

The Masonic Model Student Assistance Program



Sponsored by the
Grand Lodge of *KENTUCKY*

Informational Pack

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MMSAP EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Student Assistance Programs (SAP) is the primary vehicle for schools in Pennsylvania and across our nation for addressing students' behavioral health needs and concerns. SAP links students to behavioral health care services both in schools and in the community. Student Assistance Programs address the barriers to learning due to social, emotional and mental health concerns. One such program is the Masonic Model Student Assistance

Program (MMSAP) which began in Pennsylvania in 1984. The Masonic Model Student Assistance Program is designed to address school-based concerns of academics, attendance, health and behavior in students. Our MMSAP trained core teams are specifically trained to deal with substance use and abuse, depression and suicide and school violence.

The following is an Executive Summary of the latest and most comprehensive evaluation of Student Assistance Programs. The research was conducted by Dr. Carl Fertman, University of Pittsburgh and published in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, November 2003.

In this current study a number of significant conclusions can be documented.

THE LEVEL OF NEED OF AMERICA'S YOUTH

1. One out of four of America's youth is extremely vulnerable and another 1 out of 4 is Moderately vulnerable to the negative consequences of engaging in multiple high risk Social and health behaviors.
2. Concerns and problems concerning today's families and youth are often too Intimidating for families and youths to solve on their own.
3. Eight out of ten of American youth are in need of behavioral health services and may not receive them. (US Surgeon General 2001)

ROLE AND PURPOSE OF STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

1. Student Assistance Programs confront the barriers to learning faced by students engaging in multiple high-risk social and health behaviors.
2. Student Assistance Programs link children and families to the behavioral health care system, providing the mechanism for schools, communities, families and youth to work together to remove the barriers to learning.
3. Consistently, 9 out of 10 of the students referred were linked to a school program and service with most accessing the recommended service.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

1. Overall, the proportion of students having their needs met through SAP far exceeds the nationally reported findings for youth in need of behavioral health care who, for the most part, do not receive them. (US Surgeon General, 2001)
2. Students referred to Student Assistance Programs show improved attendance, a decrease in discipline problems, and positive academic promotion and graduation after their SAP referral and intervention.
 - a. Two out of three referred students improved and stabilized their attendance.
 - b. Approximately 7 out of 10 referred students were either promoted or graduated from high school.
 - c. Two out of three referred students showed reduction in suspensions and positive behavior changes.
3. There is a strong relationship between decreased student drug use and the presence of a Student Assistance team in school. (Scott, Surface, Friedli & Barlow, 1999)
4. A majority of the students that are linked to community services by Student Assistance teams for assessment, access some if not all the recommended services.

We can emphatically report that Student Assistance Programs positively contributes to student academic success and achievement. Student Assistance Programs greatly enhance the relationship between youth and behavioral health care providers. Student Assistance Programs help to create healthy youth and a healthy future America.

REFERENCES

Fertman, Tarasevich, Hepler (2003) RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OUTCOME DATA.

Ringel & Strum (2001) JOURNAL OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES AND RESEARCH United States Surgeon General (2001)

US PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE REPORT OF THE SURGEON GENERAL Scott, Surface, Friedli, Barlow (1999) JOURNAL OF DRUG EDUCATION

Training Sights

Louisville (Masonic Home Campus “The Olmstead”); Lexington (Oleika Shrine Temple); Ashland (Elhasa Shrine Temple); and Madisonville (Scottish Rite Temple) will host The 2008 Kentucky Masonic Model Student Assistance Program workshops the 2nd and 3rd weeks of June.

HISTORY

The program model, which is adopted from the highly acclaimed National Masonic Model Student Assistance Program, seeks to enhance the skills and linkages of existing human resources in the schools and their local community. The objective is early and effective intervention with students demonstrating patterns of behavior which could threaten their success at school and be indicators of problems associated with substance abuse.

The family of Freemasonry has been actively involved in the funding of the Masonic Model Student Assistance Team training since the founding of the National Masonic Foundation for Children in 1985.

The foundation adopted the nationally-acclaimed Pennsylvania Student Assistance Program Model through its association with the two educators who developed the model and their extensive experience in training with the model in cooperation with the Masonic Charities of Pennsylvania.

In 1986, the Maryland State Board of Education and the Masonic Charities of Maryland began a similar cooperative effort. The State of Illinois followed in 1989. California launched its program in 1994 and Ohio started its program in 1997.

