



WISCONSIN SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH NAVIGATOR COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

The *Coalition for Expanding School-Based Mental Health in Wisconsin* in collaboration with the *Department of Public Instruction* is forming a **new Community of Practice to support professionals who function as school mental health navigators within their school communities**. The “mental health navigator” role is still an emerging position, but has become a critical component of successful school-based mental health initiatives across the state.

Am I a school mental health navigator?

You may have this role in your school community without carrying the title, but essentially school mental health navigators help students and families connect to resources and facilitate communication between teachers, staff, families and providers. They know the local community resources and many may have lived experience that helps them quickly engage with families and align as a supportive resource. In some schools this position assists with scheduling appointments, connecting with families in their home and more.

The Coalition is hosting the SMH Navigator Community of Practice through in-person and online meetings in 2020. The gatherings provide an opportunity for navigators to connect on best practices, challenges, and share resources. In addition, the in-person gatherings feature free Motivational Interviewing training as a skill booster. Whether you are called a navigator or have taken on the tasks without the title, we want to learn from you!

Please email info@schoolmentalhealthwisconsin.org to get connected to this group.

Thank you for your interest!

DATES FOR SMH Navigator Community of Practice 2020

- Thurs, Jan 16 – online meeting (12:00 pm – 1:00 pm)
- Thurs, Feb 20 – **Southeastern region gathering** (9am-3pm)
Location: SaintA, 8901 W. Capitol Dr., Milwaukee, WI 53222 (registration required)
- Wed, Mar 11 – online meeting (12:00 pm – 1:00 pm)
- Thurs, Apr 16 – **Northern region gathering** (9am-2pm)
Location: Portage County Public Library, 1001 Main St., Stevens Point, WI 54481 (registration required)
- Wed, May 20 – online meeting (12:00 pm – 1:00 pm)
- Wed, Jun 17 – breakout session/networking at Summit

Please forward any questions or suggestions to Rachel Kruse at rkruse@wafca.org. We hope this group is beneficial to you and provides a common place to network and learn from other school mental health navigators.