Linkages to Learning
Montgomery County, MD

Addressing non-academic barriers to learning
Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)

- 151,289 students in 202 schools
- Largest school system in MD; 17th largest in the U.S.
- 97.4% graduation rate
- 36 National Blue Ribbon Schools
- 2010 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award recipient
- Students from 157 countries speaking 138 languages
Demographics

- 32% White
- 27.4% Hispanic/Latino
- 21.4% Black or African American
- 14.4% percent Asian
- 13.3% participate in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
- 11.7% receive special education services
- 33% participate in Free and Reduced-price Meals System (FARMS)
- 43.3% have ever received FARMS
MCPS: The Big Picture

Strategic Planning Framework
- Board’s Guiding Tenets
- 3 Competencies
- Organizational Effectiveness

Strategic Priorities
- Community Engagement
- Professional Development
- Interventions

School Support and Improvement Framework
- Student Outcome Data
- Perceptual Data
- Implementation Data
- Leadership Data
Designing Schoolwide Systems for Student Success

Academic Instruction (with fidelity measures)
- Tertiary Interventions (for individual students)
  - Assessment-based
  - Resource Intensive
- Secondary Interventions (for some students: at-risk)
  - Some individualizing
  - Small Group Interventions
  - High Efficiency
  - Rapid Response
- Universal Interventions (for all students)
  - Preventive, Proactive
  - Differentiated Instruction
  - Research Validated Curriculum

Behavioral Instruction (with fidelity measures)
- Tertiary Interventions (for individual students)
  - Wraparound Intervention
  - Complex Multiple Life Domain FBA/BIPs
- Secondary Interventions (for some students: at-risk)
  - Simple FBA/BIPs
  - Group Intervention with Individual Features
  - Group Intervention
- Universal Interventions (for all students)
  - Direct Instruction of Behavioral Expectation
  - Positive Acknowledgement

Screen All Students

RtI conceptual system with general and special education integrated at all three levels
Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

SEL is the process whereby children and adults develop essential social and emotional skills, knowledge, and attitudes related to:

- **Self-awareness**: Recognizing one’s emotions and values as well as one’s strengths and limitations.
- **Self-management**: Managing emotions and behaviors to achieve one’s goals.
- **Social awareness**: Showing understanding and empathy for others.
- **Relationship skills**: Forming positive relationships, working in teams, dealing effectively with conflict.
- **Responsible decision-making**: Making ethical, constructive choices about personal and social behavior.
Question: How Does SEL Fit with What We’re Already Doing?
LINKAGES TO LEARNING
COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES

Community Education & Development
Health Services
Addressing the variables correlated to poverty
Social Services
Behavioral Health Services
A growing low-income population…

Free & Reduced Meals (FARMS) Program Enrollment
An increasingly culturally and linguistically diverse student population...
Increase in ESOL, FARMS & special education *not* relative to overall enrollment growth
Students Impacted by Language, Poverty & Mobility in Concentrated Areas

2000-2001 school year data
Background

1988-1991

School/Community Workgroup concerned with impact of demographic shifts within school system assessed problems and made recommendations to County Council, citing obstacles to success such as:

- Deep poverty
- Poor healthcare
- Emotional disturbances
- Home environments where foreign languages and cultures isolate their families from community resources
- Physical, mental and sexual abuse
- Lack of family support for educational goals
Problems created a “social emergency”

Social and mental health service to children, youth and families were fragmented; must be consolidated to become more effective and efficient

School system provided most comprehensive setting for outreach

County had expertise among existing resources

If problems of at-risk children were ignored, County would incur additional financial and social costs:

- Lost productivity
- Social welfare costs
- Greater pressure on criminal justice system
Urged County Executive and school system to create network of *school-based social, educational, and mental health services aimed at supporting at-risk children and their families*

Requested establishment of pilot program

- Primary focus – development of family preservation services; delivery of mental health services & resources
- Effective school collaboration model for providing non-educational services to families at schools
- Personnel must be familiar with the County’s human services system (redirected from existing agency settings)

