

## **UAA Center for Human Development**

### **PBS Pilot Project**

#### **Status Report for the BTKH Education Sub Committee**

**December 2008**

**Overview:** The PBS Pilot Project is an effort to promote effective school-provider collaboration around children with difficult behaviors. It is one part of the larger PBS Initiative. The PBS Initiative is a statewide, broad-based effort to create environments that engage communities in prevention and intervention strategies for at-risk youth and those with challenging behaviors. Efforts promote:

- environments that are structured and expectations that are clearly defined in an effort to promote positive social and emotional development of all children (universal PBS),
- targeted interventions for children and youth in need of additional supports (secondary PBS),
- person centered positive behavior support and intervention plans driven by functional behavior analysis for youth who require highly structured individualized (tertiary) interventions

To help achieve that goal, the PBS Pilot Project will create tools and resources for communities to build a provider network that can effectively partner with schools and families to provide both secondary and tertiary levels of PBS. The pilot will be operational in four communities with provider teams participating in a series of “readiness” activities. Those activities include:

- formation of agency PBS Leadership Teams;
- participation in three training events followed by on-site technical assistance and consultation sessions;
- agency self-assessment for PBS readiness;
- community assessments done in conjunction with school and community members;
- development of a one-year action plan to build capacity for secondary and tertiary PBS;
- For evaluation purposes, a series of key informant interviews and focus groups will be conducted to assess community readiness and support for broader PBS efforts.

The Pilot Project is a collaborative effort between the UAA Center for Human Development, the Special Education Service Agency, and the Stone Soup Group. The data gathered and tools developed will be used to inform the larger PBS Initiative.

#### **Current Status**

**Coordination & Structure:** The PBS Pilot Project Team was formed with representatives from SESA, Stone Soup Group, and CHD. A contractual relationship exists between CHD and each of the other two partners ensuring that on-the-ground support for training activities occurs in a systematic consistent manner. The team developed a logic model (attached) to guide project activities and drive project evaluation. The team meets bi-weekly on Mondays from 2-4pm to address coordination issues. A PBS Coordinator, Chris Sturm, with .25FTE assigned to the Pilot Project has been hired. Chris’ background

includes a graduate degree in early childhood education, experience in both school and community settings, as well as coordination of statewide systems change efforts.

**Project Evaluation/Baseline Data:** The CHD Evaluation Team has been working with the developers of the “Community Supports for Wraparound Inventory” to adapt it for use in assessing community support for integrated PBS. This tool assesses community support across the following themes:

- Community Partnership—Collective community ownership of and responsibility for PBS is built through collaborations among key stakeholder groups.
- Collaborative Action—Stakeholders involved in the PBS effort take concrete steps to translate the underlying philosophy into concrete policies, practices, and achievements.
- Fiscal Policies and Sustainability—The community has developed fiscal strategies to meet the needs of children/families utilizing PBS and methods to collect and use data on expenditures for implementing PBS services.
- Access to Needed Supports & Services—The community has developed mechanisms for ensuring access to PBS services and supports that PBS teams need to fully implement their plans.
- Human Resource Development & Support—The policy and funding context supports school staff and partner agency staff to work in a manner that allows full implementation of PBS.
- Accountability—The community has implemented mechanisms to monitor PBS fidelity, service quality, outcomes, and to assess the quality and development of the overall PBS effort.

The 40+ item survey will be distributed to key informants (local community leaders, school administrators, law enforcement, family and/or youth support organizations, etc.) in each community to gather baseline data. Concurrently, focus groups will be offered in each of the four communities targeting families, school personnel, and service providers. The focus group questions will follow the same themes as the key informant surveys. Both data collection activities will be completed by January 31, 2009.

**Training:** The provider training outline has been developed. The training plan includes three face-to-face training opportunities followed by on-site training and data gathering activities. The on-site activities will be supported by representatives from Stone Soup Group and SESA. The tentative dates for training are February 19, April 21-22, and May 19<sup>th</sup>. Community teams will be consulted before training dates are finalized. The final draft curriculum, targeted for December 31, 2008, will be shared with Dr. Rachel Freeman, the project’s technical assistance advisor, for final review.

