



From the perspective of social welfare - Interprofessional Collaboration

Dr Amy Po-ying HO
The Hong Kong Polytechnic
University
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Addressing the multi-faced needs of children and adolescents through Partnership and Collaboration

- ❖ We care for the holistic health and well-being of children and adolescents
- ❖ Many physical, psycho-social and behavioural problems (e.g. drug abuse, bullying, teenage pregnancy, suicide) have causes rooted in the changing social values, family structure and social environment
- ❖ Stakeholders – children & adolescents, families, school, local community, NGOs, government departments
- ❖ Professionals –
Health care professionals;
Educators
Social worker
Psychologist
Nutritionist

Learning from local experience

- ❖ “One school, one social worker”
- ❖ School nurses in special schools
- ❖ “Healthy School Program” in Tsing Yi

=> Participatory, collaborative and coordinated approach

School social work in Hong Kong

- ❖ “One School, One Social Worker”
 - pilot scheme launched in the 1971
 - became a government subsidized service since 1977
 - achieve the ratio of one school one social worker since 2000

- ❖ Objectives


“to identify and help pupils whose academic, social and emotional development is in jeopardy for whatever reasons, to assist pupils to make the maximum use of their educational opportunities, to develop their potentials to the fullest possible extent, and to prepare them for responsible adult life” (Social Welfare Department, 1984)

- ❖ Major Roles - Counselor
 - Coordinator
 - Community and social educator



A Model for Collaboration (Bronstein, 2003)

Social workers and other professionals

1. Interdependence
 2. Newly created professional activities
 3. Flexibility
 4. Collective Ownership of goals
 5. Reflection on process
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Key Ingredients for effective Inter-professional collaboration

- ❖ Shared vision and goals
- ❖ Mutual respect and trust
- ❖ Collaborative Leadership
- ❖ Role differentiation
- ❖ Communication

=> Participatory, collaborative and coordinated approach to shared decision-making

[References: Bronstein, 2003; CIHC National Interprofessional Competence Framework, 2010, Seaburn et al, 1996)

The road ahead

- ❖ Demonstrate the effectiveness of school health programs through longitudinal research
- ❖ Capacity building & Inter-professional education – on knowledge, skills, attitudes & values of Inter-professional collaboration
- ❖ Policy advocacy – “One School, One Nurse”; school-based health promotion based on multi-disciplinary and inter-professional collaborations should be advocated and subsidized by the government