences of diverse populations. These resources offer strategies that promote recovery and resilience through compassionate school practices. All Project AWARE grantees are welcome to access these new resources by visiting our website [here](#).

SOUTHEAST MHTTC

Recently, the Southeast MHTTC hosted a Project AWARE Quarterly Meeting with State Education Agency (SEA) leaders to facilitate peer learning, obtain feedback on recent training and technical assistance opportunities, and to learn more about current priorities. We also completed in-depth conversations with SEA leaders from all eight states in the region about challenges and opportunities pertaining to funding and sustainability of school mental health programs (beyond Project AWARE) to inform programming for the upcoming year.

MID-AMERICA MHTTC

We established new partnerships with our new AWARE grantees this year and are working with them to provide training around the National SMH Best Practices and Implementation Guidance - with emphasis on Teaming and the School Mental Health Quality Assessment tool on SHAPE. These trainings will be targeted to AWARE grantees and will be offered to other LEAs state-wide, in hopes of creating consistency and strong systems state-wide. With previous AWARE grantees, we are hosting a virtual booster session focusing on applying the best practices to multi-tiered systems of support.

NORTHWEST MHTTC

Our region has continued to focus on collaboration through a monthly community of practice with AWARE Grantees. The purpose of these meetings is to offer support through resources, training, technical assistance, and networking to ensure we're providing grantees timely and relevant ongoing support. Recently, we developed and disseminated a Professional Learning Series (PLS) Survey to help inform program development for the 2023-24 school year. Results will guide upcoming programming and ensure grantees are heard.

NORTHEAST & CARIBBEAN MHTTC

In effort to assist schools in our region to address school violence, our Center hosted the 3-session training series: Talk Back to Joy. The series assisted schools in enhancing awareness of their school spaces and developing an actionable plan to transform these spaces to reduce school violence and increase joy. Participants also gained a deeper understanding of joy as a method of recovery and how to integrate these strategies directly into daily practices. Project AWARE grantees were provided priority access to these interactive sessions.

GREAT LAKES MHTTC

The Great Lakes MHTTC is taking time this summer to prepare training and TA tailored to meet the needs of our region's Project AWARE leaders in the 2023-2024 school year. From June-August we are offering individual needs assessment conversations with each Project AWARE team. If you have not already scheduled a time to talk about the training and TA needs for your specific Project AWARE grant, please email Sarah McMinn [here](#) to find a time to connect.

MOUNTAIN PLAINS MHTTC

Project AWARE grantees continue to meet monthly to collaborate, share, resources, and troubleshoot concerns. We have a school mental health training coming up on August 17 that all Project AWARE grantees are invited to attend: [From Resistance to Resilience: Strategies for Addressing School Refusal](#). Participants of the training will learn key risk and protective factors contributing to school refusal using a Multi-Tiered System of Support framework. Practical approaches to embedding interventions that foster resilience and promote continuous school attendance will also be discussed.

NATIONAL HISPANIC AND LATINO MHTTC

The National Hispanic and Latino MHTTC School Mental Health team is currently working with the Project AWARE grantee team in Georgia. We are in the process of coordinating two virtual trainings specifically requested by the grantee team - one will focus on Latino Youth Gangs and the other will focus on Suicide Prevention in Hispanic and Latino youth. These trainings will be recorded and available in the [MHTTC Product and Resource catalog](#) for other AWARE grantees to access.

CENTRAL EAST MHTTC

In August, we will be rolling out our Groupsite Asynchronous Learning Collaborative, focused on suicide and community school violence as it relates to suicidality. Project AWARE partners from the region will use the site to share information about practices they are currently implementing and those that they are exploring. The goal is to shorten the learning and implementation curve related to prevention and early intervention.

SOUTH SOUTHWEST MHTTC

At the request of Region 6 Project AWARE grantees, our Center finished a six-session "School Mental Health Coaching Academy" in partnership with the National Center for School Mental Health for TX Education Service Centers. A "Suicide Prevention in Schools – Best Practices and Protocols" training was offered with several more trainings to take place this fall. Two cohorts of YMHFA Instructor Training were offered, an in-person TBRI Practitioner Training, and two Check and Connect Trainings will take place in early August and September.

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST MHTTC

Our region continues to host a monthly community of practice for AWARE leaders in the region. Per a special request, in August we are piloting a customized training for Motivational Interviewing applied to school systems leadership for the AWARE teams in our region. We are also hosting a 5-part Back to School series open to our entire region from August-September based on trauma informed approaches and practices; the sessions are designed to reflect the knowledge and skills that AWARE leaders have named priority for the school mental health field. Access details [here](#).

NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE MHTTC

We have been working with tribal grantees to explore and identify various areas of need within AI/AN communities, from suicide prevention to opioid/fentanyl use. Because AI/AN youth maintain a higher prevalence of substance use and substance abuse issues than all other populations in the United States, Project AWARE grantees are discussing a basic culturally-informed training for school personnel on the treatment and prevention of substance use with AI/AN student populations.

To access additional information about the School Mental Health activities led by our Regional and Population-Focused Centers, please visit our MHTTC School Mental Health Initiative webpage [here](#).