Connections for Students: A Program and Clinical Update

What is Connections for Students?

- The Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) and the Ministry of Education initiative
- Strengthening parental involvement models to include in seamless transitions from IBI treatment to full time school
- Draw upon past transition protocols and practices to promote a seamless transition from IBI treatment into school on a full time basis
- Build upon Ministry of Education initiatives to support students (e.g., PPM 140)
- Key is student specific planning and transition teams

Connections for Students Service Timeline

Service Flow

- Initial TPM with Parents
- Ongoing TPM’s until discharge from IBI (classroom and TPAS)
- Ongoing TPM’s after discharge from IBI (classroom)
- Shift to existing school supports

Our Partnerships

Susan Menary
Chief of Autism Services and Programs, Toronto Catholic District School Board

Jan Fukumoto
Central Coordinator Autism Services, Special Education and Support Services, Toronto District School Board

Gerry Bernicky
Director School Support Program and Training & Development Autism Services, Surrey Place Centre

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Goals of Connections for Students

- Seamless transition
- Maintain important skills
- Support the teacher/teaching team
- Support development of IEP SMART goals
- Building relationship between parent and school
- Reducing connections supports

How do we reach those goals together?

- Longstanding relationship
- Collaborative planning
- Development of separate, but joint services
- Relationships we form across our teams and with those our teams work with
- We try to do what makes sense
- And….

We keep the student in the focus!

Service Communication Pathway

Case Examples

Shelley – A.K.
Yael – H.G.
Janet - Z.K.
Highlight of Service Changes Since Inception

- Interdisciplinary process before and after entry to school
- Transition teams AND regular transition planning meetings
- Additional staffing resources to school boards to support transitions
- Involvement of SSP staff beyond capacity building.

Questions?