

COLLEEN LORBER, Ph.D, Director of Educational Support Services

We are very pleased to announce that Dr. Colleen Lorber will be the director of the new PSI Department of Educational Support Services. Speech therapists, psychologists, PTs, OTs, language arts instructors and intervention specialists working in public and charter schools are all included within this Department. Integrating these related services together within one department will benefit all our staff and the schools we serve. Dr. Lorber holds a Ph.D. from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. She has been with PSI for a number of years serving as a school psychologist and supervisor in public, non public, and charter schools. We are delighted that Colleen has assumed the responsibility for this new department. Her dedication to staff, professionalism and her high energy will serve us all well. Welcome Colleen!



Both Susie Hummer and Linda Grimm, previous directors of our speech and psychological services respectively, are changing their roles at PSI. Susie will be spending some time in the schools providing direct services, slowly preparing for retirement to California in future years. Linda will be supporting Colleen as a Regional Supervisor.

As Dr. Lorber assumes the leadership of this newly unified department, she will continue to build and expand our services to staff and schools. Colleen and her colleagues are here for you to help make your PSI experience as fulfilling and rewarding as possible. Whenever you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please let your supervisor know.



HEALTH TEAM UPDATE

Janet Yue, Lynn Christowski and Laura Sheets will continue to manage the PSI Health Services Department this coming year. Elizabeth Zagorsky, who has served PSI for many years, will not be returning to the office on a regular basis. Together these supervisors, in addition to all PSI supervisors, are dedicated to supporting our staff and working collaboratively with the schools we serve. They are an invaluable resource to all staff. Please take advantage of them. PSI supervisors and managers are here to help staff with issues about students, parents, schools and best practice.

Each department has an assistant who is also available. Please contact the following assistants with any questions or concerns. Each of these individuals will help put you in touch with the administrators for PSI departments: Marilyn Quercioli in Health Services (ext. 226), Pat Doolan (ext. 232) and Lori Grietzer (ext. 239) for Educational Support Services, Brenda Anderson (ext. 237) for all Educational Specialists and Prevention staff.

All PSI managers and supervisors enjoy hearing from school based staff. Please keep them informed of your challenges, successes and concerns. They are an excellent resource to help support you, your school and the students with whom you work.

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A newsletter for the professional staff of PSI published periodically throughout the school year.

Mission Statement

PSI is dedicated to providing high-quality services in a cost efficient manner to help students improve their grades, attitudes, behavior, and health. Our professional staff provides innovative resources within the fields of education, school psychology, school health, speech/language, prevention and tutoring. We are committed to developing and implementing a customized service and support system to fit the educational and health service needs of students. Services are provided by PSI or a local representative.

EDUCATIONAL SPECIALISTS

Carol Weber, B.S., Coordinator

Frank Lupica, MAT, Educational Consultant

Nancy Brewer, MEd, Educational Consultant

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Colleen Lorber, Ph.D., Director

Linda Grimm, EdS, Regional Support Supervisor

Robert Murray, EdS, Psychology Coordinator

Karen Heichel, MA, Psychology Supervisor

Christine Worthington, MS, CCC, Speech Pathology Supervisor

Robin Caston, MS, CCC, Speech Pathology/Therapy Supervisor

HEALTH SERVICE TEAM

Lynn Chrostowski, NCSN, RN, MSN, Manager

Janet Yue, RN, Manager

Laura Sheeks, RN, Manager

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

Ruth Harvey, MEd, Coordinator

PREVENTION/INTERVENTION INITIATIVES

Karen McKelvey, MEd, EdS, Coordinator

ADMINISTRATION

Steven L. Rosenberg, PhD, President

Nancy Musci, Administration/New Client Services

Welcome back to another school year! I hope you all enjoyed your summer break. This year will prove exciting for all of us at PSI. As you are well aware, we have integrated the psychology, speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy, language arts instructors, and charter school intervention specialists into the Educational Support Services Department. As the Director of this Department, I am eager and committed to working with all of you in providing students and schools the best service possible. We are particularly fortunate to have the support and resources of the coordinators and supervisors in the Educational Support Service Department including Robin Caston, Linda Grimm, Karen Heichel, Dan Lelless, Angela McLean, Bob Murray and Chris Worthington. Our administrative assistants, Paula Andrews, Pat Doolan, and Lori Greitzer also serve as an integral part of the success of this department. All these wonderful professionals have a long history and dedication to PSI and the schools we serve. As a Department, we are proud of the work you all do for PSI and will continue to hold PSI to the upmost standards of special education service delivery.

There are a few items to remember as you begin the year.

