



IOWA BEHAVIORAL Alliance

...for positive behavior supports, dropout prevention, and mental health initiatives.

Youth and Community Involvement Makes Dream Come True

What started as a dream in the rural Cass County community of Anita is now coming closer to reality. Thanks in part to supportive citizens and strong community leaders who have actively engaged youth in their community to be a part of the decision making process.

The Cumberland-Anita-Massena (CAM) School District is a demonstration site with the Iowa Department of Education's Positive Behavioral Supports for Children and Youth Initiative (PBS). The initiative encourages youth and adults, working together, to make decisions that affect young people.

A community recreation center was identified as a need by Anita community leaders, as a way to keep kids involved in positive free time activities as an alternative to "at risk" activities.

The Recreation Center has been designed to benefit all members of the community, young and old alike. It will include a gymnasium, walking track, and rooms for classes and community meetings. The facility will provide recreational space for volleyball & basketball tournaments, practice space, as well as rooms for yoga & dance classes.

The center will be open to students for free time activities in the evenings and weekends.

Because the Recreation Center will be built adjacent to the CAM elementary and high schools, it will be available for the school to use. This proximity to the schools will also lend itself nicely for after-school and summer programs.

Students from the CAM High School have been involved with decisions affecting this project from the very beginning. High school students serve alongside adults as members of the board of directors planning the Recreation Center.

Youth are involved in the fundraising of this project as well. Students have contacted alumni with donation requests and have been involved with public relations.

Even elementary students have jumped on board to help mobilize the project into reality. As the culmination activity for 5th grade BOOMERANG!, students were asked to

identify a citizenship project. Their overwhelming choice was to raise money to help build the Recreation Center.

Members of the Recreation Center board of directors met with the 5th grade students to explain the project. The students were shown blue prints of the building and members explained potential programs that would happen there. Soon 5th grade students began sharing their own ideas of what programs they wanted to see.

The 5th grade class organized a coin fund drive in the elementary building. Students created posters to hang around

continued on page 3



Leveling the land to be used for the new Anita Recreation Center is the first step in moving from a dream to reality. The Center will be located in close proximity to the Anita High School (pictured in the back).

ALLIANCE update

TRAINING

Staff and trainers of the Alliance have now completed year one and year two of training for teams in the four quadrants in addition to providing on-site technical assistance. Discussions continue with administrators in the AEAs to identify schools requesting PBS training and helping them develop the infrastructure to provide that training.

Our feedback from this past year identified a need for more time to be spent with prospective PBS schools to help them build the foundations that are critical to successful PBS implementation. In response to this identified need, Rob Horner will be here on June 20 working with the teams who have expressed an interest. This day of in-depth discussion on commitment, processes and expectations will position these schools for success.

In addition, coaches expressed a desire for more time to network and problem solve. They will spend June 21 working with Rob Horner and Alliance staff addressing issues they identified.

We have several AEAs who are now positioned to pursue PBS training in conjunction with the Alliance.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Plans for the 2nd Annual Alliance Conference are underway. Keynote

speakers include Lise Fox on early childhood, Rob Horner on PBS, and Hank Bohanon-Edmunson on PBS and secondary schools. Registration can now be completed online. Check our web pages for agendas, breakout sessions and registration at www.rc4alliance.org (see left menu and click on 2006 Alliance Conference).

ALLIANCE FAMILY TEAM

The Alliance Family Team members have spent the past six months examining the purpose of the Family Team and roles of team members. A major focus for the team has been to

The Alliance Family Team
assisted in **developing training modules and materials on family involvement in PBS**
to guide teams in developing strategies to meaningfully
involve families in their PBS efforts.

make connections with family representatives serving on local PBS Leadership teams by building communication lines with those family members through information dissemination and support. The Family Team also is striving to fulfill the mission of the Team by encouraging PBS teams to develop strategies to include families on both the PBS team and in the school in general.

The Alliance Family Team assisted in developing training modules and materials on family involvement in PBS to guide teams in developing strategies to meaningfully involve families in their PBS efforts. Presentations have been made to several PBS schools and a strand addressing Family Involvement is being developed for the Alliance PBS Conference. It is anticipated that most of the family members who serve on their school's PBS team will be able to attend the conference, receive additional information, training and support from other family members, as well as be presentors at the conference.

