

SURVIVAL *AND* SUCCESS AS A NEW PSYCHOLOGIST

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Washington State Association of School Psychologists
Fall Conference 2015

Acknowledgments

- Jamie Chaffin
 - My program director at EWU, mentor, colleague
- Steve Hirsch
 - Internship supervisor, always a phone call away
- The School Psychologist's Survival Guide
 - Author Rebecca Branstetter
- Fred Rogers
 - He would've been an awesome school psych

My Background

- 25 years in public education
 - Elementary teacher
 - Elementary principal
 - School psychologist in my 2nd year
- My career transition from principal
 - Prevention and intervention/RtI (the earlier the better)
 - Leveling the playing field
 - School as the stage for social justice

Who are you?

- Students (Where?)
- Currently in internship or practicum (Which district?)
- Practicing school psychologist (1st year, 2nd year, beyond)
- Introductions....name, current role

Interactive “workshop” session...

Today’s goal:

*Interactive opportunities to share our ideas
and experience with each other*

Guiding Themes - Overview

Managing the Many Roles

- Consultation and collaboration
- Prevention, intervention, Rtl (tiered instruction)
- Organizational tips and tools
- Preparation for your job search

Roles of the school psychologist

[Branstetter]

- Assessor
- Consultant
- Intervention Specialist
- Counselor
- Key question: What does your district say about the role? What does your principal (and district supervisor) see as your role? *FIND OUT*

Prioritizing your time

[Should be consistent with supervisor's perspective]

Assessor

- Caseload considerations*
- Clear legal timelines for evaluation aka...

COMPLIANCE

What is your current caseload or supervisor's caseload for evaluation?

* Students assigned to you; assessments to be completed/year

Prioritizing your time

Consultant

- Formal (meetings)
- Informal (Do you have a minute?)
- Not about knowing the answers...it's about knowing the right questions
- *What are the benefits of investing your time in the consultation role?*

Prioritizing your time

Intervention Specialist

- Even before the time of Rtl...
- Rtl
 - Targeted, data-driven intervention (at least 20 minutes per day)
 - Building-wide systems
 - What currently exists in your district/school(s)
 - This influences your role (are you leading this charge?)

Bottom line: You must play an active role in Leadership and Prereferral Intervention Teams

What does the implementation of Rtl look like in your district/school right now?

Prioritizing your time

Counselor

- District and school expectations for you
- Comfort level
- Caseload
- Physical space
- Are there counselors in your building? (elem v. secondary)
- Do you already have a relationship with this student?
- Crisis counseling (all hands on deck—talking points)

What is your current role or your supervisor's role related to counseling?

Organizational Tips and Tools

- **Calendars**
 - Master Triennial Calendar (see sample)
 - Will you be working with IEP case managers to combine 3-year re-evaluations with the IEP so that they coincide
 - What is your school calendar platform? (USE it)
 - Schedule everything you can in advance! (August calendar meetings)
- **Checklists for each student (see sample)**
- **Weekly to-do lists organized by building (see sample)**
- **Multiple buildings?**
 - “The mobile office” for student files, test kits, office supplies
 - The trunk of my car

Organizational Tips and Tools

What are some strategies and tools that you have seen and/or used?

Job Search and Preparation

- Emergency certification during internship
 - “Learn while you earn”
 - Do not take it on if you don’t feel ready
- Do your district research
 - Consider the various roles and how they are prioritized
 - Is it match for your skills and preferences?
 - Where is the district in the shift toward intervention/RtI
 - Where are the principal/staff in this shift?