

Walker Partnerships Welcomes James Shillinglaw To oversee expansion in southeast region of state

We are extremely pleased to announce the hiring of James Shillinglaw as the Walker Partnerships Associate Manager for the Southeast Region. Jim has made a significant contribution to the education of children with special needs over his career and his hiring further solidifies the commitment of Walker Partnerships to provide comprehensive assistance to school systems in southeastern Massachusetts.

In his role as administrative representative, Jim will assist special education administrators with their efforts to build wraparound, school-based programs and services. He will also provide evaluation and consultation to strengthen existing special education programs, enabling them to better maintain more students within their local systems.

Jim brings 36 years of expertise and experience to Walker Partnerships. Prior to his retirement in June 2006, he was the former Director of Pupil Personnel Services for the Hanover and Barnstable Public Schools and Director of Special Education for Provincetown/Truro Public Schools. He is eager to meet with representatives from southeast-area school systems and he is available for a complementary consultation. We are confident that his efforts will continue to broaden the influence of Walker Partnerships by assisting public school systems, educational collaboratives, charter schools and community-based systems of care in building their capacity to serve students with social, emotional, and behavioral needs.



Let Us Help You Stretch Your Professional Development Budget

Many school systems have been adversely affected this year by the reduction in the DESE 274-grant funds for professional development. Walker Partnerships will effectively work with you to maximize the limited funds you have for providing professional development to your staff. We can customize one or more training sessions to meet your very specific needs, with a focus on the topics that will adequately prepare your staff to effectively serve the SED student population.

We have developed a comprehensive six-part training session aimed specifically at building the skills of paraprofessionals who are responsible for assisting students with a SED diagnosis. This training is extremely beneficial to a group of staff members who often have limited training and experience in working with these very challenging students. A list of professional development topics currently offered by Walker Partnerships is available at www.walkerschool.org. To learn more about Walker Partnerships professional development training services, please contact Jim Earley at 781-292-2178 or jearley@walkerschool.org.

Psychiatric Consultation Services Solving the diagnostic puzzle in complex cases



Walker Partnerships offers expert psychiatric consultation to providers of services to SED students. Dr. Russell Livingston and Dr. Danielle Murstein are available for a school-based consultation. Ongoing scheduled consultations with building-based teams and staff groups can greatly reduce the potential difficulties that can occur with complex cases.

In addition, professional development is available through the psychiatrists affiliated with Walker Partnerships. This training can greatly increase your staff's understanding of the effects of psychotropic medications on students, the various mental health diagnoses and their impact on academic and behavioral outcomes, the management of current psychiatric disorders in school-age children, and strategies for supporting students and families in crisis.

For more information about psychiatric consultation services from Walker Partnerships, contact Jim Earley at 781-292-2178 or jearley@walkerschool.org.

For information on Walker Partnerships services and special education program development for your school system, please contact:

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Visit www.walkerschool.org
Walker program quickfind:
Walker Partnerships

N•E•W Academy Announces Summer Program



After a very successful first year, the N•E•W Academy has announced that it will be establishing a summer component for 2009. A collaboration of the Newton Community Service Center, EDCO and LABBB Collaboratives, and Walker Partnerships, the NEW Academy offers a 90-day stabilization program that features a strong academic and therapeutic case management approach.

Many administrators expressed strong interest in a summer program to accommodate students with referrals made at the end of the school year, as well as those students needing an extended year program.



Plans for the expanded summer program are still in the development stage, but enrolled students will continue to receive academic and therapeutic support and recreational activities through the summer programming from the Newton Community Service Center. Currently, there are a few openings for 90-day placements. For more information about the N•E•W Academy, please contact Jennifer MacIver at 617-244-1404 (x371) or jmaciver@ncscweb.org.

Case Assessment and Case Consultation: Two more ways Walker Partnerships can help strengthen your school-based team

This year Walker Partnerships has seen a steady increase in requests from school systems and community-based care providers to conduct case assessment and case consultation on complex cases. If your school-based team begins to experience difficulty with a case, we can provide problem-solving strategies and suggestions for supporting your staff, along with parents, as we collaboratively develop a plan to effectively manage the case at the building level.

The case assessment is a 15-hour process that includes a review of relevant records, interviews with staff, parents and collaterals, an observation of the student, and a brief summary report with a set of recommendations. It is designed to enable school-based staff to stabilize the case, provide immediate support to parents, and develop a plan of action that the school-based team can implement immediately.

To assist with successful implementation of recommendations, Walker Partnerships also offers case consultation services. Our staff will work with your school-based team, along with parents, for a limited time or at critical transitions over the course of the school year. While it is typically purchased by the hour, some schools systems have found it effective to purchase case consultation services for eight to ten weeks at a time, and some others have utilized case management services for the balance of the school year to deal with difficult cases.

Whether your team needs case assessment or case consultation, Walker Partnerships can provide outcome-focused assistance to your school-based team to successfully maintain a troubled student within his or her own school.



Walker Partnerships Can Coordinate Your Evaluations and Program Reviews

Walker Partnerships senior staff consultants and staff have a wide variety of expertise that can greatly assist your school system with evaluations and review preparation. We can assist your with:

Preparation for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Coordinated Program Review. Our staff can help with the overall organization of documentation material and student folder preparation, and can greatly ease the work load for your support staff prior to the review.

Annual review of federally funded special education grants and Title I grants. If you have missed a year or two in conducting these reviews Walker Partnerships can complete this activity in a timely manner and have a report ready for the Coordinated Program Review.

Special education program reviews and evaluations. During the past four years, Walker Partnerships has conducted more than 30 program reviews and evaluations of building-based special education programming at the elementary, middle, and high school level. We can carefully assess your current program or service and create a set of recommendations that will enable you to effectively serve more troubled students within your school system.

To find out more about how we can assist you with evaluations and program reviews, contact Jim Earley at 781-292-2178 or jearley@walkerschool.org

Walker Partnerships Welcomes Duxbury Public Schools with New Collaboration

We are proud to welcome new client Duxbury Public Schools into the Walker Partnerships community. Summer program development and all-school staff training led by Walker Partnerships earlier this year has led to the design and implementation of two elementary school-level therapeutic inclusion support classes. This successful collaboration has enabled the Duxbury school system to maintain more students in the district, as well as enhance their capacity for effectively serving students with special social, emotional, and behavioral needs.