The Alliance Family Team consists of Cindy Laughead, Parent Education Connection (PEC) and Iowa Behavioral Alliance; Lelaine M. Anderson, Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parents Association; Stacey Bredbeck, PTA of Iowa; Mary Peterson, Magellan Health Services; Lori Reynolds, Iowa Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health; Martha Shaw, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Iowa; Kathy Specketer, Learning Disability Association (LDA) of Iowa; Dr. Danielle Sharp, Autism Society of Iowa; and, Polly Nichols, Adjunct Assistant Professor / University of Iowa. For further questions or comments, contact Cindy Laughead, Family Consultant for the Iowa Behavioral Alliance, at CKL48@yahoo.com,

Alliance Conference Sept 17 - 19, 2006

SWIS – What’s it all about?

Positive behavior support relies on data to guide individual, group and school-wide interventions.

The School-wide Information System (SWIS) was developed at OSEP’s Technical Assistance Center at the University of Oregon to provide the information needed by schools for this purpose. The web-based program allows for data collection in a manner that is relevant and timely to the schools. It identifies what the problem behavior is, where it is happening, when it is happening, how many referrals for that behavior and who is engaging in the behavior. In addition, the program gives these reports in a graphic format that is easy to understand and share with all staff.

Administrators and team members who use the SWIS effectively find the program to be invaluable. Here are

some of the comments we’ve received from administrators and coaches:

“Having the SWIS system has made the data part of PBS very easy!”

“It’s a great tool!”

“We have enjoyed having access to the data provided through the SWIS system, find it helpful for monitoring of individual students behavior, and identifying primary behavior issues the staff are working with.”

“SWIS is a valuable tool to show behavior issues with parents or a student assistance team. The data gives an overview of concern by whom, where, when and how often. It is good stuff.”

“We are able to use the dates, time and locations to help us figure out what is going on with students and their behaviors. The student info and staff info also help us to know if classroom



“SWIS data **really comes in handy** when meeting with parents.”

guidelines are being followed...If kids are implementing what they have been taught...

Our teachers seem to value the reports that our coach does monthly and thank heaven discipline has improved a lot. The data have become a part of how we operate in our building.”

Youth and Community... Continued from page 1

the school, made presentations to students in K-4th grade, set up a reward for the class that raised the most money, and collected money from the classrooms each week.

At the end of February they presented \$147.54 to the Anita Foundation for the new Recreation Center.

The project is currently in the initial construction stages with the hope of opening in the spring of 2007. Even after the Recreation Center is completed, the board of directors recognizes that student involvement will be a key factor in the centers success. Students will be utilized to establish behavior expectations while using the facility, determine the types of programming that will be offered, and help operate the building.

Throughout this process, community leaders have been eager to enlist the help and ideas from young people. As a result of their involvement, students have taken ownership with this project, becoming valued and respected members of their community. This youth-adult partnership has empowered the youth in the CAM school district, while keeping their rural community a vibrant place to live.

