

VERMONT PROJECT AWARE

Advancing Wellness and
Resilience in Education



A partnership between Vermont's
Agency of Education and
Agency of Human Services,
Department of Mental Health

What is Project AWARE?

Advancing Wellness And Resilience in Education



5-year Federal Grant for \$8.2M



For the Agency of Education in partnership with the Department of Mental Health

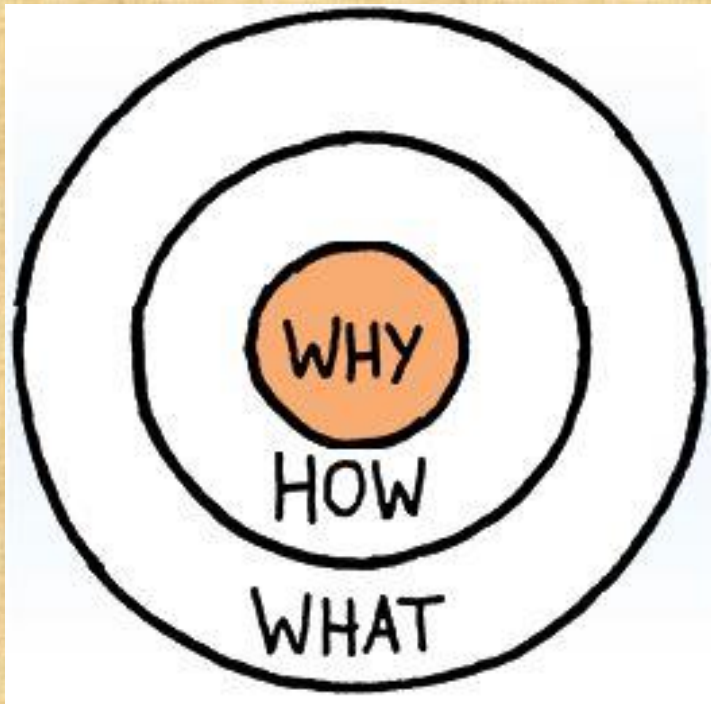


Funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)



Awarded on 9/30/2018 to AOE

It starts with **WHY**...



WHY = *purpose*

WHY did Vermont apply for this grant?



Younger students are struggling with emotional distress, behavioral outbursts, safety of self or others



Older students are struggling with anxiety, depression, relationships and this impacts students' readiness to learn



Families are stressed and vary in their involvement with school and/or mental health services

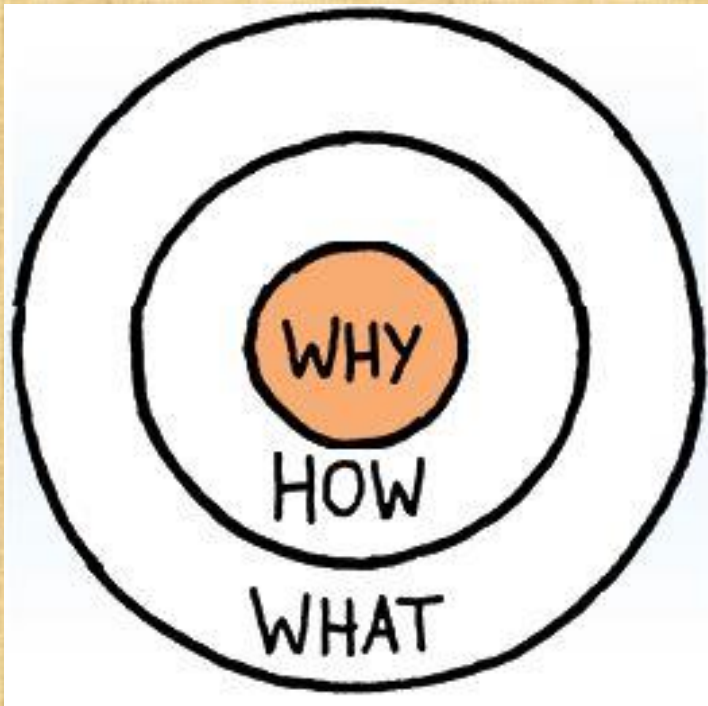


Teachers are managing multiple student needs within the classroom and multiple initiatives – and many are experiencing initiative & empathy fatigue.



