



## Full-service Schools Roundtable Newsletter February 2009

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### ROUNDTABLE NEWS

Dear Colleagues,

We were so pleased that many of you made the snowy trip to the January 29th Roundtable meeting, *Supporting Students' Health through Partnerships with Schools*.

Dr. Rick Weissbourd, Lecturer, Harvard Graduate School of Education and Kennedy School of Government, delivered the keynote. Rick began his talk with a discussion of the high incidence of children's "quiet problems" - including depression, behavioral problems, vision problems, sleep deprivation, and parental depression.

Rick then highlighted some of the challenges to creating a system of care for children:

- There is a lack of data about what problems are most pervasive among children in a given community.
- Health providers' time is often consumed by crises and the day-to-day management of behavioral issues. As a result, providers often do not have the time to think about prevention and other big picture issues.
- "Children are treated in isolation from their families, and no one holds the whole, complex story of a child."

Keeping our economic climate in mind, Rick offered a vision of a system of care that, at first, assumes no additional funding. This vision begins with: teachers developing the capacity to detect health problems; families being engaged early and through a variety of strategies, including home visits; and student support teams functioning at a high level. Over time, and with increased resources, he suggests that there needs to be: a focus - at first - on a few key priorities, such as the student/teacher relationship and classroom management or accessing outside mental health services for children with serious mental health issues; and data collection and school-wide mobilization around a few "quiet problems." Ultimately, when there

are additional resources, we should work towards having individual success plans for every child and full-service schools built on strong infrastructure.

To view slides of Rick's presentation, click [here](#).

After Rick's keynote, José Massó, Director of Communications for the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, moderated a panel discussion. The panelists were: Sheri Nethersole, MD, Medical Director for Community Health at Children's Hospital Boston; Toby N. Romer, Headmaster of Brighton High School; and Arlene Swan-Mahoney, RN, MHA, Assistant Director for Health Services in the Boston Public Schools.

The panel discussed the balance between responding to crises and keeping an eye on prevention. Highlights from the panel discussion were:

- Collaboration, coordination and communication are critical when working on these issues.
- Nurses are the medical professionals in the school building who can bridge the gap between family, community, and school.
- Although nurses provide some in-service training for teachers, there is a need for more training for teachers to help with early detection of health issues.
- There is an increasing complexity in the range and number of health needs our students are facing.
- Partners can play an important role in prevention work.
- Good relationships with partners should make partners feel as though they are an integral part of the school. Where there are successful partnerships, there is a blurred line between the professional staff and the partners in the building.
- Student support teams - that include the school nurse - can monitor students' health and mental health issues on a regular basis.

Some of the challenges include:

- Bridging the gap between the education and medical cultures.
- The coordination of services between schools and outside partners especially when there is often no single person responsible for this work.
- Providers finding the time to work with the student support team or administration/teachers when so much of their time is spent with clients. Although school nurses can act as a bridge, there is seldom time for providers and nurses to meet.
- The need to limit the amount of time students are being pulled out of classes.

Overall, there was agreement that schools should focus on high quality instruction and students' academic success. There was further agreement that partnerships that are well executed will contribute to a positive school climate, which will ultimately enhance the academic success of the students in the building.

The meeting ended with an overview from Michele Norman from the MA

**Contact Us:**

Abby R. Weiss  
Executive Director  
Full-service Schools  
Roundtable  
443 Warren Street  
Dorchester, MA 02121

email:  
[aweiss@boston.k12.ma.us](mailto:aweiss@boston.k12.ma.us)

P: (617) 635-6537  
F: (617) 635-8027

[www.fssroundtable.org](http://www.fssroundtable.org)

Executive Office of Education on Governor Patrick's Readiness Project. She asked the attendees to offer both short- and long-term policy recommendations for her to bring back to Secretary of Education Paul Reville. We have shared the group's written responses with Michele, who will, in turn, share them with Secretary Reville.

We are grateful for the participation of our keynote, moderator, and panelists - and to those of you who braved the elements to join us! We are planning our next Roundtable meetings and hope you will stay tuned for those dates and topics.

With best regards,

Abby R. Weiss  
Executive Director

**Roundtable Steering Committee**

Joy Dryfoos, Author, Researcher, Member of Coalition for Community Schools Steering Committee  
William Kelley (co-chair), Director of Comprehensive Support Services, Special Education and Related Services, BPS  
Bob Kilkenny, Executive Director, Alliance for Inclusion and Prevention  
Matt LiPuma (co-chair), Executive Director, Family Nurturing Center of Massachusetts  
Catalina Montes, Principal-on-Assignment, Boston Public Schools  
Carolyn Riley, Senior Director, Unified Student Services, BPS  
Dina Siegal, Deputy Director, Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Relations  
Bob Wadsworth, Consultant  
Mary Walsh, Professor and Director, Center for Child, Family & Community School Partnerships, Boston College School of Education  
Margot Welch, Educational Consultant and Writer

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## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### Ahead of the Curve

Across Massachusetts and throughout the country, greater accuracy in the reporting of graduation rates has drawn increased attention to the dropout crisis. In Massachusetts, just 81% of the Class of 2007 graduated in four years.