As of 2006, Kentucky became the 22nd state to offer the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program.

The Kentucky Masonic Model Student Assistance Program has now trained over 200 Educators in Kentucky Schools to identify students AT-RISK and provide the necessary help they need.

"Kentucky Masons care about Kids"

TENTATIVE TRAINING AGENDA

DAY 1 8:00 – 8:30 am.....Registration

Please be prompt

8:30 – 12:00 noon.....Welcome and introductions
Opening activities
Agenda setting

Masonic student assistance program overview

12:00 – 1:00 pm.....Lunch

1:00 – 4:00 pm.....Chemical dependency
Depression and suicide

4:00 – 5:30 pm.....Communication skills: The key to intervention

Wrap up day one

DAY 2 8:00 – 8:30 am.....Registration

8:30 – 12:00 noon.....Opening activities
The dynamics of families in pain
Enabling/co-dependency

12:00 – 1:00 pm.....Lunch

1:00 – 4:00 pm.....Treatment/recovery/aftercare
Life skills

4:00 – 5:30 pm.....Building a successful core team

Wrap up day two

DAY 3 8:00 – 8:30 am Registration

8:30 – 12:00 noon.....The student assistance process Case Studies

12:00 – 1:00 pm.....Lunch

1:00 – 2:30 pm.....Action planning for successful implementation
Large group closure

Closure

TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

This valuable training is designed for school personnel (K-12). In order for the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program to make a successful impact in the schools, we need the **“Right People for The Job”**.

Two distinct groups make up MMSAP participants. One would be the “Observers”. They are here to actively participate and take the information back to their respective school districts.

Second are “Core Teams”. They represent educators within a school building within a district. Districts may send “Observers” and “Core team” members from each school.

The “Core Team” members should include but not limited to:

- One central office administrator/SAT mentor
- One building administrator
- One or more counselors
- Two or more teacher’s regular education/special education
- One school nurse, school psychologist, in-school suspension coordinator
- One drug and alcohol service provider, and/or mental health service provider
- Others that the school sees fit to utilize in the program from their school

GENERAL INFORMATION

Welcome to our Masonic Student Assistance Program. Common questions asked from previous participants are:

1. Keys to Success: We know that preparation and commitment are the keys to successful program implementation. Participating schools are encouraged to: identify building “core team” members, provide time for weekly 1 hour team meetings, 3-7 hours of faculty in service within the first year of program implementation, minimally one half day in service for the team with 3 months of training. Support from the local school board, superintendent and the local providers of mental health and drug and alcohol services is essential for this program to be successful.

2. Training Costs: Training, meals, and 21 hours of Professional Development/Leadership hours will be covered by the Grand Lodge of Kentucky - Masonic Model Student Assistance Program.
Travel and Hotel cost will be the district responsibility.

Information

3. Class Time Schedules: Participants need to make a total commitment of their time for all three days of the seminar. The hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to approximately 4:00 p.m. for the first two days and from 8:30 a.m. to approximately 3:00 p.m. on the final day.

Lunch will be served on campus each of the three days. As meals and training are tightly scheduled, participants should not go off campus for these meals.

4. Travel Arrangements: Teams are encouraged to car pool to the workshop. You will need your vehicles to travel between the motel and the training site each day.

We do not reimburse for mileage. You may choose to arrive the morning of the first session, which begins promptly at 8:30 a.m. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

5. Lodging Information: We are working with the Springs Inn in Lexington (859.277.5751- Brad Link), Louisville, Ashland, and Madisonville at this time do not have any hotel as a host. However, there are many hotels in the Lexington Louisville Ashland and Madisonville area to choose from, the Springs Inn is the closest to the training site in Lexington.

6. 21 Hours of either Professional Development or Leadership (ELIA #08 29) from the Department of Education is FREE provided by Masons of Kentucky. Also 21 hours of CEU's from the Department of Human Recourses are available for Social Workers and other staff members.

7. Registration Information: All contact should be to Dr. T Dwaine Riddell at the Grand Lodge of Kentucky Box 270 Irvine, Ky. 40336

tdr@dridell.com or Cell Phone 606 643-5050

For more information: www.kymasonicmodel.com or
Email: info@kymasonicmodel.com

View the short program overview video at our web site.