**Provider Recruitment:** A contract template (attached) has been developed to give potential providers a solid understanding of the project. Several marketing tools, including a general fact sheet about Alaska’s PBS efforts, a project overview, and two generic PowerPoint presentations have been developed to assist in public education and recruitment efforts. Each community has continued to express interest. In Dillingham both school and community personnel are enthusiastic about taking advantage of opportunities presented by the project. In Sitka, three providers have an existing long-standing relationship and have agreed to re-distribute the mini grant funds, provided through Medicaid-funded

PBS activities, so that all three can participate in the project. The Juneau DD provider has also enthusiastically embraced the project, while the behavioral health provider is moving forward cautiously. Ketchikan has a lot going on with school PBS. Jennifer McCarthy is the lead and involved in connecting the school district with Gateway Community Mental Health and Community Connections DD Provider.

## **The Positive Behavior Supports Pilot Project: An Overview**

*(November 2008)*

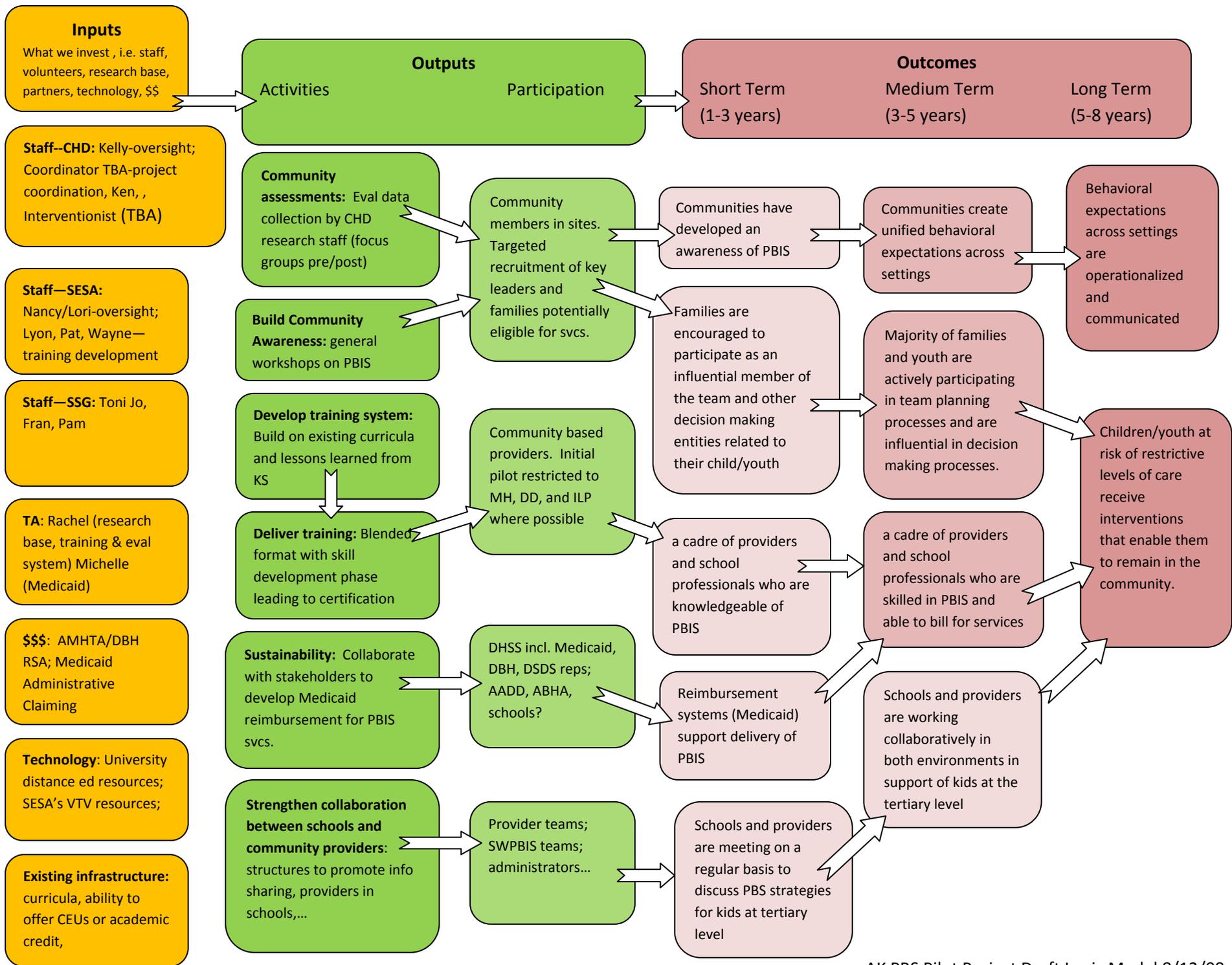
The PBS Pilot Project is one part of the larger PBS Initiative. The PBS Initiative is a statewide, broad-based effort to create environments that engage communities in prevention and intervention strategies for at-risk youth and those with challenging behaviors. Efforts promote:

- environments in which behavior expectations are clear (universal PBS),
- targeted interventions for children and youth in need of additional supports (secondary PBS),
- full blown positive behavior intervention and support plans for individual youth with serious behavior difficulties (tertiary).

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AK PBS Pilot Project Draft Logic Model 8/12/08

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
University of Alaska Center for Human Development  
AND  
*(insert agency name here)*  
For the Positive Behavior Supports Pilot Project**

**1. PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is to establish a mutual framework governing the respective organizational relationships, responsibilities, and activities between the University of Alaska Center for Human Development (CHD) and *Insert agency here*. This collaborative agreement will support the goals and efforts of the Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) Pilot Project.

**2. BACKGROUND:** The Alaska Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) Initiative is a statewide, broad-based effort to create environments that engage communities in prevention and intervention strategies for at-risk youth and those with challenging behaviors. Efforts promote:

- environments in which expectations are clear (universal PBS),
- targeted interventions for children and youth in need of additional supports (secondary PBS),
- full blown positive behavior intervention and support plans for individual youth with serious behavior difficulties (tertiary).

The Pilot Project is an effort to create tools and resources for communities to build a provider network that can effectively partner with schools and families to provide both secondary and tertiary levels of PBS. The pilot will be operational in four communities with provider teams participating in a series of “readiness” activities. The tools created through Pilot Project efforts will be expanded and integrated into the wider Statewide Initiative.

**3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES:** The following paragraphs identify responsibilities of the organizations involved:

A. *(Insert provider name)* responsibilities:

- (1) Identify a team of participants who will become the organization’s PBS Leadership Team. The team should consist of 3-5 individuals who have one or more of the following responsibilities: decision-making, training, clinical oversight, direct service to clients.
- (2) Provide release time for *(agency name)*’s PBS Leadership Team to participate in training, technical assistance and consultation sessions, self-assessment, and community assessment activities. Training will include three face-to-face training opportunities in Anchorage. Those training dates are: **February 20, April 21-22, and May 19, 2009.**
- (3) Participate in the February 19, 2009 Statewide PBS Initiative Meeting.
- (4) Provide access for the *(agency name)* PBS Leadership Team to necessary organizational records and data sources to be used in an organizational self-assessment.

- (5) Collaborate with school and community members to conduct a comprehensive community assessment for use in developing strategies to support community-wide PBS.
- (6) Develop one-year action plan that addresses how to build capacity for secondary and tertiary PBS.

B. CHD responsibilities:

- (1) Provide mini-grant to (agency name). The mini-grant is intended to offset the cost of staff participating in training, assessment, and planning activities.
- (2) Fund and arrange travel for (agency name) staff to participate in the three training events and the Feb. 19 Statewide PBS Initiative Meeting.
- (3) Provide training resources necessary for teams to successfully participate.
- (4) Coordinate access to on-site technical assistance and consultation for teams to successfully complete Pilot Project training requirements.

**Agreement:**

By signing the Short Form Contract both parties agree to the terms as outlined in this Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Any changes must be made in writing to be valid.

It is understood the Contract, including this MOA, is not official and no payment can be made until the contractor returns the required documents with signature.