A new law, passed in August 2008, established a broad-based commission charged with studying a number of issues relative to the dropout crisis including alternative pathways and compulsory age. The commission provides an opportunity for policymakers and educators to look closely at strategies, policies and practices in schools and districts to support learners at risk of dropping out of high school.

To further inform this discussion, the Rennie Center has conducted new

research on schools and districts that have reduced their dropout rates over the past four years. Based on interviews with superintendents and principals, this brief reveals common themes that are proving effective in preventing and recapturing dropouts.

To read the full brief, visit:

[http://www.renniecenter.org/research\\_docs/0902dropout\\_brief.html](http://www.renniecenter.org/research_docs/0902dropout_brief.html).

For more information about the dropout crisis in Massachusetts, please visit: [www.projectdropout.org](http://www.projectdropout.org).

#### Analysis of the Stimulus Package from the ECS, with a Complete State-by-State Breakdown of Funding

For insights into the final stimulus package approved by the House and Senate, see the accompanying report from the Education Commission of the States, as well as a separate state-by-state look at the package's funding allocations, visit: <http://www.schoolgrants2009.com/content/analysis-stimulus-package-ecs-complete-state-state-breakdown-funding>.

#### The Road Less Traveled By: Notions About Leadership and School

On January 28, 2009, Dr. Rudy Crew and Ms. Sandy Moise addressed Boston's Leadership Exchange to discuss family engagement.

If you are interested in reviewing some of the materials and presentations from this program,

visit: <http://citycityboston.org/ProgramsandReports.html>.

#### 3 New Features to Estimate the Cost of OST Programs

High-quality out-of-school time (OST) can play an important role in the development of children and youth. The Wallace Foundation is pleased to tell you about three new features that can help you estimate the cost of high-quality out-of-school time programs in the U.S., and learn more about how cities are funding them. It is the hope that they will prove valuable to policymakers, program administrators and others who want to provide families with OST services that make a real difference in children's lives.

Based on a rigorous study of 111 diverse, quality programs in six U.S. cities, the report, [The Cost of Quality Out-of-School-Time Programs](#), fills what has been a significant knowledge gap in the OST field by offering a data-filled exploration of the cost of high-quality after-school and summer services. [Click here to learn more.](#)

The researchers who prepared the report also worked with Wallace to create an online ["Out-of-School Time Cost Calculator"](#) to help users calculate the costs of various options for high-quality OST programs. The

The Full-service Schools Roundtable is grateful for generous support from The Boston Foundation, Children's Hospital Boston and an anonymous foundation.

calculator comes with a number of other resources, including thumbnail sketches of actual programs and links to publications on funding and strategies for promoting program quality. [Click here to learn more.](#)

In addition, The National League of Cities' Institute for Youth, Education, and Families issues a report, [Financial Strategies to Support Citywide Systems of Out-of-School Time Programs](#), that details strategies for funding out-of-school time services, including dedicated taxes, charitable trusts and tapping federal sources. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### "Reimagining of the Learning Day"

The team at edutopia has put together a 6-minute video of Citizen Schools. Edutopia is an important media partner in the effort to promote a "reimagining of the learning day" and they are engaged in an intensive effort to promote Citizen Schools and three other organizations as best practice examples of what a new day for learning can actually look like.

This link will take you directly to the video itself:

<http://www.edutopia.org/citizen-schools-after-school-program-video>

This video is part of a much larger, comprehensive web feature about Citizen Schools and is a starting point for those materials. For more information, visit: <http://www.edutopia.org/citizen-schools-introduction>.

### Improving Our Nation's Capacity to Monitor Child and Youth Well-Being

Having strong data at the national and state level is key to developing, targeting and monitoring policies and programs for children and youth. Some of the improvements suggested in the new Child Trends White Paper, [What Gets Measured Gets Done: High Priority Opportunities to Improve Our Nation's Capacity to Monitor Child and Youth Well-Being](#), include:

- Ensure sufficient resources for the 2010 Census to provide an accurate population count, particularly for population groups that have previously been under-counted.
- Transition to a more accurate and up-to-date measure of poverty that adjusts income for core expenses, accounts for non-cash benefits and regional differences in the cost of living, and calculates poverty based on actual food, clothing and shelter expenses.
- Develop new and stronger measures of child well-being to address the paucity of indicators for young children, of positive outcomes,

and of socio-emotional well-being.

