

GEORGE WARREN
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SCHOOL
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School Social Work Today....

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What's on the table?

- School social work is a large specialty practice area
- The majority of states have some formal form of certification/licensure specific to school social work
- Several universities/colleges offer specialized training to support the practice area

What else is on the table?

- Accountability
- Evidence-based practice
- Advocacy

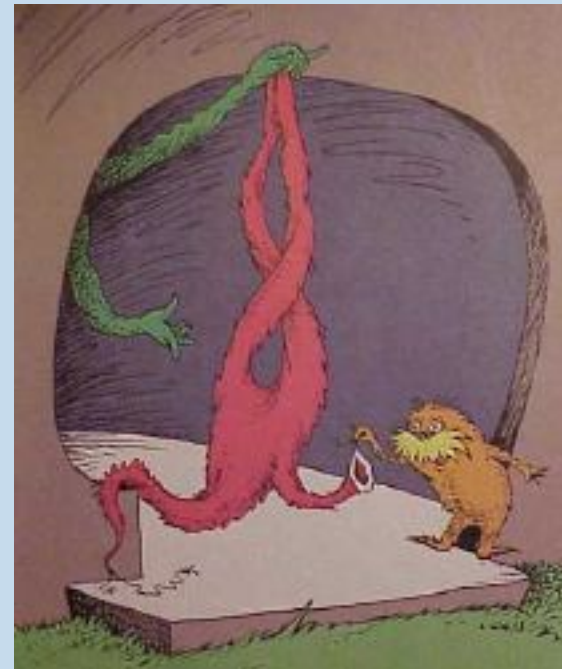
There's a lot we don't know...

- Unlike areas like child welfare, there is no regular national source of data about services delivered by school social workers & related outcomes.
- Researchers do periodic surveys.
- We know from respondents that we do a lot with a diverse range of students, families and school staff....BUT there is no consistent way to link this work to policy and program discussions.



This hurts advocating for more SSW!

- So we say a social worker is something everyone needs.... Then the Lorax comes by and says “what is it for?”
- There is an increasing call for school social workers to find ways to track outcomes and disseminate this information...



We are realizing this but not really doing it yet....

- Why?
 - Too busy putting out fires
 - Lack of training in research and evaluation
 - Lack of administrative support for record keeping
 - Lack of history of reporting out outcomes
 - Already too much paperwork
 - Don't see the connection between evaluation and the business of helping kids
 - What if the news isn't good?

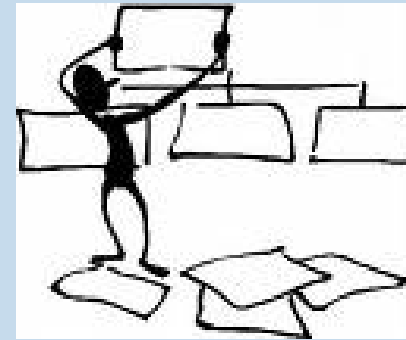


Where do we fit?

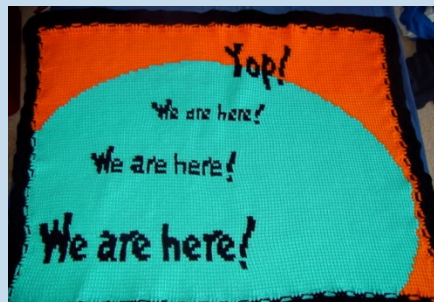
- The administration would replace the law's pass-fail school grading system with one that would measure individual students' academic growth and judge schools based not on test scores alone but also on indicators like pupil attendance, graduation rates and learning climate.
 - NY Times March 13, 2010

Especially in hard economic times....

- School social work must be a visible necessary part of the organizational chart



- This is not a new concept in school social work....but it is increasingly more than just a matter of making good connections at your school or district



EBP is also on the table

- In all fields there is the increasing call, and increasing ability to find, evidence supported ideas



- If we know what works, people expect us to be able to use it!

Finding the evidence is getting easier...

- On-line free aids are increasing!

School-wide reform:

http://www.bestevidence.org/csr/elem_csrq/elem_csrq.htm

Violence prevention:

<http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/blueprints/modelprograms.html>

Searchable page for state Substance abuse and MH tx:

<http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/databases/kdata.aspx?state=MO>

Reviews of best health/mental health practices

<http://www.cochrane.org/>

But I work with this not that!

- Evidence-based process means asking an answerable question, searching for all applicable evidence, critically considering that evidence, applying an evidence-informed solution and evaluating that solution...
- Sometimes that will mean implementing a nicely packaged existing program, sometimes it will require tweaking and sometimes you will develop new approaches

We need practitioner – researcher connection!

- The world of school-based research is not “done”
- There is not just a need to communicate evidence that exists to the field, but a need for the field to create
 - a demand for evidence
 - partnerships or original work to increase the evidence base

Then there is..changing demographics, globalization, service learning, the information age....

- School social work today is impacted by and must understand and adapt to a changing and demanding world.
- Responding to current trends need not mean giving up our mission—it should always be about the children...

So the present..

- We should be bolstered by the gains we have made and heartened by the availability of resources to continue to improve our practice
- It is a time of great challenges but also great opportunities!

