

August 21, 2019

Concurrent Workshops

Developing skills to serve as a steward for supportive environments

Six concurrent workshops will be offered to enhance skills in practice and policy that support environments to promote population child and youth mental health through the life course.

2. A school district's collaborative journey in creating a comprehensive sexual violence policy

Presenter: Tanya Whitney, Anglophone School District West, New Brunswick

This workshop will provide an overview of how a school district went from a system disrupting student walk-out to the creation of a district-wide policy on sexual violence. An emphasis on the cross-sectoral experience will be detailed as well as the importance of focusing on prevention as well as response within the policy. Implementation that followed the creation of the policy will be explained as well, sharing the five year journey of responding to the issue, exploring a response with many stakeholders, and creating supporting documents and professional learning resources to support implementation.

How does your workshop make a connection with the theme Supportive Environments for Child and Youth Mental Health – Our Shared Responsibility!?

This initiative of policy creation and implementation has been guided throughout by an inter-sectoral committee, that changed over time to represent the various needs depending on the stage in creation and implementation. Non-profit agencies, government, student voice, public safety, health are amongst the many sectoral voices that have been and continue to be included at the implementation table. This initiative is about a proactive K-12 policy support for all participants in the school system. It is intended to set clear standards of prevention as well as response to protect students and proactively create safe environments within schools. Its purpose is to set a standard of accountability for a system to continue providing professional learning and resources for the people who work within the system.

What will others learn from your workshop?

The desire is that participants will consider and learn about the necessity and importance of collaborative inter-sectoral policy creation. Also, that participants will gain an understanding of the comprehensive aspects of such policy to include a focus on prevention, response, and on-going supportive materials. Also, that participants will gain insight from sharing the challenges, successes, as well as the projected next steps.

How will your workshop help participants prepare for scaling up or delivering policies and programs?

Participants will have an understanding of the steps involved in collaborative policy creation as well as implementation stages. We will discuss how we have shared and continue to share our information and process with other school districts.

Presenter

Tanya Whitney
Leadership Support Lead, Anglophone School District West, Fredericton, NB

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Tanya Whitney is a former Director of Schools for Anglophone School District West and is currently Leadership Support Lead where she provides leadership coaching for school-based leaders. She began her career with First Nations where she became principal of an elementary school and then moved to various school administration positions in both the Fredericton and Saint John areas. She also worked at the ministry as Project Executive for Inclusion and continues to work in areas that she is passionate about--namely diversity and inclusion for LGBTQ2+ communities, First Nations, and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities.