

SSSB Vision:

...school communities with quality, comprehensive and integrated support for all students to be successful learners.



A strong Comprehensive Student Support System (CSSS) in a school means supports provided in a timely and effective manner to ensure that all students are able to meet the standards. "Effective" delivery of services is often achieved through integration, collaboration, cooperation — **teaming**.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI) CONSULTING TEAMS

Bess Tanabe, Neurotraining Therapist

With the growing number of children going to the emergency room with "traumatic brain injury" resulting from motor vehicle collisions, falls, abuse, and sports injuries, many states are developing TBI Consulting Teams as a way to meet the needs of the student with a brain injury. States such as Oregon, Kansas, and Iowa are developing these TBI Consulting Teams, often through collaborative partnership with the Health Resource and Services Administration (HRSA)- Maternal Child Health Bureau, as a way of providing in-service training and consultation to educators serving students with brain injury.

The Hawaii Department of Education is also developing these TBI Consulting Teams as a way to achieve successful outcomes for all our students with brain injuries. Consulting team members will receive training in a number of areas such as assessment, eligibility, behavior management, positive behavioral support, and teaching strategies to prepare them to support teachers who work with the student with a brain injury.

Dr. Ron Savage conducted the first meeting, looking at the prevalence of TBI and some teaching strategies. The second meeting considered the *Survivor/ Caregiver Perspective* with a panel of survivors, family members, and professionals.

For further information, please call Jean Kiyabu, Special Education Office, at 735-8250 ext.267.

We acknowledge the TBI Consulting Team members and their supervisors for their participation in this new integrated approach. (Team members must have the approval of their supervisors.)

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What's Working in Hawaii Schools

A Collaborative Teaming Process: improving educational outcomes for youth with high intensity emotional and behavioral needs.

The UH Center on Disability Studies has partnered with the Leilehua Complex to develop multi-agency teams that support students with high level emotional and behavioral needs.

Research shows that students with emotional behavioral disabilities have the highest dropout rates, lowest grades, and the highest rate of restrictive and out-of-home placements of any group of students with disabilities. As schools across the country are faced with addressing the growing and multiple needs of many of their students, they are looking to a coordinated system of care model which is team-based, collaborative, individualized, flexible, strengths-based, family-driven, culturally competent, and community-based (<www.rtc.pdx.edu> Eber & Nelson, 1997).

What contributes to successful teaming?

Teams that show the greatest success have strong leadership, clearly defined goals, openness to team processes, and an unconditional commitment to the family (Fleming & Monda-Amaya, 2001). These teams build respect and trust among members through understanding the skills and expertise that each role brings (Weist et al., 2001).

The team consists of representatives from the school, from family court, and from the Family Guidance Center as well as the family and student. Other key players are included as needed. The approach is to match the student's vision, his/her strengths and needs, and the least restrictive environment with the appropriate supports. For students with high level emotional and behavioral needs, this means returning to their family and to the home school. The ultimate goal is graduation.

This multi-agency team approach has attained exemplary results for most of the youth and their families who have received collaborative supports.



To learn more about this demonstration project go to <www.sig.hawaii.edu> You will also find a complete Research Review on Collaborative Teaming under "products". For more information, please contact Jacki Rhuman at 551-4348, or Dr. Shannon Simonelli at 956-8710.