Student Wellness and Success Coordinator

North Ridgeville City and Wellington EVSD  Lorain County

**Initiative Type(s):**
Mental health services; Services for homeless youth; Services for child welfare involved youth; Community liaisons; Physical health care services; Family engagement and support services; Professional development regarding the provision of trauma-informed care; Professional development regarding cultural competence.

**Community Partner(s):**
Board of alcohol, drug and mental health services; educational service center; a board of health of a city or general health district.

**Description of Initiative:**
Three countywide agency partners collaborated to create a Student Wellness and Success Coordinator position - housed at the Educational Service Center and collaborating with the Health Department and Mental Health and Substance Abuse Board. The position works directly with school district personnel to implement K-12 evidence based, comprehensive and systematic prevention programming to fidelity, as well as encourage policy and system changes to create a more positive school environment in accordance with the WSCC model.

**Initiative Benefits:**
The coordinator position is responsible for conducting readiness assessments, taking inventory of programming and initiatives, evaluating progress, and reporting to district leadership and agency partners. This position takes pressure off school districts to identify internal staff to fill gaps and according to the ASHA (American School Health Association) the efforts of a designated coordinator are linked to an increase in student awareness of health and wellness, integration of wellness activities and across schools and districts, and leveraged resources.

**Optional Staff and Partners:**
Lorain County Public Health; Educational Service Center of Lorain County; Mental Health Addiction and Recovery Services of Lorain County.

**Action Steps to Get Started:**
The community partner agencies collaborated together to secure funding to plan and outline the role of this position, including the job description and responsibilities as well as planning for expansion and sustainability. The partners also assessed the districts in the county, gauged their interest and evaluated their level of readiness to implement this pilot position. Several successful and already established education and community based collaboratives in the county helped identify the best methods for how to successfully implement and measure this work.

**For More Information:**
Kat Evers Solove
kevers@loraincountyhealth.com

NOTE: Student Wellness and Success Funds were used for this initiative.