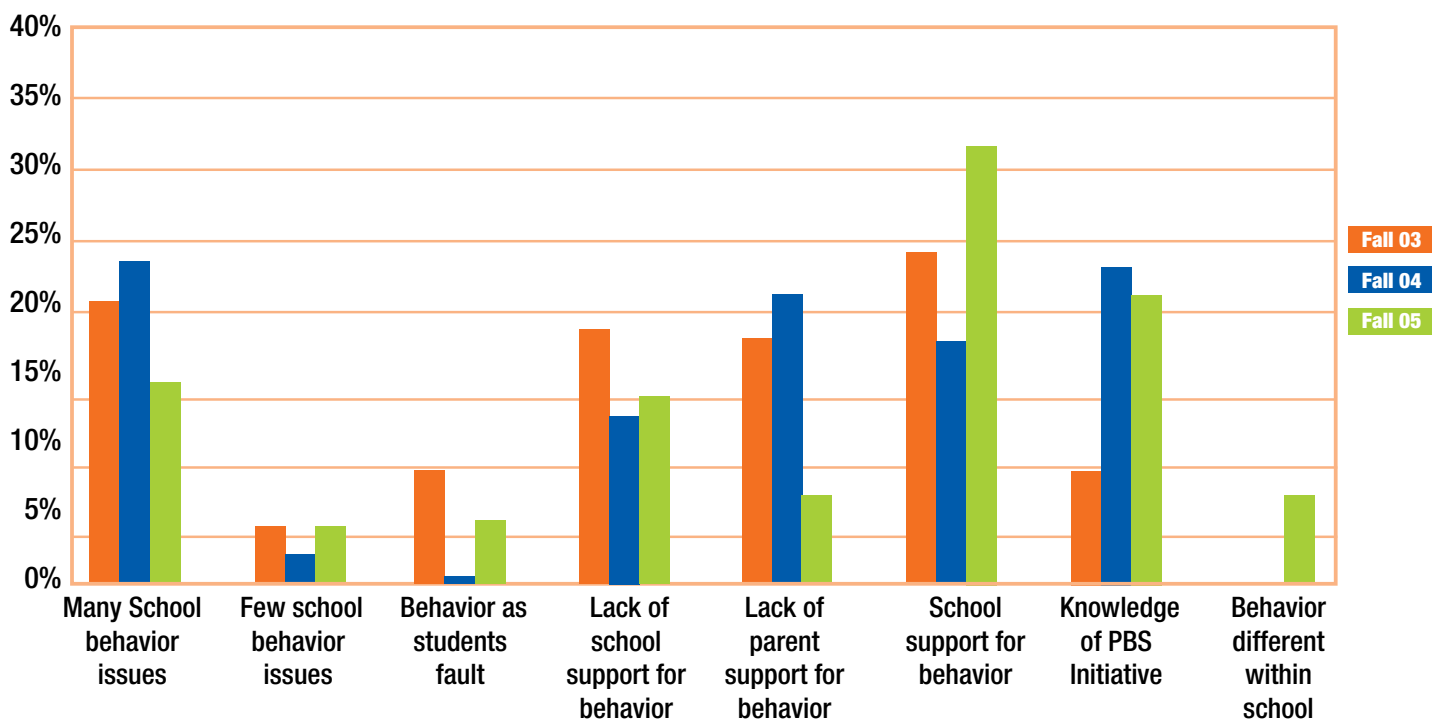
For more information, please contact Julie Hering, Youth Program Coordinator, with the Cass County Extension Office at jhering@iastate.edu.

PBS Adult Focus Groups

Adult focus groups are conducted at the original PBS demonstration sites (cohort 1) as part of the Iowa Behavioral Alliance grant evaluation. The participants represent parents, human service organizations and businesses in the community.

Question 1: What are the perceptions of behavior issues, challenges, barriers and resources in both the school and the community?

Figure 1. Category 1 (Behavior in the School): Percentage of Adult Participants Reporting by Coded Theme



- Participants from six of the eight focus groups shared that they were aware of the Positive Behavior Support (PBS) initiative being implemented in their school district compared with five of the eight groups in 2003.
- In 2003, participants made references to the PBS initiative a total of 21 (8%) times, in 2004, 55 (23%) times and in 2005, 49 (16%) references were made.
- Perception of school support for dealing with behavior issues has increased from 24% to 18% to 32% respectively over three years.
- Participants from seven of the eight groups made references to the PBS program as supportive of dealing with behavior issues at school.

