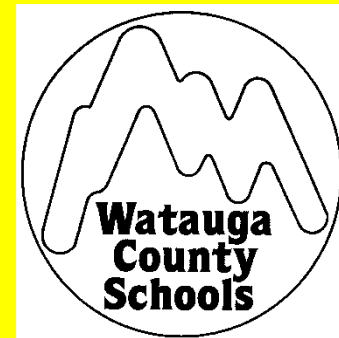


**Enhancing the well-being of youth:
Rationale, preliminary results, and policy
implications from growing interdisciplinary
rural school mental health collaborative**

**Kurt D. Michael, Ph.D., Lauren Renkert, Ph.D.,
Jennifer Wandler, M.S.W., Tamara Stamey, M.A.**



**2009 Family Symposium:
Building Safe, Humane, and Responsive
Communities for Children and Families**

Evolution of a Partnership





Weekly Interdisciplinary Staffing



Building Safe Communities

- Multiple levels
 - Increased monitoring
 - Consultation
 - Violence and suicide risk assessments
 - Coordinated safety plans
 - Multi-layered accountability
 - Law enforcement integrated

Humane Communities

- Caring about children and families
- No hidden agenda
- Reduce stigma
- Reduce barriers to access (e.g., transportation, financial constraints)
- Getting the necessary stakeholders involved

Responsive Communities

- Go to where the youth are
- Reach out
- Provide access to resources
- Focus on issues that have mental health implications
 - Academic success
 - School connectedness
- Accelerate, expedite access to resources

Future Directions

- Michael, K. D., Renkert, L. E., Wandler, J., & Stamey, T. (in press). Cultivating a new harvest: Rationale and preliminary results from a growing interdisciplinary rural school mental health program. *Advances in School Mental Health Promotion*.

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