

Mission

To promote the mental health of children and adolescents through the integration of mental health promotion, screening, and early evidence-based interventions.

Philosophy

We believe in comprehensive health care that includes prevention, early recognition and treatment of mental health problems in childhood, which will result in an optimal level of functioning and development that will form the foundation for productive adult years.

Objectives

1. To raise public awareness of child and adolescent mental health/psychosocial morbidities and the KySS Program.
2. To disseminate information about and implement effective preventive, early interventions and mental health screening in children and adolescents.
3. To educate healthcare professionals, teachers, and the public about mental health/psychosocial morbidities in children and adolescents, appropriate screening, and evidence-based interventions.
4. To affect change in policies related to improving mental health services in children and adolescents at the local, state, and national levels.
5. To develop effective partnerships with other organizations to promote the mental health in children and adolescents.

Accomplishments

- 2006: Development and distribution of The KySSSM Guide to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Screening, Early Intervention and Health Promotion, that includes vital information and screening tools for health professionals; and educational handouts for providers to disseminate to children/teens and parents.
- 2006: Publication of KySSSM: Promoting the Mental Health of Children and Teens in [Nursing Spectrum](#).
- 2005: Development of a mental health resource section of the KySS web pages with information for health care providers, summaries of important studies, and links to helpful resources.
- 2005: Provided comment on the American Academies of Pediatrics' Mental Health Competencies for the Board-Certified Pediatricians.
- Hosting of the annual KySS Across America national walkathon event in 2004 and 2005.
- 2004: Development and implementation of a 3-day national KySS Continuing Education Institute for primary care providers, with widespread dissemination of CD ROMs of the program (funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau/HRSA).
- 2004: Established the KySS National Survey Data Base for conducting secondary data analyses on the original KySS data set.
- 2003-2005: Completion of a two year HRSA/MCHB grant
- 2003: Successful implementation of a national KySS Summit with over 70 mental health and pediatric/adolescent experts in which action strategies, based on the evidence generated from the national KySS survey were developed (funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau/HRSA).
- 2002: Completion and publication of a national KySS survey of children, parents, and health care providers.

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