All publicly funded human services agencies would make their services available to the pilot program personnel to ensure access to a full range of services in as expeditious a manner as possible
Mission:
To improve the well being of Montgomery County’s children and families through a collaborative delivery of comprehensive school-based services that support success at home, in school and in the community.
1995-1999 USDE/University of MD Evaluation

- Comprehensive, longitudinal study
- Compared LTL students with a peer school

Results:

1. LTL parents reported significant decreases in child’s negative behavior over time
2. Children at comparison school showed increase in negative behaviors over time; similar gains did not occur at LTL school
3. LTL children experienced decrease in emotional stress
4. LTL parents demonstrated improved parenting practices
5. In mathematics achievement, children receiving educational services through LTL improved significantly more than those at the same school who did not receive services
1998 – Creation of Collaborative Management Structure

- Renowned hallmark of LTL was way it linked local-level public and private programs and services for children and families.
- Initiative needed management structure to reflect this approach.
- **Linkages Resource Team** - member from each key partner:
  - Montgomery Department of Health & Human Services (MCDHHS)
  - Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)
  - Coalition of provider agencies (“Partner Rep”)
http://www.communityschools.org/resources/messaging.aspx
Where Linkages is Today

- 28 schools
  - 22 elementary (9 are LTL School-Based Health Centers)
  - 6 middle schools
- Served over 5,000 individuals last year
  - 3,700 received comprehensive mental health/social services
Linkages to Learning Collaborative Structure

**Linkages Resource Team (LRT)**

- **MCDHHS-CYF-CASCBS**
  Rep. to LRT; central office staff; oversight of contracts with partner agencies for services and partner LRT rep; social services staff at Summit Hall ES SBHC.

- **PRIMARY PARTNERS**
  Contracts from MCDHHS to provide services at schools and rep. to LRT.

- **MCPS-OCEP**
  Rep. to LRT; facilities, administrative, student support & parent engagement.

- **DHHS-PHS-SHS**
  Liaison to LRT; routine school health services; expanded health services via contract at 9 School-Based Health Centers.

**Linkages Advisory Group**

**SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS**

Children’s Pediatricians & Associates, LLC: On-site nurse practitioners and health promotion; pediatricians with 24/7 telephone coverage at:

- Broad Acres ES SBHC
- Gaithersburg ES SBHC**
- Harmony Hills ES SBHC
- Highland ES SBHC
- New Hampshire Estates ES SBHC***
- Rolling Terrace ES SBHC
- Summit Hall ES SBHC
- Viers Mill ES SBHC
- Weller Road ES SBHC

**Family Services, Inc.**

- Elementary Schools:
  - Fox Chapel ES
  - Gaithersburg ES SBHC
  - Rosemont ES
  - Summit Hall ES SBHC - Mental Health
  - Washington Grove ES

- Middle Schools:
  - Forest Oak MS
  - Gaithersburg MS

**Mental Health Association of Montgomery County**

- Elementary Schools:
  - Arcola ES
  - Georgian Forest ES
  - Harmony Hills ES SBHC
  - Highland ES SBHC
  - Kemp Mill ES
  - Sargent Shriver ES
  - Viers Mill ES SBHC
  - Weller Road ES SBHC
  - Wheaton Woods ES

- Middle Schools:
  - Loiederman MS
  - Parkland MS

**City of Rockville**

- YMCA Youth & Family Services
  - Elementary Schools:
    - Broad Acres ES SBHC
    - Greencastle ES
    - *Montgomery Knolls ES/ Pine Crest ES
      - *New Hampshire Estates ES SBHC/Oak View ES
    - Rolling Terrace ES SBHC
  - Middle Schools:
    - Eastern MS
    - Silver Spring International

*Paired schools serving one K-5 community

**Middle Schools:***

- Loiederman MS
- Parkland MS

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LTL Logic Model

**Service Area**

**Student Well-being**
- School health
- Social/ emotional/ behavioral health
- School consultation & prevention
- Primary Care and treatment (at LTL School-Based Health Centers)

