

2011 WSPA Fall Convention

Madison Positive Support Team*

Jim Haessly, Ph.D.; Kathy Conley, M.S.; Patrice Bentley, M.S.

The Madison Metropolitan School District Positive Behavior Support Team has been in existence since the Fall of 1999. The team's mission is to assist and empower children and adolescents to develop positive behaviors and to reduce aggression and other serious behavior problems in the school, home, and community settings. Interventions are designed to increase overall school and personal success. PBST focuses on the individual child or adolescent in the context of multiple systems that promote academic and behavioral success (i.e. family, school, community). Interventions are comprehensive and tailored to assist all supportive adults to establish an appropriate plan for ongoing support of the child or adolescent.

History has proven that the majority of students referred for PBST services have experienced one or more traumatic events in their lives. As a result, the team works with staff members, parents, and community providers to understand the behavior of referred children through a trauma informed perspective. PBST services include consultation, demonstration of effective interventions, and direct services to children.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify ways in which school psychologists and other professionals can assist staff members to implement tertiary interventions for students who demonstrate dysregulated and aggressive behavior.
- Understand ways in which trauma informed practices can be applied to tertiary interventions.
- Identify ways in which trauma informed practices can prevent or reduce the need for tertiary interventions.

*The following conference activities have been organized and selected by the WSPA Mental Health Committee to meet the criteria for the Certificate in Professional Development-Mental Health.

- Addressing Mental Health: School Neuropsychology Principles and Psychopathology (Preconvention)
- Violence Risk Assessment
- Selected Child Psychopathologies/ Interventions
- Creating a Trauma Sensitive School Environment

BIOS:

Jim Haessly is currently Coordinator of Behavior Interventions for the Madison Metropolitan School District. In this role, he leads the MMSD Positive Behavior Support Team, Autism Support Team, as well as administering two alternative programs for students with emotional behavioral disabilities. He previously worked as a School Psychologist in Madison and other districts. Jim obtained his Doctorate in School Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1994. He is currently a member of the WSPA mental health work group.

Katy Conley is Cross Categorical Teacher with the Madison Metropolitan School District. She has been with the MMSD since 1995. She received her Bachelor's degree from Burlington College in Vermont. Katy also received her teaching certification and Master's in Special Education at Edgewood College in Madison.

Patrice Bentley has been a Cross Categorical Teacher with the MMSD since 1991. She has a B.S. in Special Education from UW Madison and M.S. in Educational Leadership from Cardinal Stritch.

Katy and Patrice are currently members of the MMSD's Positive Behavior Support Team (PBST) which provides school-based wrap-around services for students who demonstrate significant aggression, many of whom have been traumatized and/or suffer from mental health disorders.