- Communication is the key to any successful relationship including our relationships with the school personnel. In the first few weeks of school, you should meet with your building principal to go over the goals for the upcoming school year and your role in the school. Make contact with each of the teachers in your building to let them know your schedule and the best way for them to communicate with you.
- When you have meetings with parents concerning their children, keep your language parent friendly. It is essential to balance the facts with language that is easily understandable and at the same time sensitive to the delicate issues you discuss in your meetings.
- As all of you are aware, we have new state forms including a new evaluation team report, individual education plan, and service plan. Please familiarize yourself with these forms and contact your supervisors with any questions.
- The Ohio Department of Education has an excellent resource that I encourage all of you to utilize: www.edresourcesohio.org.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the team members in the Educational Support Services Department with questions or concerns you may have throughout the year. We appreciate all the excellent work you do and how dedicated you are to the schools and the PSI Educational Support Services team. Thank you!



PSI JOINS AUTISM SPEAKS AT CLEVELAND WALK NOW FOR AUTISM

Please register today to join us in making a meaningful difference in the lives of families affected by autism.

<http://www.walknowforautism.org/cleveland/TeamPSI>

From the Desk of Carol Weber, Educational Specialist Coordinator

Welcome back to PSI and to a new school year. We have seen some changes in the Educational Specialist Department this year. Marge Joyce, part of the PSI Educational Specialist Supervisory Team, has left us for family and sun in sunny Phoenix, AZ. Marge has done a wonderful job supervising the Educational Specialists and we wish her only the best! Picking up some of her duties will be Nancy Brewer and Frank Lupica. Also, those Educational Specialists who work in charter schools will come under the new PSI Educational Support Services Department directed by Colleen Lorber, Ph.D.

Something Old – Something New

Non public Intervention Specialist, please remember that the new Service Plan replaces the old one starting this school year. If you missed our Fall Meeting on the new Service Plan, please check the local State Support Teams (SST) at the Educational Service

Centers for any in-services they may have on the new Service Plan. The best website for updates on the new state forms is <http://www.edresourcesohio.org>. At this site you can also find a list of the various SSTs under Ohio Resources.

Connections

The first Gifted & Talented Roundtable meeting for this school year will be on Monday, September 21, 2009 (12:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.) at the Olive Garden in Beachwood. Both gifted boys and girls experience conflicts between gender identity and achievement motivation. We will discuss these gender concerns that affect the gifted student in the classroom today.

Going Green

As we continue to try to reduce our reliance on paper mailings, please check our PSI website at least once a month for updates on our calendar, etc. The PSIdlines will be posted four times during the school year: September, November, February and May.

To Do List

If you haven't done so already, please ask your principal for a short meeting to review your assignment and clarify the expectations of your position, case load, communication, hours, etc. so you are both on the same page as you begin the school year.

Spending Money

We are always looking for articles on innovative practices in the schools that we serve for our administrative newsletter, Paradigm. If you are implementing a successful creative program, please consider writing an article about it for Paradigm. Our stipend for a 500-600 word essay is \$250.00.

One of the Best

One of the best websites for teachers continues to be the Ohio Resource Center at www.ohiorc.org. It offers a wide variety of information on mathematics, science and reading. It is definitely worth a look.

May this be a great school year for you and your students! If you have any questions or concerns always feel free to contact a member of the PSI Educational Specialist Team:

Carol Weber – Coordinator – Ext. 222

Brenda Anderson – Administrative Assistant – Ext. 237

Nancy Brewer – Educational Specialist Supervisor – Ext. 404

Frank Lupica – Educational Specialist Supervisor – Ext. 405

Mother-Daughter Celebrate First PSI Anniversary

Brandy Boros-Hairston, the daughter of the team, has been with PSI for five years. She works as a Psychologist at two schools: Hope Academy in Cleveland and the Academy of St. Bartholomew West in Middleburg Heights. Brandy's duties consist of testing, individual and group counseling, and IAT (Intervention Assistance Team) meetings.

"I really love working with the kids," Brandy says. "It's gratifying to build relationships, gain their trust and be able to make a difference." What is challenging, she adds, is that school is only one part of their day. There are other influences such as family, which alone can be fluid and changing, the neighborhood, the media and more. "The students are at an age where there is room and I can help them grow."

It was through Brandy that her mother Mary Boros-Hairston, known as Butchie to friends, joined PSI as an RN a year ago.

Butchie works at three schools: St. Anthony of Padua and St. Peter Elementary School, both in Lorraine, and St. Joseph's Elementary School in Amherst.

Butchie brings 38 years of experience as a practicing RN, 15 of them in ER! With PSI, for the most part, it's treating minor cuts, bumps and bruises after recess and gym. "The favorite item in the clinic is the ice pack. The kids think it will take care of everything."

Butchie adds: "As the school RN, I have to create relationships with families and students within a heartbeat. It's a great feeling when the kids greet me with, 'Hi, how are you doing.' That tells me a lot."

Both greatly enjoy working at PSI and hope this first year anniversary lead to many more.

From the Desk of Karen McKelvey, Prevention/Intervention & Special Projects

PREVENTION/INTERVENTION

Prevention/Intervention programs will begin the week of September 14, 2009. There have been some exciting updates in the Cyber-Bullying and Trash Talking program to include topics such as sexting and responsible cell-phone usage. The Successful Teen Living program now includes an option for schools to utilize selected juniors as mentors for working with the freshman class on such topics as decision-making, tobacco use prevention, alcohol and drug use and abuse, and healthy teen relationships.

