

Departmental Seminar

Actualizing Population-Based School Mental Health Service

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. | June 29, 2017 (Thursday)

CPD-2.42, Central Podium Level | Centennial Campus | The University of Hong Kong



Professor Jack A. Cummings

Indiana University

Abstract

The Model for Comprehensive and Integrated School Psychological Services (National Association of School Psychologists, 2010), expanded the role of the school (educational) psychologist to include systems level services and a greater focus on improving children's mental health. The barriers to implementing school-based system-wide mental health programs are well known. These challenges include: psychologist time is already oversubscribed, teachers/principals' belief that lower test scores will result from time diverted from academic learning; belief that mental health is not the school's responsibility; concern that the schools already have too many programs; and the potential that a given mental health program may be incongruent with the values, norms, and histories of the children and families served within the district. Nominations for exemplary school mental health programs were solicited by contacting individuals who have contributed frequently to the literature on population-based school mental health and/or the public health model applied to schools. School districts and charter schools were identified in disparate sites ranging from urban to rural school settings. While visiting sites, semi-structured interviews provided an historical and perspectives on how the shift was made at the site to the broader focus of serving the entire population students. Administrative support, the importance of local data, collaboration, communication, and professional development were among the themes that emerged from the interviews and will be highlighted at the presentation.

~All are Welcome~

Enquiry: wlwinnie@hku.hk | Dr. Winnie Chan