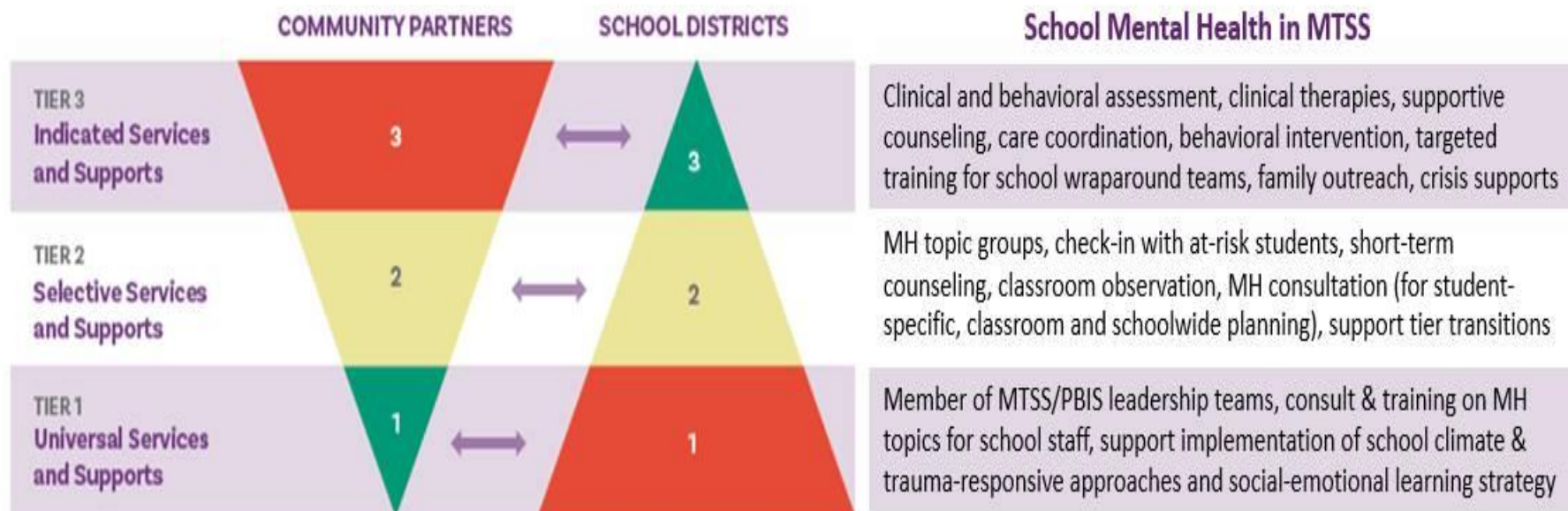
Supervisory Union and Mental Health leaders are interested in making positive impact

HOW will we get there?



HOW = *process*

Through ISF & MTSS



1. Critical to the success of Project AWARE is the implementation of the Interconnected Systems Framework (ISF) within the schools' Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS).
2. ISF is a framework that provides guidance on structure and process to integrate Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports and School Mental Health within school systems.
3. The goal is to blend resources, training, systems, data, and practices in order to improve outcomes for all children and youth.

Project AWARE Activities:

Year 1 in OSSU



Hardwick Elementary School

Identify pilot school that is a PBIS school -
Hardwick (February 2019)

Submit Year 1 proposal and budget (April
2019)

Post for and hire LEA Project Coordinator -
Grant Meixel (September 2019)

Contract with Designated Agency for School-
based Mental Health Clinician (in process)

LEA Project Coordinator is housed at pilot
school (September 2019)

Build relationships with core team and school
staff. (September 2019 – January 2020)

Project AWARE Activities continued...

Participate in Local Interagency Network Team meetings (September 2019 - present)

Continue to build network of resources for sustainable partnerships (September 2019 – present)

Monitor current caseload of students receiving any mental health services (in process)

Attend Statewide Kickoff event with two other Supervisory Unions (January 14th, 2020)

Plan and carry out OSSU Roll out event and create DCLT (January 30th, 2020)

Identify core team for moving work forward (January 31st, 2020)

Weekly Core Team meetings (February 2020 - end of grant)

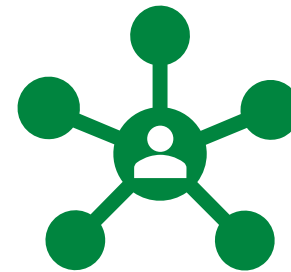


OSSU Rollout event and
formation of District Community
Leadership Team (DCLT)

How will the work get done?



