



Organizing a Counseling Department

Care Team Presentation

A presentation from North-Grand High School on how to develop a Care Team.

Care Team Presentation

Sample from North-Grand High School

Why have a Care Team?

- Organized referral system from teachers
 - No more emails
 - No more on-the-fly teacher discussions
 - Access to better information about student functioning in class
- Systems and structures for handling Social/Emotional domain
 - More proactive, less reactive
 - Less students fall through the cracks
 - Shared responsibility for tough student situations
 - More collaboration and holistic approach
- Organize the Social/Emotional resources within the building
 - Counselors
 - Social Worker and Psychologist
 - Community Agencies
 - Chicago Public Schools Contract Workers

Who is on the team?

- All Counselors (who handle their own caseload)
- A representative from Administration
- Any community partner offering Tier III services to students in the building
- The Diverse Learning Team
 - Case Manager, Social Worker, and Psychologist

How does it work?

1. Student is referred
2. Student is screened by his/her Counselor
3. Counselor brings student's info to the meeting for a discussion
4. Student is assigned an intervention
5. Student is checked on periodically
6. Staff is informed of intervention student is receiving

What about crises?

- Students should be directed to a Counselor, Social Worker, or School Nurse immediately if they:
 - Express suicidal thoughts
 - Express violent or homicidal thoughts towards others
 - Experience abuse of any kind (from parent, significant other, peer, etc.)
 - Have no place to sleep tonight
 - Exhibit signs of serious illness or injury

The Referral

- Student seems to fit into one of the following situations:
 - Experiencing social/emotional problems that may or may not affect his/her behavior and academic performance
 - Experiencing homelessness
 - Experiencing traumatic life events (such as divorce, death of a parent, or pregnancy)
 - Suffering from substance abuse
- Teacher becomes aware of the situation and wishes to refer them to Care Team
- They fill out the Care Team Referral Form

Sample Care Team Referral Form Questions

- Primary Presenting Issue
- Secondary Presenting Issue
- Explanation of the Problem
- Student Strengths
- Current Interventions Being Used

The Referral (cont.)

- This form populates a spreadsheet controlled by the Counselors and is checked every week at the Care Team meeting
- Each Counselor sees which (if any) students on his/her caseload have been referred and then begins the screening process
- All Diverse Learners are screened by the Social Worker or Psychologist
- The person who screens the student becomes his/her Care Team Gatekeeper

The Screeners

- Counselors meet with students to discuss the reason for referral and screen them for eligibility into one of the counseling groups
- Students are screened for three things during the meeting with the Counselor:
 - Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (using the Trauma Symptom Inventory)

The Screeners (cont.)

- Reactive Aggression (using the Multidimensional School Anger Inventory)
- Substance Abuse (using the CRAFFT Screening)
- **CRAFFT** stands for the six keywords in the second section of the assessment (**C**ar, **R**elax, **A**lone, **F**orget, **F**riends, **T**rouble)

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The Screeners (cont.)

- After sitting with the student and filling out the Screener forms, the answers are scored using a website called SharePoint
- These scores are then put into a form used during the discussion process (described below)
- The scores guide, but don't decide, which intervention a student is given
- Each screening form has been provided by Lurie Children's Hospital

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The Discussion at the Care Team Meeting

- Care Team Gatekeeper prepares the Student Discussion Template before the meeting
- The Student Discussion Template is used to guide the discussion and helps the team get the whole picture of how the student is doing

The Discussion at the Care Team Meeting (cont.)

- The Care Team Gatekeeper presents his/her student and then the group decides the most appropriate intervention
- This step may be quick because the Gatekeeper comes with an intervention ready
- Sometimes, it may take longer if the Gatekeeper is not sure of the best intervention and needs to ask for input from the whole group

The Discussion at the Care Team Meeting (cont.)

- Once the Care Team has discussed the student, he/she is put into one of the following interventions:
 - Individual Counseling with an outside agency (provided in school)
 - Anger Management or Trauma Group
 - Mentor Group with an outside agency (provided in school)
 - Individual check-in with the Counselor
 - Substance Abuse Group with an outside agency (provided in school)