**Outputs**
- Number of students in SBHCs receiving well visits
- Number of students referred, assessed, and referred to appropriate services
- Number of referred students attending psychotherapy sessions at site or outside site
- Frequency of LTL consults with teacher about needs/action plan for referred students
- Number and participation of students attending recommended psychosocial skills groups

**Short-term outcomes**
- Improved attendance
- Improved classroom behavior
- Reduced disciplinary referrals
- Increased positive feelings of well-being and belonging in school
- Students express positive attitude toward school

**Long-term outcomes**
- Students attend school consistently
- Students are actively involved in learning and in the school community
LINKAGES TO LEARNING
COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES

Community Education & Development

Health Services

Behavioral Health Services

Social Services

Addressing the variables correlated to poverty
Social Services

Family needs assessments and:
✓ Help with clothing, food, furniture, housing resources and crisis
✓ Help with legal, employment & health concerns
✓ Help with translation, transportation and child care
✓ Community drives for food, books, school supplies, coats and holidays
Behavioral Health Services

✓ Child Diagnostic evaluations
✓ Individual/family/group treatment
✓ Psycho-educational / Skill Development Groups
✓ Consultation with school staff and other providers
✓ Access to psychiatric care & medication management
Community Education & Development

✔ Community Needs Assessments & Asset Mapping
✔ Resource development
✔ Adult education & family literacy
✔ Community integration services for new residents
✔ Youth development / out of school time programming & family recreation
✔ Parent networking, support & leadership
Somatic Health Services

✓ First aid
✓ Medication/treatment administration
✓ Screenings for hearing, vision, height/weight
✓ Assistance with access to health care programs and resources
✓ Referral & case management for children with chronic health issues
Additional Services at the School-Based Health Centers

- Physical examinations
- Immunizations
- Treatment of minor injuries
- Diagnosis, treatment, referral and case management of children with acute and chronic illnesses
- Prescription and dispensation of medications
- Laboratory testing
- Primary care
CHILD/FAMILY & COMMUNITY LINKS

MCPS/School Community

Hospitals & Universities
  - Linkages Child/Family Therapist
  - Linkages Family Case Manager
  - MCPS Student Support Staff

Civic & Neighborhood Groups
  - Civic & Neighborhood Groups

Libraries & Literacy Groups
  - Libraries & Literacy Groups

Mental Health & Community Providers
  - Mental Health & Community Providers

Local Faith Groups
  - Local Faith Groups

Local Businesses
  - Local Businesses

Local Community Health Nurse
  - School Community Health Nurse

School Counselor
  - School Counselor

Linkages Site Coordinator
  - Linkages Site Coordinator

Linkages Child/Family Therapist
  - Linkages Child/Family Therapist

MCDHHS & Government Agencies
  - MCDHHS & Government Agencies

Child & Family
  - Child & Family

Linkages Child/Family Therapist
  - Linkages Child/Family Therapist
FY’13 Data

- 68,100 client encounters (over 2,600 per site)
- Parent Survey Feedback:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Satisfaction</th>
<th>Language Access</th>
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<tr>
<td>Served in timely manner</td>
<td>Language or sign language assistance needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needs understood</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treated with respect</td>
<td>Assistance needed and received</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall satisfaction</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assistance received and satisfied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 74% of children exiting behavioral health services maintained/improved classroom behavior
- 71% of children exiting behavioral health services maintained/improved psychosocial functioning
- 29% average *increase* in family self-sufficiency scores after 6 months of case management (pilot)
- **Resource development efforts brought in 40 cents for every public dollar invested**
Social Return on Investment

Linkages to Learning is an investment in our community – YouTube

(http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xO5Bw6JM0M)
“The strength of Linkages rests on services that are comprehensive, family-centered, accessible, culturally-competent, empowering and responsive to our clients’ and community’s needs.”
For additional information, contact the Linkages Resource Team:

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