

PSI Expert Speakers

By Steve Rosenberg

These PSI Expert Partner Speakers are available to the schools in which you work for PSI. Please share these with your principal and if they feel that any of these content areas are relevant to their school, have them call Karen McKelvey (ext. 230) at PSI for more information. This is just one of many ways PSI can help support the schools we serve.

WELLNESS PROGRAMS
and OBESITY
AWARENESS



Meredith
Bookwalter,
BEEd, CHES, RN

CRISIS
COMMUNICATIONS
and MEDIA TRAINING



Bruce
Hennes

BULLYING AND
VIOLENCE PREVENTION



Karen
McKelvey, EdS

SCHOOL VIOLENCE and
CRISIS MANAGEMENT,
SUICIDE PREVENTION/
INTERVENTION



Scott
Poland, EdD

SPECIAL EDUCATION,
ESL, AND GIFTED
SERVICES



Layla
Nelson, PhD

RESPONSE TO
INTERVENTION (RTI),
PROGRESS MONITORING
and POSITIVE BEHAVIOR
SUPPORTS (PBS)



Kathy
McNamara, PhD

LITERACY EXPERT and
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT
CONSULTATION



Timothy
Rasinski, PhD

AUTISM SPECTRUM
DISORDERS



Frank J.
Sansosti, PhD

MATHEMATICS EXPERT



Barbara
Duda, MS

PRINCIPAL MENTORING
and DATA ANALYSIS



Harry
Selner, MSEd

URBAN AND CHARTER
EDUCATION



Perry
White, MSW

Planning for Next Year!

Most of the non-public schools in Northeast Ohio have already begun planning for next school year. Although informal planning has already begun in many schools, a formalized procedure begins in most schools immediately after the Winter Holidays.

This is the perfect opportunity to talk with your principal about any new programmatic ideas you have that would be beneficial to the students in the schools in which you work! If the school needs to increase your allocated time, this is the perfect time to discuss it with your principal.

Please contact your service director at PSI if you would like to discuss this in more detail or if you are in need of ways to broaden your role. Almost every school is facing enrollment challenges. So anything we can do to reach out to current and potential parents is a significant help to our client schools. This can obviously be a 'win-win' arrangement for all concerned!

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PSIdelines | December 2011
Vol. 22, No. 4

A newsletter for the professional staff of PSI
published periodically throughout the year.

Mission Statement

PSI is dedicated to providing high-quality services in a cost efficient manner to help students improve their grades, attitudes, behavior, and health. Our professional staff provides innovative resources within the fields of school health, speech/language, prevention, educational specialists and tutoring. We are committed to developing and implementing a customized service and support system to fit the educational and health service needs of students. Services are provided by PSI or a local representative.

EDUCATIONAL SPECIALISTS

Layla Nelson, Ph.D., Coordinator
Nancy Brewer, M.Ed., Educational Consultant

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Colleen Lorber, Ph.D., Director
Linda Grimm, Ed.S., Regional Support Supervisor
Robert Murray, Ed.S., Psychology Coordinator
Karen Heichel, M.A., Psychology Supervisor
Julie Goldyn, M.Ed., Psychology Supervisor
Christine Worthington, M.S., C.C.C., Speech Pathology Supervisor
Robin Caston, M.S., C.C.C., Speech Pathology/Therapy Supervisor

HEALTH SERVICES

Meredith Bookwalter, B.Ed., CHES, RN, Manager
Lynn Chrostowski, NCSN, RN, MSN, Manager
Debbie Osysko, RN, Manager
Laura Sheeks, RN, Manager

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

Ruth Harvey, M.Ed., Coordinator

PREVENTION/INTERVENTION INITIATIVES, SPECIAL PROJECTS

Karen McKelvey, M.Ed., Ed.S., Coordinator

ADMINISTRATION

Steven L. Rosenberg, Ph.D., President
Nancy Musci, Administrative Director/New Client Services

From the Desk of...

Karen McKelvey
Prevention/Intervention Services &
Special Projects Coordinator

Professional Development News

Many thanks to Dr. Layla Nelson for her recent presentation at **PSI in the A.M.** on *RtI Next Steps: Making an Action Plan for School Improvement*. Attendees were given methods for developing a specific action plan to implement RtI in their schools along with effective tools to guide their way. If your school is struggling to effectively implement RtI methods and needs assistance, please contact Karen McKelvey to arrange an individual workshop for your staff.