- Examples of comments from parent participants:

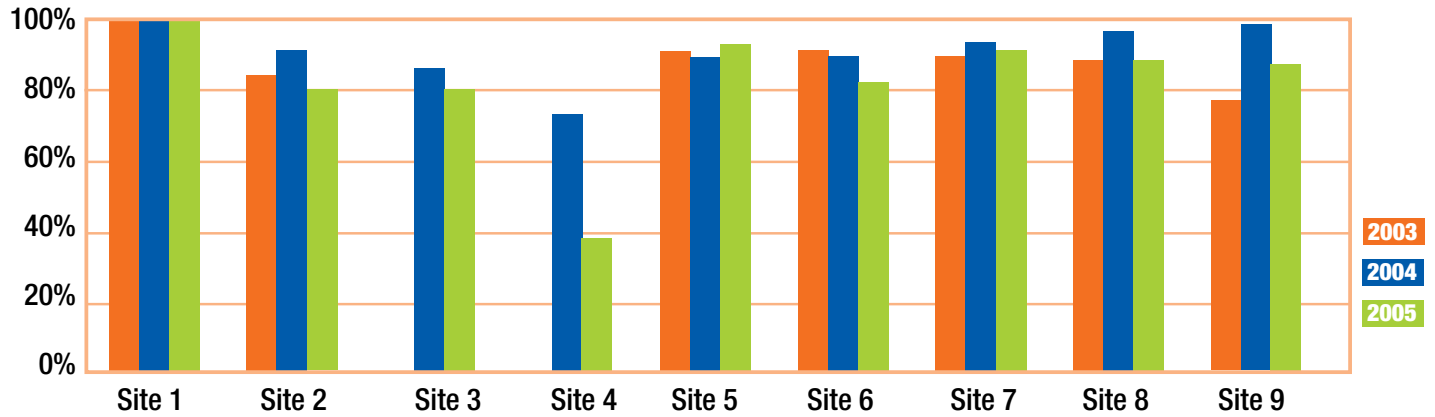
They have been teaching the children the word _____ to stand for choosing behaviors that make them appropriate, prepared, and safe. They are really doing a lot with that program at the schools. They are using a reward system, and I think it is a positive step forward. But, I think there is more to be added to it.

It's not all the time, but there does seem to be carryover from school to home.

My son is doing awesome. Last year we had 20-30 behavioral papers come home. This year we've had 1. That is really good for him. I think a lot of it is because we keep in contact with the teacher. I like it too that _____, who works with a group that has ADHD, steps in and helps when there are concerns. She gives advice. I think there is a lot of communication where there wasn't before.

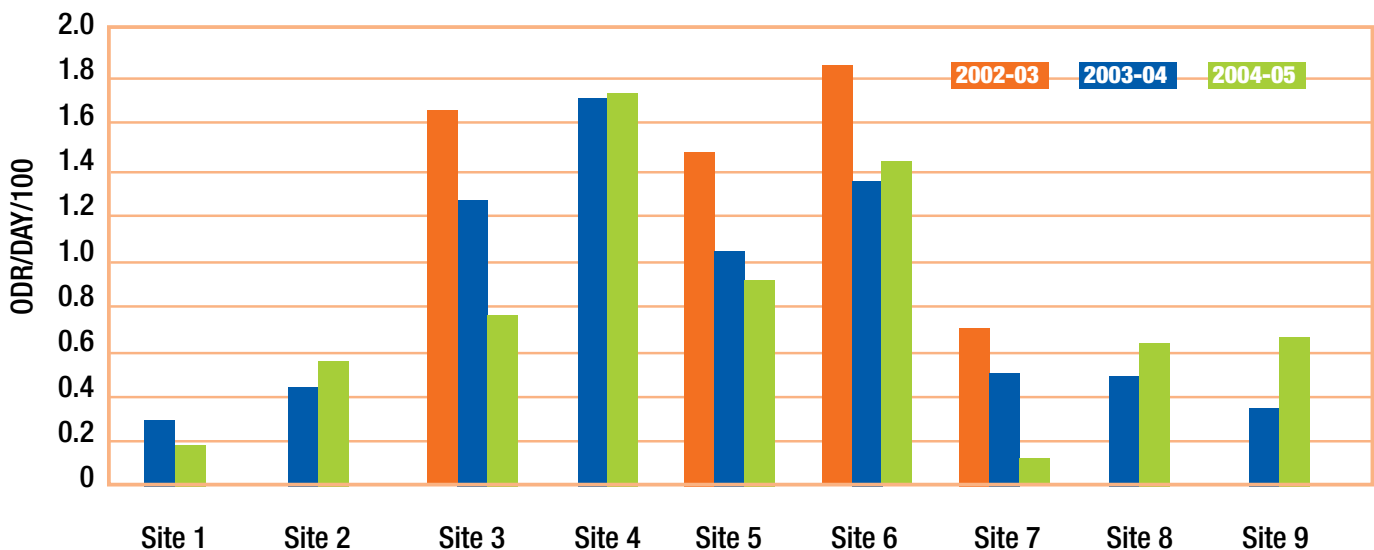
ALLIANCE evaluation

Figure 2. School-wide Evaluation Tool (SET) scores for nine demonstration sites for three years.



