

School Social Work End-of-the-Year Report

Craig Wunderlich, Cholla Magnet High School 2014-2015

Service Providers – In addition to myself, I supervised four ASU Graduate Student Interns, and an MSW volunteer who co-facilitated our young men’s groups. I also coordinated services with Youth on Their Own, the Southern AZ AIDS Foundation, the Goodwill Mentoring Program, I AM YOU 360, and Sin Puertas Substance Abuse Intervention Program.

Referrals – Over half of our referrals came from a strong network of student advocates who refer their peers to our programs. The other referrals come from Cholla faculty and parents. Although participation in our program is voluntary, we will contact all students who have been referred, usually within three days.

Assessments – We begin our assessment with an intake interview where we determine whether the student is appropriate for intervention and motivated to participate. If they are, we work out a plan of treatment which may include parental contact, crisis intervention, mediation, referral, on-going counseling at school, or support groups. We notify the referral source as to our plan of action.

Counseling – If individual counseling is indicated and not accessible outside of school, we meet weekly or as needed to work through crises. We are seeing an increasing number of students who suffer from anxiety and/or depression that is connected to early childhood trauma such as domestic violence, divorce, abandonment, or family death or incarceration. We had over 800 counseling sessions with 280 students during the year.

Support Groups – Support groups are invaluable in both reaching a maximum of students and using peer pressure in order to nurture a culture of recovery. We had 270 students participate in our support groups for a total of 2,224 contact. This year we offered the following groups:

1. Grief and Loss Recovery
2. Family Conflict
3. Young Men Support (2 groups)
4. Young Women Support (3 groups)
5. Anxiety and Depression
6. Gay Straight Alliance
7. SAAF Communication Skills Groups (2 groups)
8. BreakAway Substance Abuse Intervention

While we typically have had an Anger Management Group, this year we incorporated anger management techniques into our other groups.

On our student evaluations at the end of the year we asked participants to rate how much the groups had helped with various areas of their lives. Over 90% reported that they had helped with school, self-confidence, and attitude and over 70% reported that they had helped a lot. Also, over 80% reported that they had helped in all other areas, including depression, family relationships, and anger management.

Youth on Their Own – I continued as the liaison for services to students who have been kicked out of their homes, been removed by Child Protective Services, or whose families have been dislocated due to financial problems, substance abuse, or incarceration. I interviewed approximately 70 students for possible assistance as was able to get services from the Youth on Their Own Community Agency for 47 of them. Of these 47, nine will be graduating this year and over all they earned over \$25,000.00 in motivational stipends by maintaining academic standards.

Students of the Month – I also served as the liaison for our student of the month awards from both the San Xavier Kiwanis and the Santa Rita Exchange Clubs. We honored a total of 13 students this year with two of them being selected as Students of the Year. The Exchange Club also offered over \$1000.00 cash rewards to our students.

BreakAway – This year our program partnered with the Santa Rita Exchange “Excel” program to become the BreakAway/Excel Club. We ended up with 38 members and 33 of them participated in an overnight action planning retreat at Camp Cooper. In addition, I cosponsored a multicultural leadership day retreat with Ms. Adeli, where we presented workshops on public speaking, writing resumes, and diversity appreciation, focusing on our immigrant population, our Native Americans, and our GLBT population. Both of these groups have set up goals and plans for next year.

I have also have continued to teach my Poets and pots class once w eek as part of our CAP.