Save the Date: On March 1, 2012, PSI will be sponsoring a workshop by Dr. Scott Poland on **Suicide and Bullycide: Insights, Prevention, and Intervention**. Information will be mailed in January 2012 and will be available on the PSI web site. Contact hours and C.E.U.'s will be available for attendees.

Since August 2011, PSI has offered close to 30 workshops on a myriad of topics to our partner schools. Many thanks to a great professional development team that includes Nancy Brewer, Stephanie DeMichael, Julie Goldyn, Karen McKelvey, Layla Nelson, and Mollie Royce.

Prevention/Intervention News

In 2009, the entitlement grants for Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities were eliminated from the Federal budget. At that point, a system was put into place for schools to apply instead for competitive grants. This academic year, PSI has been chosen as a service provider for two local school districts who won grants. PSI Prevention facilitators will be offering the REACT, Aggressors, Victims and Bystanders and Second Step programs to students in Richmond Heights and Mansfield Conversion Academies. Congratulations to great Patti Hanrahan, Gwen Washington, and Mollie Royce for touching the lives of hundreds of students.

Mogadore Local Schools contracted with PSI for a comprehensive anti-bullying program that will include a staff development workshop, classroom sessions for grades 4-9, a high school assembly and a parent education workshop. Karen McKelvey and Bob Murray are using methods from Bullies to Buddies to implement this program.

A new program has been developed and is available for schools needing information on Cyber-Bullying and Sexting issues. This program can be offered to staff, students, and/or parents. Contact Karen McKelvey for more information.

ESL Updates

- The staff offering ESL services to students has more than doubled this school year! Welcome to all new staff!
- Sharon Hamad, Jill Stancil and Trish Numbers having been working along with PSI ESL Coordinator, Kay Almy, to develop training materials for the ESL staff. We appreciate the many years of expertise that you bring to this program.



Sharon Hamad (L) and Jill Stancil (R) find creative ways to be an "ESL teacher on-the-go!"

From the Desk of:
Colleen Lorber
Educational Support Services Director



I hope you all had an enjoyable Thanksgiving break. We have had much positive feedback from the schools and all the hard work that you have been doing the past few months. Thank you for all the time and effort you put into your positions.

As we have all witnessed, technology is an increasingly helpful, albeit sometimes frustrating tool in today's world. It is becoming integrated into all of our professions. Below you will find two new tools that you may be interested in exploring. I have heard great reviews of the School Psych Tools App but I have not had any reviews about the Speech App. Please let us know if you have used these tools and have found them useful or if you have any other modes of technology that have made your job more efficient which you would like to share.

For Psychologists

The School Psychology Tools app was created by a former PSI School Psychologist to act as a mobile computing personal assistant of sorts with the mission to help lighten our load. Now on your iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch (with an Android version on its way) you can now travel lighter, all while efficiently managing your caseload and performing other common tasks like collecting classroom observation data, securely viewing student info, documenting contact with parents and students, managing events, tasks and deadlines and quickly identifying tasks needed to complete an evaluation, re-evaluation or intervention. Of course you can easily call or email a parent or teacher too. Plan your interventions, evaluations and re-evaluations using built-in and fully customizable templates and enjoy the ease of having deadlines put on your calendar for you. Monitor the status of an individual student, or track deadlines for your entire caseload with ease. Sort your students by name, evaluation due date, school, grade, or teacher. Observe and report multiple behaviors, over multiple days using interval, duration, frequency and ABC direct observation recordings types. Email or print reports with tables and graphs for easy inclusion in your report. Manage frequently occurring tasks (such as "calls to make") using the To-Do List. Give yourself due dates for completing individual tasks that can appear on your calendar. View all of today's events, deadlines, and tasks on one page for a quick glance at your day ahead. Write a quick note or record a voice note too. Data is kept secure with privacy features, including data encryption options that adhere

to the NASP Principles for Professional Ethics. Use a free dropbox account to export/import data for backup purposes or to move your data to another device. Use other helpful gadgets including a stopwatch, normal distribution curve calculator and age calculator, all without leaving the app! Now if we can just get the app to write our reports for us...

