**CommNet: December 5, 2019**

*Puget Sound Educational Service District*

**Special Services, PSESD**

*Laura Matson, Director of Special Services*

* Links in slides will bring you directly to the SPED webpage
* Theme of Special Services: “Energize your why.”
  + New initiatives & work coming out of OSPI, but the focus should be to remember why you’re in Special Ed
* Support Learning & Evidence Based Practices
  + Network meetings (half-day meetings, free)
  + Meeting materials, resources and collaboration on schoology.com
  + Professional Development on pdenroller.org
* Large focus of Special Services work is supporting OSPI priorities: improving outcomes for students with disabilities
* Services Provided for Free
  + Assistive Technology Lending Library
  + Training, Technical Support & Resource Sharing (Special Education Compliance, High Leverage Practices, Policies, Procedures & Practices)
* Fee for Service
  + Professional Development on effective practices for students w/ disabilities (Co-Teaching, 504, Universal Design for Learning)
* People First Language
  + “People first language is used to speak appropriately and respectfully about an individual with a disability. People first language emphasizes the person first, not the disability.”
* Resources:
  + Page from the CDC about how to create a change through People First Language
  + How can this be adapted to schools? (e.g. students receiving special education services; students eligible for 504 accommodations; students receiving Tier 2 services, etc.)
  + *District Comments*
    - Applying “people first” language to all categories of students
    - Any time you put a label in front of a name, you’re automatically categorizing that student
    - How can we better tell the story of needing extra support as a district without focusing on the commonly-used phrase of “free and reduced lunch?”
      * Alternative: Focus on what is needed to provide programs that are successful for all kids; keeping it inclusive
  + If there are any special topics of Special Services to focus on, let us know!

**Report to the Community** (*Janine Thorn, Communications Director*)

**Dropout Prevention & Re-Engagement** (*Arthur Dennis, Director of Dropout Intervention and Re-Engagement*)

* Programs Include:
  + Positive Steps
  + Educational Advocates
  + National Institute for Justice
* Positive Steps: students and their caring adults are referred to Positive Steps when attendance is a problem (Tacoma Public Schools, Pierce County Human Services, Pierce County Health Department)
  + Typically referred by schools
  + Also, DOR is able to do self-referrals
* Educational Advocates Program: provides skill development and case management to youth needing transitional support from the Juvenile Justice System
* National Institute for Justice (NIJ): partnered with Glacier Middle School and White River High School to create a social emotional curriculum for junior high to 12th grade
  + Early identification & intervention process for students grades 6-9
  + Increase school capacity to utilize early warning indicators to identify students at risk and provide early interventions as appropriate
* *District Feedback/Question:*
  + Does the DOR work with truancy programs as well?
    - STARS in Education Advocates, WARM in Positive Steps
    - With each student success strategy, they’re writing in similar programs/orgs for ancillary support
  + Given the difficulty of attaining funding for social emotional learning, what does the advocacy look like from PSESD to the state about the importance of SEL?
    - Department that put together the NIJ (ODJDP) put out a contract recently to create a community-involved project to incorporate SEL
    - Janine to follow-up with Jessica de Barros