- Continue to improve measures of performance and child well-being in the child welfare system.

#### Selecting, Training, and Coaching Out-of-School Time Staff

Research on successful out-of-school time programs repeatedly has found that the caliber of a program's staff is a critical feature of high-quality programs that achieve positive outcomes. Three new Child Trends briefs present findings and effective strategies for selecting, training, and coaching frontline staff in the effective implementation of out-of-school time programs.

- [Staff Selection: What's Important for Out-Of-School Time Programs?](#)
- [Training Out-Of-School Time Staff](#)
- [Using Coaching to Provide Ongoing Support and Supervision to Out-Of-School Time Staff](#)

#### Coalition for Community School's New Blog

The Coalition for Community Schools has opened up another medium of communication: a blog! The Coalition would like to encourage you to read the blog and share your comments.

Here is the direct link:

<http://coalitionforcommunityschools.blogspot.com/>.

## UPCOMING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

#### National Endowment for the Arts: Access to Artistic Excellence

Access to Artistic Excellence grants encourage and support artistic creativity, preserve diverse cultural heritage, and make the arts more widely available in communities throughout the country. While projects in this category may focus on just one of these areas, the Arts Endowment recognizes that many of the most effective projects encompass both artistic excellence and enhanced access. Support is available to organizations for projects that do one or more of the following:

- Provide opportunities for artists to create, refine, perform, and exhibit their work.
- Present artistic works of all cultures and periods.
- Preserve significant works of art and cultural traditions.

The mission of the Full-service Schools Roundtable is to advance the healthy development and academic success of students in Boston through integrated

school/community  
partnerships.

- Enable arts organizations and artists to expand and diversify their audiences.
- Provide opportunities for individuals to experience and participate in a wide range of art forms and activities.
- Enhance the effectiveness of arts organizations and artists.
- Employ the arts in strengthening communities.

The Arts Endowment is particularly interested in projects that extend the arts to underserved populations - those whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability, this is achieved in part through the use of Challenge America: Reaching Every Community funds.

Maximum grants awarded will be \$150,000. For more information, visit: [www.arts.gov/grants/apply/GAP10/ArtistsCommunitiesAAE.html](http://www.arts.gov/grants/apply/GAP10/ArtistsCommunitiesAAE.html).  
DEADLINE: MARCH 12, 2009

#### Awarding Educator Scholarships

Horace Mann is dedicated to serving the needs of the educational community. The Horace Mann Companies is offering \$30,000 in scholarships for public and private school K-12 educators to take college courses.

In May 2009, The Horace Mann Companies will announce the recipients. One recipient will receive \$5,000 in scholarship funds payable over four years, and fifteen other recipients will receive \$1,000 each in scholarship funds payable over two years. Twenty additional recipients will each receive one-time \$500 awards.

Scholarship money will be paid directly to each recipient's college or university for tuition, fees and other educational expenses. Scholarship applicants will be judged on a written essay and school and community activities. Financial need is not a consideration, but applicants who have all educational expenses paid through other scholarships and/or grants are ineligible.

For more information, visit: <https://www.horacemann.com/resources/scholarships/default.aspx>.  
DEADLINE: MARCH 12, 2009

#### Influence of Religiosity and Spirituality on Health Risk Behaviors in Children and Adolescents

To study how religious and spiritual beliefs develop and are transmitted across generations, and whether and how these beliefs influence early sexual behaviors and alcohol or other drug use that may facilitate the transmission of HIV in children and adolescents.

Awards will be no more than \$200,000 in direct costs annually. For more information, visit: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-403.html>.  
DEADLINE: MARCH 16, 2009

Women Helping Others Foundation: Education/Literacy Grants

The Women Helping Others (WHO) Foundation provides support for free after school organizations to implement or expand education and/or literacy programs for low-income children.

Maximum grants awarded are \$5,000. For more information, visit:

[www.whofoundation.org/Funding/WHO\\_FundingEd.asp](http://www.whofoundation.org/Funding/WHO_FundingEd.asp).

DEADLINE: MARCH 17, 2009

#### **Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation: Community Grant Program**

The purposes of the Community Grant Program are to simultaneously:

1. Encourage those involved broadly with the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest to actively think about the educational needs in the communities of Boston, Hartford, New York City, Providence and Washington, D.C. ,
2. Recognize, encourage, and collaborate with the front-line workers within the educational system who often do not have a voice in funding decisions, and
3. Provide funding to assist with small, concrete projects or needs that will make an improvement in inner city education in Boston, Hartford, New York City, Providence or Washington, D.C. within a year of the grant award.