All PSI schools that chose PSI as their Prevention/Intervention service provider for the 2009-2010 school year will receive an additional grant choice in the areas of Health/Wellness, Educational Specialist, School Psychology, Professional Development, School Marketing or an additional Prevention program. This grant program reinforces the "Team PSI" approach to offer the best possible services to our partner schools by combining the strengths of our many disciplines and talented staff.

PSI's LanguageCultureConnection services continue to expand. With ChinaLink in its third year, Mandarin language teachers are now working in additional elementary schools as well as teaching Mandarin 1 and 2 in high schools. PSI now has a unique Mandarin language curriculum for a program that truly sets schools and students apart.

PSI is also placing Spanish Language teachers at the request of some of our partner schools. Principals are utilizing this service in creative ways by offering Spanish instruction to several grade levels, or if funding is an issue, they are offering 9-week units to selected grade levels to maximize the school's financial resources.

Please check to see if your school has a new or returning Mandarin or Spanish language teacher and introduce yourself as a fellow PSI employee! Also, look for the new LanguageCultureConnection Newsletter that will be published periodically this school year.



SPECIAL PROJECTS

The *PSI in the A.M.* breakfast series is scheduled to begin September 23, 2009 with a presentation on preparing for H1N1 Flu. Speakers will present in conjunction with PSI Health Managers as part of our on-going health education series. Included will be Bruce Hennes who will address crisis communication and Ann Gynn, Executive Director, Business Emergency Planning Institute to address what to expect during a flu pandemic, the differences between seasonal and pandemic flu, how influenza virus spreads, and the steps to reduce contagion in your school.

On October 28, 2009, Kathy McNamara, Ph.D. of Cleveland State University will speak on conducting successful Parent Conferences. This seminar will describe effective tools and tips for conferencing and will also provide methods to deal with challenging parents and issues.

House Bill 276-House Bill 1

This is a reminder that all PSI professionals must complete the HB 276-HB 1 Safety and Violence Prevention Training (which now extends the training requirement to middle and high school personnel) within two years of their employment and must send documentation of same to Patty Wey at the PSI office. If you were employed by PSI prior to the 2008-2009 school year, you should have completed the training by March 30, 2009.

From the Desk of Elizabeth Zagorski, Health Services Department

A warm welcome back to all of our returning staff, as well as a welcome aboard to all of you new to PSI this year. We hope the coming year will be a good one for everyone, and we thank you in advance for all you do for the schools you serve. As always, don't hesitate to contact us in the office if we can assist you in starting the 29009-2010 academic year.

Many of you are assisting our new staff in clinic orientations. Your experience and knowledge are invaluable to those new to school clinics. Many thanks for the guidance you provide which enables new staff to get off to a solid start.

We regretfully say good bye to a few valued staff who between them have served children in a variety of schools. We want to recognize Carol Jenkins, Eileen Johnson and Sue Mayher for

their many years of dedicated service. They will be missed by all of us. We wish them a wonderful retirement and much joy in all future endeavors. Another change in the PSI Health Services office, is the resignation of Elizabeth Zagorski due to health concerns. Elizabeth will be periodically responsible for special projects. We wish these staff the very best in their professional future and thank them for their valued services to PSI over the many years. They have all made an indelible contribution to PSI.

The child abuse law, that mandated at least four hours of education on various aspects of child abuse, has been expanded to include nurses who work in middle and high schools as well as elementary ones. If you are a PSI nurse working in any school, this training is now required. Please contact the office for information about how to obtain

the training, if this new law applies to you. Letters have been mailed to personnel affected by this ruling.

The H1N1 flu was just starting to affect individuals in the U.S. as most schools were concluding last school year. The newest guidelines on dealing with the virus may be found on the ODH website and can be accessed online. We encourage all staff to be familiar with the guidelines, as it is predicted that the flu may strike quite virulently when school resumes. Along these lines, new Health Resource Guide updates will be out shortly, either via mail or at the Fall Meeting. These two excellent web sites contain valuable information about the H1N1 virus and the steps we need to take in the schools as health professionals.

www.odh.ohio.gov (ODH site)
www.flu.gov (CDC site)



This year's Fall Meeting is expected to take a slightly different form. Input from the Health Services advisory board recommended a half day event, still to be held on a Saturday in early November. The agenda will as always focus on current issues of particular interest to all of us working in school clinics. Details are soon to follow.

A reminder that each staff member must be aware of the status of her/his CPR and First Aid certification status, and make sure that certification is current throughout this school year. Allowing your certification to lapse may lead to interruption of employment. Likewise, blood borne pathogen certification is also a requirement, and is available online for renewal. The office attempts to alert staff when renewal is due, but it is primarily the responsibility of each staff member. Questions about status may be addressed to the Health Services office.

Once again, welcome everyone to the new school year. We hope it's a great year for everyone!

