



What is the ISMHA?

The ISMHA is a group of individuals who want all children, families, schools, and our communities to thrive with strong, sustainable school mental health systems influenced by data-driven decision making and evidence-based practices. This is going to be done through assisting the Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Area Education Agencies, and other key stakeholders in advancing school mental health.

What is a Community of Practice (COP)?

A community of practice is a group of individuals with a shared vision or goal who are all working together as one to reach that goal. The four ISMHA practice groups are: communication, evidence-based practice, family engagement, and policy and legislation

Communication

Group Leaders:

Maria Lantz
Lynn O'Brien

Goal:

Create a sustainable communication system that connects all stakeholders, builds capacity of available resources, educates and builds school mental health systems awareness.

Outcomes:

1. Create a messaging document that defines and develops universal language explaining school mental health systems
2. Develop a system for all stakeholders to communicate updates and reflections as well as collaborations.
3. Assist with the building of an online digital arsenal of resources by county, AEA, region, and or district.

Subcommittees:

1. Messaging and Communication
2. System preferences
3. Student's wants and needs

Evidence-Based Practice

Group Leaders:

Dana Miller
Michelle Custer

Goal:

Every district implements a sustainable birth to 21 multi-tiered system of support with evidence-based practices to maximize student well-being.

Outcomes:

1. An Iowa-friendly online resource arsenal sorted by tiers and linked to additional information.
2. Evaluate data sources to assess what data can be used, how it can help, what do we collect that we may not use, and what do we need to still collect that we may not already be.

- Subcommittees:**
- 1.Role Definition
 - 2.Implementation
 - 3.Content

Family Engagement

Group Leaders: Casey McMurray
Stephanie McFarland

Goal: Define family engagement in a school mental health system using a cultural lens as well as using interactions and relationships as building techniques to gain knowledge on how to bring families to the table regarding school mental health.

Outcomes:

- 1.Develop a school mental health toolkit for parents and students.
- 2.Develop a school mental health toolkit for educators

Subcommittees:

- 1.Family Feedback
- 2.Definition of Family Engagement
- 3.Toolkits

Policy and Legislation

Group Leaders: Emilie Souhrada:
Nicki Skaar

Goal: By the end of the 2020 legislative session, Iowa School Mental Health Alliance strengthen Iowa's engagement in and advocacy for school mental health policy and legislation to increase equitable access to services.

Outcomes:

- 1.Invite stakeholders to join COP
- 2.Create data-driven talking points
- 3.Each member of the group will build a relationship with at least one legislator /decision maker/ influencer in the state
- 4.Facilitate the passing of legislation
- 5.Influence bills of interest
- 6.Make policy and practice recommendations

Subcommittees:

- 1.Existing Educational Data
- 2.Non-existing school service provider data
- 3.Current state legislation and existing model legislation
- 4.In state and out of state programs to highlight
- 5.Policy and practice