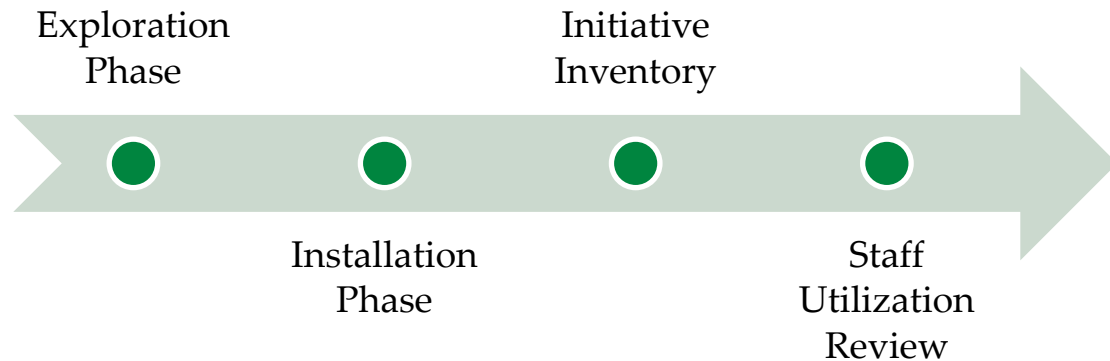
District/Community Leadership
Team oversees the process and
provides a community voice to
decision making



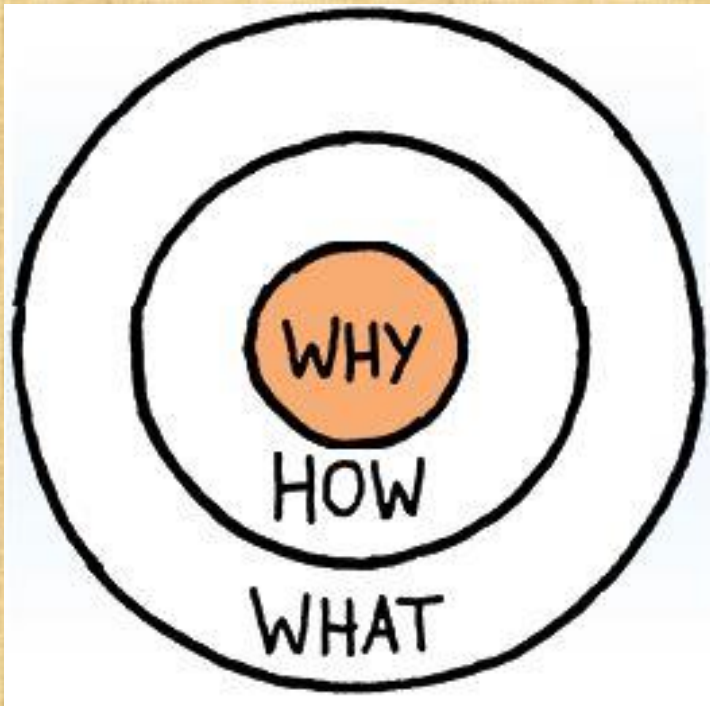
Core Team spearheads the work
in the exploration and installation
phases

Core Team Members

Heather Freeman, OSSU Director of Student Services
Katina Idol, LCMHS School Based Coordinator
Alexis Izzo, OSSU Coordinator of Behavior Services
Grant Meixel, OSSU LEA Community Coordinator
Kym Asam, NFI Regional Manager
Patrick Pennock, Hardwick Elementary Principal



WHAT will be the result?



WHAT = *result*

Goals of the Grant:

- Promote on-going collaboration at the state and local level regarding best practices to increase awareness of mental health issues;
- Enhance wellness and resiliency skills for school age youth; and
- Support system improvements for school based mental health services



An opportunity to test out new approaches
– the way we work together– to address
mental health in schools & communities.

Does it benefit students, families and schools when they...

intentionally embed
mental health into the
school system using a
structured teaming
approach?

receive training &
coaching on child
mental health topics?
(suicide prevention,
trauma-responsive
schools, resilience
development, how to
respond when a
student may be
experiencing a mental
health crisis, etc)

include youth and
family voice in the
planning and
implementation of
mental health activities
in schools?

have access to
screening, brief
intervention, referral
and crisis support in
schools?