The School-wide Evaluation Tool (SET) is implemented by an external observer. Information is gathered through multiple sources including review of permanent products, observations, and staff and student interviews.

Figure 3. Number of ODRs per 100 students per day for nine demonstration sites for three years.



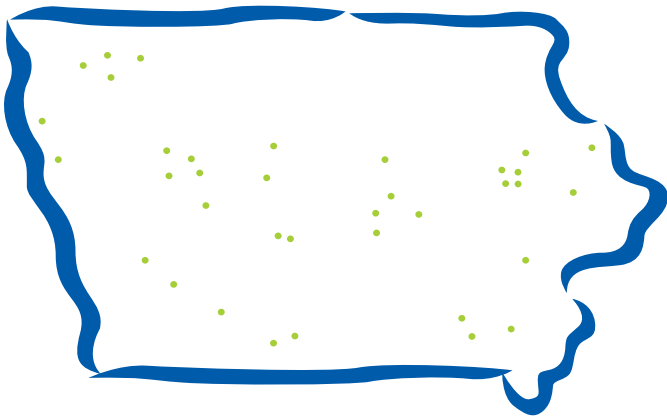
Figures 2 and 3 show the results from the demonstration sites over a three year period. Note that while we do not provide the names of the schools, it is possible to see the relationship between a particular school's mean SET scores and their ODR levels. For example, sites 1, 5, and 7 have consistently high SET scores and also obtained decreases in the rate of ODRs over a 3 -year period. Conversely, site 4 with the lowest SET score has the highest levels of ODRs over the last two years.

Alliance Coordinating Council Members

Mary Ellen BeckerSouthern Prairie AEA 15
Pat Carlson.....Iowa State University
Patrick Clancy.....School Administrators of Iowa
Cyndy EricksonDes Moines Public Schools
Mary Gannon.....Iowa Association of School Boards
Dave HigdonPolk County Health Services
Cindy Laughead.....Parent Educator Connection
Mary MohrhauserDepartment of Human Services
Dick Moore.....Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning and
Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development
Ray MorleyDepartment of Education
Bob PerryDrake Resource Center
Carla PetersonIowa State University
Lori ReynoldsIowa Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
PLUS.....Project contacts (see right)

PBS SITES IN IOWA

For detailed information, visit our web site at
www.rc4alliance.org



Project Contacts

Iowa Department of Education

Web Site: www.state.ia.us/educate

Suana Wessendorf, Project Manager / 515-281-5447
suana.wessendorf@iowa.gov

Iowa Behavioral Alliance

Web Site: www.rc4alliance.org

Carl Smith, Co-Director / 515-294-0317 / csmith@iastate.edu

Marion Panyan, Co-Director / 515-271-3936 / marion.panyan@drake.edu

Deb Thomas, Training Coordinator / 515-271-1823 / debra.thomas@drake.edu

Mary Bartlow, Project Liaison / 515-271-4560 / mary.bartlow@drake.edu

RISE

Mack Shelley, RISE Director / 515-294-9282 / mshelley@iastate.edu

Robin Galloway, Evaluation Coordinator / 641-430-1508 / rgal@iastate.edu

ISU, Extension 4-H Youth Development

Keli Tallman, State 4-H Youth Development Specialist / 515-294-0688

ktallman@iastate.edu

Iowa Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health

Lori Reynolds, Federation Director / 319-462-2187 / lori@iffcmh.org

Mental Health Initiative

Polly Nichols, Chair / 319-338-5704 / polly-nichols@uiowa.edu