For SLPs

SpeakAP is an application for the iPhone/iPad/iPod-Touch and Android platforms designed to help provide automated scoring and analysis of articulation, accent, and pronunciation. It uses biologically-inspired algorithms to allow the user to focus on their articulation and phonetics. SpeakAP is being used for improving American English pronunciation and changing speaking accent. SLPs are using SpeakAP towards articulation and other speech disorders in their classrooms and with their clients. SpeakAP is grounded in research supported by the National Science Foundation and developed in conjunction with linguists and speech research scientists and it uses the most accurate pitch measurement available on the market with visual cues to facilitate easy learning. For more information, visit the website at www.AventuSoft.com/speakap.

On a personal note, I will be having baby girl #2 the first week of January. I will be out of the office January through approximately the end of February. Please contact your supervisors with any questions or needs. The supervisors will be spending time here in the office to assist in monitoring all my phone messages and emails so there is no need to worry -- your questions/concerns will be taken care of. I wish you all a relaxing Holiday Season!



The New State Standards: When, Where, Why and How?

As you might have heard, Ohio has adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) to be fully implemented by the 2014-2015 school year. Many schools have already begun phasing in the new standards, which cover only the areas of English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics (Ohio has revised our own standards for the science and social studies). However, some schools are taking a more conservative approach and waiting to implement the standards. We want to ensure that all PSI staff members are aware of this change even if your own school does not use the state standards.

Why did we adopt the Common Core State Standards?

The CCSS are nationally recognized, and as of this printing, have been adopted by 45 states plus the U.S. Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia. Because of the national acceptance of the standards, we will be better able to benchmark student achievement across states. We are also expecting that resources will improve due to common development of assessments, professional development, and teaching tools.

How are the new standards different from the old ones?

The old standards are considered to cover material in fashion that is a “mile wide and an inch deep.” That is, there are too many standards and not enough time. The CCSS have fewer components for each grade level, so teachers can focus on teaching each area with much more depth. The CCSS are aligned with college and work readiness skills, so students are expected to be more successful after leaving high school. Also, the CCSS include both rigor of content and higher-level thinking skills. Curriculum re-alignment will be necessary for schools to match the new national expectations.

How does this affect annual state testing?

All schools in Ohio will give the CCSS-based assessments for the first time during the 2014-2015 school year. Between now and then, teachers will be expected to continue to teach the material that is covered on the current Ohio Achievement Assessments, but they will also need to phase into the new CCSS to ensure that their students will be ready when the time comes. The new assessments are being created by PARCC, an alliance of 24 states. The new tests will be computer-based, and they will be given at key times during the school year (closer to when the students actually learn the material). The formats of the test questions will include short answer, extended response, and multiple choice. The high school assessments will be developed in collaboration with colleges and

universities in order to be used as college-readiness predictors. You can learn more about the assessments by going to: <http://www.parcconline.org/about-parcc>.

How do the CCSS address students with severe disabilities?

Currently, the Ohio Department of Education is developing “extended standards” to provide access to the CCSS to students with severe disabilities. The extended standards are expected to be released soon. Several other states have already created their own extended standards, so Ohio is looking to these examples for guidance. The extended standards will be written to address bands of 3 grades. The new alternate assessment, which will go into effect in the 2014-2015 school year, is expected to be created based on the extended standards. An Alternate Assessment based on Modified Achievement Standards (AA-MAS) is not expected to be used.

What do we need to know or do as PSI employees?

During this school year, you will want to learn about the CCSS implementation timeline of the school where you work (if they will be using the CCSS). Many schools are putting the CCSS for K-3 in place before the end of this school year, which impacts the standards-alignment of IEP goals and objectives. For example, under the CCSS, the topic of money is not introduced until the 2nd grade, while the old standards introduced money in kindergarten, so a 1st-grade IEP goal involving money would not be a standards-based goal. We want to be sure that PSI educators are able to discuss the standards within their schools and prepare themselves for the shift to the new expectations.





From the Desks of: *Lynn Chrostowski* Health Services

Happy Holidays to all PSI Health Services Staff!

On behalf of the Health Services Management Team we would like to thank all who attended the Fall Meeting Saturday November 12th. For those who were unable to attend, a mailing was sent containing the information from the presenters and updates for the Health Resource Guide. If you did not receive the packet please call our office at 1-800-841-4774 ext. 226.

The “Healthy Choices Be A Healthy Hero!” program is back, if you are interested in implementing this program contact Meredith Bookwalter at extension 227. Meredith gave a brief overview of this innovative and beneficial program at the meeting.

The RN’s received an informational packet about Individualized Healthcare Plans (IHP) along with a brief explanation about initiating these plans. The IHP is a variation of the Nursing Care Plan adapted for use in schools. Some of our public school districts already use IHP’s, which are considered a “requirement” by the National Association of School Nurses. After reading the information feel free to call the office with any input, questions, or concerns.

We have a “Message Board” for Health on the PSI website. It can be accessed by utilizing the partner login (password is the last 4 digits of your social security number) function on the website homepage. This is one way we can keep our staff up to date with PSI information, current legislation that affects our practice, and other items of interest!

In closing, here is a brief story entitled “*The Eternal Battle*” by Jody Lowry RN, BSN (an excerpt from the book “*A Long Way from Henry Street A collection of Stories Written by School Nurses*” published by William V. MacGill & Co.).

It was December and as any school nurse worth her weight in lice combs knows, lice are alive and well in Florida! We traditionally work incessantly fighting the eternal “battle of the louse.”

It was a particularly challenging week as the children were very excited about the upcoming Christmas break. Teachers were counting the days until their break and we were checking heads, calling parents and dealing with the ancient lice battle!

A large number of students were consistently leaving school for lice treatment only to come back with them two weeks later. In an effort to fix the problem, we counseled parents, educated teachers and even disposed of pillows in the media center. Still, we could not find the real culprit!

Amid our lice situation I was also taking photos of students for a project that was intended to show the joys of life at elementary school. The day before Christmas break, a young boy entered to have his picture taken who had happened to come from a class enduring a particularly potent lice outbreak. I took a picture of the child who smiled from ear to ear while wearing a reindeer hat from his classroom. The boy explained that his teacher allowed all students to “take turns” wearing the hat! Our dilemma was solved with that little bit of information!





Ohio TESOL Conference News– It’s Time to Access Ohio’s Revised Content Standards!

I returned from the November Ohio TESOL conference inspired and armed with many new ideas to use with my ELLs (English Language Learners) – but more importantly, I was excited to return with timely and valuable information to share with the PSI-ESL team! The Teachers Of English as a Second Language presenters provide me with a quality PD experience for sure; they also addressed a current topic facing everyone in the educational field – the need to become acquainted with Ohio’s Revised Standards, and the challenge of learning how to use them with diverse learners.

The conference, themed “Bridging Divides: From the Classroom to the Real World,” was sponsored by the Ohio Department of Education and the Lau Resource Center. (The ODE Lau Center ensures that students with limited English proficiency receive the same educational opportunities as their English-speaking peers.)

Dan Fleck, educational consultant for Lau, spoke about Ohio’s move to the Revised Content Standards, and emphasized that this coming year is a transitional and training time for all of us – we need to learn about the new Academic Content Standards and be ready to know how to use them. He said we have the mutual goal and responsibility to ensure that all students are able to access academic content standards, and demonstrate mastery of the skills and knowledge embedded in these standards.

The ODE adopted the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and mathematics, as well as revisions to Ohio’s academic content standards in science and social studies, in June 2010. These standards, and newly aligned assessments, will take effect in 2014-2015.

ODE has been developing a Model Curriculum, a Web-based tool for educators, to help us. Dan showed us how to access Ohio’s Revised Content Standards online, and explained the framework we will use called Universal Design for Learning (UDL). It is Dan’s wish that we “pass the word,” share, and help each other to understand these strategies and resources.

We accessed a sixth grade mathematics model curriculum to find out how we could help sixth graders meaningfully participate in instructional activities focusing on Statistics and Probability standards. There were so many ideas for ELLs and all diverse learners!

There is a wealth of information and rich content to acquaint you with all of this on the ODE Website. Model Curriculum by Grade Level and Course, as well as related information can be found at the links below:

ODE Website: www.ode.state.oh.us

Search Words: *Revised Academic Standards*

Click on: *Revised Academic Content Standards and Model Curriculum Development*

Scroll down to: the *Adopted Revised Academic Standards and Model Curriculum Development* for English Language Arts and Math. Also included are the Background information and staff contacts for Social Studies and Science.

Keep scrolling under *Model Curriculum* and *Model Curriculum Resources* to access the many UDL resources available to support student achievement of Ohio’s Revised Content Standards.

With the Revised Content Standards and the Universal Design framework we will have many opportunities for all students to show and account for their knowledge. Dan summed it up this way: “We are teaching students, not content.”