**Communications Regarding Fentanyl & Opioids in Schools** (*Annie Hetzel, Safety Service Manager, PSESD*)

* *Fentanyl is a* synthetic opioid approved for treating severe pain, such as advanced cancer pain (50-100x more potent than morphine)
  + Schools on the East Coast now have narcan/naloxone stocked
* Between mid-June and mid-September 2019, there have been 141 suspected and confirmed drug overdose deaths. **Two of the six recent deaths occurred among people 18 or younger.**
* Stopoverdose.org to find narcan/nalaxone near you
* Warecoveryhelpline.com: information about recovery & overdose
* Posters from Public Health (Seattle & King County) will be made available to all staff
* “Good Samaritan Law:” applies to all ages
  + You cannot face legal action for bringing a friend in risk of overdose (regardless of your status)
* Narcan: anyone can get Narcan without a prescription
  + It has no side effects; you can’t hurt someone if you give it if they don’t need it
  + Immediate reaction
  + Free narcan is available for schools
  + \*Sometimes people will have aggression when they wake up
* You must have a policy in school to administer to students
* **SHB 1039:** requires WA high schools in school districts with over 2,000 students, and allows other public schools, to obtain and store opioid overdose medication to assist a person at risk for an opioid-related overdose
  + Begins in academic year 2020-2021
* *District Question/Comment:*
  + Shelf-life on Narcan is 2 years
  + Messaging that came from the state in September was reviewed by the team, edited and sent out to the audience
    - Was the most shared/viewed post of all time
  + Looking at doing a prevention-campaign specifically aimed at students (and/or parents) (Highline)
    - Social media templates/messaging
    - Task force in King County that is looking at working/tailoring information to schools (Annie to link to task force for Tove)
    - Traci & the Prevention Team @ ESD for resources?
  + How do we promote positive community norming through communication as well?
    - Prevention at the basic level
    - Student voice is crucial in this work
  + Leverage volunteering/nonprofit organizations
  + Important to use research to be able to back the best communication channel/form (assemblies are not always the best way to share info)
    - How to address/access streaming?
* Standing order for naloxone is available online from the state
* Librarians are now stocking naloxone/narcan

**NSPRA Power Hour: Communicating Beyond Language Barriers** (*Janine Thorn, Communications Director, PSESD*)

* Open discussion on the most recent NSPRA Power Hour
* *District Comments/Questions*
  + Superintendent/Administration should prioritize translation resources/opportunities to demonstrate that reaching all audiences is a priority
  + Telephonic interpretation is a good alternative (Language Align)
  + Regarding School Messenger: any policy on translation messaging?
    - \*Disclaimer at the top of every message: “This language has been auto-translated. If you need any assistance, please contact this number.”
    - If districts use School Messenger, let them know that adding that disclaimer would be beneficial

**NSPRA/WSPRA Updates**

* WSPRA
  + Joint conference between OSPRA & WSPRA in February
  + Conference will be over two days
  + Theme: Storytelling
  + Keynote: Ann Wylie
  + Spring Conference will be in Leavenworth
    - Awards will open in January/February
    - Board positions in March/April timeframe
  + WSPRA now has a Mobile App (through Wild Apricot)
    - Wild Apricot Member
* NSPRA
  + Update from Board Meeting in November
    - NSPRA Seminar is St. Louis, July 12-15 (Station Hotel)
    - Scholarships available in January 2020
    - New Orleans 2021
  + NSPRA Seattle: Potentially 2023?
    - Board believes in representing the entire geographic area

**Educare** (*Laura McAlister, Director of Educare)*

* Educare Seattle serves as a resource center for families with early learners, and a training and learning hub for early learning providers
* Based in White Center, Educare is currently experiencing difficulty with enrollment
  + As families begin making the new minimum wage, they are pushed out of the financial threshold that allows them to benefit from Head Start; families are making slightly more money, but not enough to afford childcare
* Most Headstart/Early Headstart programs are not full-day/full-year, but Educare Seattle is
* Educare Seattle will partner with Head Start programs to figure out the best fit for families/student
* Learning Communities Foundation breakfast
  + December 12, 8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
  + Send link

**Hot/Topics**

*District Comments/Requests*

* How to separate school board from school district?
  + Any communications available on clarifying the division between board and district?
  + Possible to prepare materials beforehand for communications?
* 25 people on committee will select a name for 168 names: any ideas on name selection & facilitation?
  + Advice: don’t name the new school after another school that previously existed

**Action Items:**

* Janine Thorn (PSESD) to connect with Highline & others regarding development of a prevention campaign of opioid/fentanyl communications materials for student & parent audience
  + Prevention team at PSESD & King County Task Force (via Annie Hetzel) as connections
* Janine & Jessica to prioritize funding for social emotional learning in advocacy work for school districts