

Plenary Evaluation Results

Kick-off to 1st ever Children's Mental Health Awareness Day Conference
May 8, 2009



Purpose

The Plenary Evaluation Survey was distributed to participants at the Children's Mental Health Awareness Day Conference. The purpose of the survey was to assess views of stigma associated with mental health disorders. Participants took the survey voluntarily and indicated whether their role was parent, youth, professional or school representative. Results were analyzed according to these roles. Participants also indicated their zip code, age range and which type of agency they represented if applicable. The results of the demographic questions are charted below.

At the Plenary Session schools were invited to attend this session at no cost. Mary McHugh, Director of the Bureau of Strategic Planning, OMH Division of Child & Family Services, and co-presenter Jean Sadowny, Child & Family Field Coordinator (WNY Field Office) presented: *"The Children's Plan: Improving the Social and Emotional Well Being of New York's Children and Their Families"* as developed by all 62-counties in New York State. It was the first time this vision and plan had been presented at a county level to help educate the community.

Participant's Overview Statistics:

There were 73% or 164 registered participants that attended and completed the survey for the Plenary Session at our 1st ever Children's Mental Health Awareness Day Conference on May 8, 2009. Total in attendance were 224 participants.

Conference Attendance	Registered Participants	Row %
<i>Workshop & Luncheon Registration</i>	133	59%
<i>Workshop Only Registration</i>	13	6%
<i>Schools: Attended Plenary Only (59 school reps)</i>	78	35%
Grand Total in Attendance	224	73%

Demographic of participants that completed the survey:

Role	Participants	%
Professional	120	73.2%
Youth	2	1.2%
Parent	13	7.6%
School Rep.	29	17.7%
Age	Participants	%
Under 12	2	1.2%
12 - 17	3	1.8%
18 - 21	1	0.6%
22 - 25	6	3.5%
Over 26	151	88.8%
Agency	Participants	%
Not-for-profit	87	75.7%
For-profit	3	2.6%
Service Provider	25	21.7%

Mental Health Stigma Analysis

The following survey questions are regarding participants' views on stigma associated with mental health disorders.

The largest percentage of parents chose 'Agree Somewhat' (43.5%) with the second largest amount choosing 'Mostly Agree' (30.4%).

- The school representatives rated the question highest overall, with 37.9% choosing 'Agree Very Much' and 41.4% choosing 'Mostly Agree.'
- Professionals rated the question lowest overall, with 30.8% choosing 'Agree Somewhat' and 30.8% choosing 'Mostly Disagree.'

My school or school district is supportive of mental health.					
Role	Agree Very Much	Mostly Agree	Agree Somewhat	Mostly Disagree	Disagree Very Much
Parents n = 13	7.7%	23.1%	30.8%	30.8%	7.7%
Youth n = 2	0%	50.0%	50.0%	0%	0%
Professional n = 115	11.3%	30.4%	43.5%	13.9%	0.9%
School Rep. n = 29	37.9%	41.4%	17.2%	0%	3.4%
Total n = 159	15.7%	32.1%	37.7%	12.6%	1.9%

Professionals were on the low end again, mostly choosing ‘Agree Somewhat’ (38.5%) and ‘Mostly Disagree’ (38.5%).

- The greatest amount of school reps chose ‘Mostly Agree’ (34.5%) and ‘Agree Somewhat’ (37.9%).
- The greatest percentage of parents chose ‘Agree Somewhat’, with notable percentages choosing ‘Mostly Agree’ (28.3%) and ‘Mostly Disagree’ (19.2%).

My community promotes mental health awareness.					
Role	Agree Very Much	Mostly Agree	Agree Somewhat	Mostly Disagree	Disagree Very Much
Parents n = 13	0%	7.7%	38.5%	38.5%	15.4%
Youth n = 2	0%	0%	50.0%	50.0%	0%
Professional n = 120	6.7%	28.3%	41.7%	19.2%	4.2%
School Rep. n = 29	10.3%	34.5%	37.9%	17.2%	0%
Total n = 164	6.7%	27.4%	40.9%	20.7%	4.3%

In general, participants answered mostly ‘Agree Very Much’ and ‘Mostly Agree,’ which is to be expected, although 30.8% of professionals answered ‘Agree Somewhat.’

I am aware of community mental health services available to children and adolescents.					
Role	Agree Very Much	Mostly Agree	Agree Somewhat	Mostly Disagree	Disagree Very Much
Parent n = 13	38.5%	23.1%	30.8%	7.7%	0%
Youth n = 2	50.0%	0%	50.0%	0%	0%
Professional n = 119	41.2%	40.3%	10.9%	5.9%	1.7%
School Rep. n = 29	31.0%	44.8%	17.2%	6.9%	0%
Total n = 163	39.3%	39.3%	14.1%	6.1%	1.2%

School representatives answered ‘Mostly Agree’ in the greatest numbers (63%).

- Professionals largely answered ‘Agree Very Much’ (46.2%).
- Parents were split between ‘Agree Very Much’ (35.3%) and ‘Mostly Agree’ (37.9%).

I am comfortable sharing a mental health problem with my family or a peer.					
Role	Agree Very Much	Mostly Agree	Agree Somewhat	Mostly Disagree	Disagree Very Much
Parent n = 13	46.2%	23.1%	23.1%	7.7%	0%
Youth n = 2	50.0%	0%	50.0%	0%	0%
Professional n = 116	35.3%	37.9%	16.4%	9.5%	0.9%
School Rep. n = 27	18.5%	63.0%	14.8%	3.7%	0%
Total n = 158	33.5%	40.5%	17.1%	8.2%	0.6%

The fifth question asked whether there is a stigma associated with mental health problems.

- Professionals chose ‘Mostly Agree’ (40.8%) and ‘Agree Somewhat’ (35%).
- School Representatives were more positive, largely choosing ‘Agree Somewhat’ (55.2%).
- Parents were split between ‘Agree Very Much’ (30.8%), ‘Mostly Agree’ (38.5%) and ‘Agree Somewhat’ (30.8%).

In my community, there is a stigma for those experiencing mental health problems.					
Role	Agree Very Much	Mostly Agree	Agree Somewhat	Mostly Disagree	Disagree Very Much
Parent n = 13	30.8%	38.5%	30.8%	0%	0%
Youth n = 2	50%	0%	50%	0%	0%
Professional n = 120	20.8%	40.8%	35%	3.3%	3.4%
School Rep. n = 29	10.3%	17.2%	55.2%	13.8%	0%
Total n = 164	20.1%	36.0%	38.4%	4.9%	0.6%

The last question was regarding whether *events* such as the Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day Conference help to *decrease stigma*.

- Results were positive, with school representatives, parents and professionals choosing ‘Mostly Agree’ in the largest numbers.

I feel that events like today help decrease stigma.					
Role	Agree Very Much	Mostly Agree	Agree Somewhat	Mostly Disagree	Disagree Very Much
Parents n = 13	38.5%	38.5%	23.1%	0%	0%
Youth n = 2	50.0%	50.0%	0%	0%	0%
Professional n = 119	31.9%	35.3%	26.9%	4.2%	1.7%
School Rep. n = 29	17.2%	41.4%	31.0%	10.3%	0%
Total n = 163	30.1%	36.8%	27.0%	4.9%	1.2%