The applicant must be a frontline educational worker who is involved in the education field or a related field in one of the communities eligible for foundation grants.

Average grant size is \$2,000. For more information, visit:

[www.brownrudnickcenter.com/foundation/communitygrant.asp](http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com/foundation/communitygrant.asp).

DEADLINE: ROLLING; GRANTS AWARDED MONTHLY

## CONFERENCE/TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Metro Boston Legislative Breakfast**

Monday, March 2, 2009

9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

The Great Hall, State House

Co-hosts: Senator Anthony D. Galluccio  
and Representative Linda Dorcena Forry

The Legislative Breakfast will give the Department of Mental Health an opportunity to thank the Metro Boston legislative delegation for the support its members have given the Department's many programs and initiatives. This particular event will also allow us to celebrate the role consumers have in shaping the programs, services and practices of the Department of Mental Health and to highlight and discuss many of the innovative services they are currently providing. It is our hope that clients, family members, advocates and providers will have the opportunity to interact with elected officials at the event.

Please RSVP to Paulette Vaughan at 626-9210.

**A Decade of Achievement:  
Celebrating Boston's After School Movement**

*Honoring:*

Mayor Thomas M. Menino

*Featuring:*

Rev. Gregory G. Groover, Sr., D.Min.  
Superintendent Carol R. Johnson

Envisioning the Future of After School  
Nicholas C. Donahue, President & CEO  
*Nellie Mae Education Foundation*

Panel

Klare Shaw, *Senior Advisor, The Barr Foundation*  
Elizabeth Pauley, *Senior Program Officer, The Boston Foundation*  
Peg Sprague, *Vice President, United Way of Massachusetts Bay  
and Merrimack Valley*  
Moderated by Daphne Griffin, *Executive Director, Boston Centers  
for Youth & Families*

Performances by Ritmo en Accion and Berklee Music Stars

Wednesday, March, 11, 2009  
3:00 - 5:00 PM, Reception to follow  
Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall  
700 Boylston Street, Copley Square

Envision the future of after school in Boston

Space is limited! RSVP by March 6 to [event@bostonbeyond.org](mailto:event@bostonbeyond.org).  
Please include your name, address, telephone number and organization  
name with your response.

**Fourth Annual School-Based Health Center Awareness Day  
Thursday, April 9, 2009**

Massachusetts State House - Great Hall  
9:30 AM - Visit Exhibitors - Great Hall  
10-11:00 AM - Program & Awards - Great Hall  
11:30 AM Meet with your legislators  
Please RSVP to Antonia Blinn: [ablinn@mcsbhc.org](mailto:ablinn@mcsbhc.org) or 617-988-2243.

**Create Change in Your Communities!**

**Participate in the Lincoln Community Schools Learning Laboratory  
April 27-29, 2009**

The Cornhusker Marriott Hotel: Room Rate- \$99/night  
333 South 13th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508  
402-474-7474

**[REGISTER NOW!!!](#)**

The Lincoln Community Schools Learning Laboratory is designed for teams from schools and communities that want to move on a community schools strategy. Ideal teams will represent diverse organizations e.g., school systems, local government, public and private agencies, community-based organizations, higher education institutions, parents and parent organizations and community groups. We encourage teams of 4 or more to provide a stronger basis for action back home. All are welcome.

For more information:

View [Event Brochure](#)

View [Travel Discount](#)

View [Event Summary & Agenda](#)

**REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 28th AND  
RECEIVE 10% OFF OF THE EARLY BIRD RATE!!**

**Individual Registration Fee:**

\$375.00 (Early Bird Price) If Registered By Friday, April 3, 2009

\$445.00 (Regular) If Registered After April 3, 2009

**Team of 4+ People Registration Fee:**

\$295.00 (Early Bird Price) If Registered By Friday, April 3, 2009

\$375.00(Regular) If Registered After April 3, 2009

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### **New Postings at Stand for Children**

Stand for Children, a dynamic and fast-growing grassroots advocacy organization that works to improve public education, is relocating our national IT capacity from Portland, Oregon to our Waltham office, and adding a new senior fundraising position to provide development direction in 4 - 6 states.

The three new Waltham-based positions are:

- [Internet Director](#)
- [Information Management Director](#)
- [National Development Director](#)



· [Office Manager](#)

For more information, visit: <http://www.stand.org>.



Join Our List

Join Our Mailing List!