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Coalition Hosts 3rd Annual Growing School Mental Health Summit

On June 22, 2018 more than 400 educators, school administrators and mental health professionals will gather in Madison at the Madison Marriott Hotel for the [3rd Annual Growing School Mental Health Summit](#).

The Summit will feature national expert Dr. Elizabeth Connors, Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland, School of Medicine and a faculty member at the National Center for School Mental Health. Dr. Connors will present the keynote address entitled “Work Smarter Not Harder: Aligning Efforts and Advancing School Mental Health Quality.”

Participants will attend a variety of breakout sessions featuring topics including: needs assessment, universal mental health screening, evidence-based services and supports, trauma-informed schools, sustainable funding and more.

The Coalition for Expanding School-Based Mental Health in Wisconsin is a statewide coalition whose mission is to advance and support expanded, comprehensive and integrated mental health services within the school setting through school, home, and community partnerships. The 2017-19 Wisconsin Biennial Budget featured increased grant funding and Medicaid funding for school mental health services. Governor Walker’s budget included new dollars to support schools and then key legislative champions built on the Governor’s proposals to secure increased investments.

Representative Mike Rohrkaste (R-Neenah) and Senator Alberta Darling (R-River Hills) will be recognized at the Summit for their legislative leadership to generate innovative funding solutions to improve student access to mental health services.

“Attendance at the Summit has grown each year beyond our wildest expectations and reflects the strong need for school-based mental health services that are felt by students and teachers across the state,” noted Chris Crowe, Coalition chair and Director/Principal of North Star Academy in Cameron.

“School-based mental health has proven to be a successful strategy for serving our students and stabilizing them for optimum engagement in learning. All students and staff benefit from an improved school climate that is trauma-sensitive, committed to the reduction of stigma and maximizing opportunities for teaching and learning.”

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