



How will the System of Care (SoC) Grant Impact my Family/School/Child?

The System of Care (SoC)/FAST Forward Grant is underway. We have been very busy promoting our work in each of the schools and in our larger community. We want to thank all the schools in the White Mountains Regional School District for welcoming us into their buildings to meet the dynamic students and families. We had many families take the time to stop, say 'hello', and ask great questions.

The most common question that we were asked is 'how is this going to affect my student?' and 'what changes will we see in this school?' - great questions indeed. In order to answer these questions, I think it will be important first to understand the 'elements' of the grant and the process from which we are identifying our work.

The grant has five 'elements' or focus areas that we are expected to address over the four year grant period. They are:

- Promoting Early Childhood Social and Emotional Learning and Development
- Promoting Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Health
- Connecting Families, Schools, and Communities
- Promoting Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Health (specific to Substance Abuse) - see #2
- Creating Safe and Violence-Free Schools

The process of identifying our needs and addressing these goals in a way that is meaningful and relevant to our community is going to be the work of our community management team (CMT). This team includes representation from SAU 36 (all schools and administration within the district), Head Start and our Early Childhood partners, Easter Seals, law enforcement and juvenile justice, community mental health providers, Family Resource Center, Northern Human Services, Response and others. The CMT is responsible for working together to create a work plan based on specific community 'gaps' or needs in each of these five elements. Our environmental scan will drive data

indicating the needs and gaps within each element. Since this is a strength based project, the CMT will look at current resources, and strengths to build upon these resources.

Our next CMT will be Thursday, October 26th from 9-11 a.m at the Whitefield town office building (out back). **We are still looking for a family voice on our team**, and anyone interested can contact Kelly Dussault at kdussault@sau36.org and is welcome to join this meeting next Thursday. The CMT will begin the action plan work which will govern how we spend our time and resources to improve overall health and wellness for the WMRSD and its communities.

So, the answer to the question, 'how will this grant affect my family' - has yet to be determined. The possibilities are great and could include; more access to after-school programs; an increase in social/emotional learning across schools' closer collaboration and access between mental health providers, community partnerships and our schools; increase in school/community education around behavioral health; wellness focused events, just to name a few. We are excited to see where the work will take us and what the CMT chooses to prioritize for our community throughout this grant.

“Health is a state of body. Wellness is a state of being.” J. Stanford

Kelly L. Dussault
SOC Grant Manager
SAU # 36 White Mountains Regional School District
603-837-9363
kdussault@sau36.org

Kate Clark
FAST Forward Wrap Coordinator
SAU # 36
603-837-9363
kclark@sau36.org