# Alaska Positive Behavior Supports Initiative

## Quick Facts About Alaska's PBS Initiative

(December 2008)

**Overview**--The Alaska Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) Initiative is a statewide, broad-based effort to create environments that engage communities in prevention and intervention strategies for at-risk youth and those with challenging behaviors. Efforts promote:

- environments that are structured and expectations that are clearly defined in an effort to promote positive social and emotional development of all children (universal PBS),
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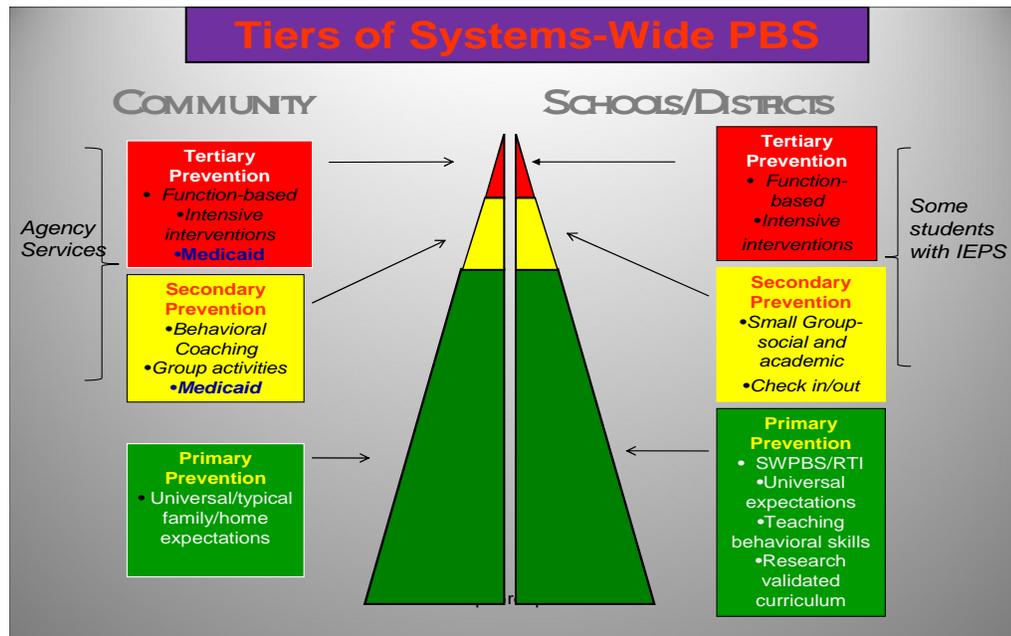


Figure 1: Levels of PBS Interventions

### Efforts to Build Systems-Wide PBS

Systems-wide PBS is often thought of in specific contexts. The U.S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) offers assistance to schools, but support for at-risk youth and children with difficult behaviors works best with thoughtful strategies that span home, school, and community environments.

School-Wide PBS: Alaska, as well as other states, has been supporting school-wide PBS. The OSEP Technical Assistance Center on PBS has created a framework, tools, and resources for individual schools and school systems to systematically build structures and support for School wide PBS. Alaska has chosen to marry PBS to its "Response to Instruction" Initiative, recognizing the key role behavior plays in academic success.

PBS Pilot Project: The Pilot Project is an effort to create tools and resources for communities to build a provider network that can effectively partner with schools and families to provide universal, secondary, and tertiary levels of PBS throughout the community. The pilot will be operational in four communities

## Alaska Positive Behavior Supports Initiative

with provider teams participating in a series of “readiness” activities. The tools created through Pilot Project efforts will be expanded and integrated into the wider Statewide Initiative.

*Project CIRCLE Head Start PBS Grant:* The Special Education Service Agency (SESA) was awarded 3-year Federal grant to build program-wide PBS capacity in Head Start programs across the state. The grant aims to create innovative, responsive, and consistent learning environments (CIRCLE) in Head Start programs throughout the state.

*Early Childhood PBS:* Alaska’s network of early intervention and early childhood providers have been developing an approach to early childhood PBS to be applied in ECE programs. The focus of those efforts will be to promote positive social-emotional outcomes for young children.

**Integrating School and Community-based PBS—** A group of committed professionals that includes educators, early childhood interventionists, community-based providers, PBS professionals, and parent advocates began meeting in Fall 2007 with the deliberate plan to coordinate efforts statewide for PBS development. Three nested groups exist to coordinate those efforts. For more information about meeting schedules and activities please see the Initiative website, <http://www.alaskachd.org/workforce/pbs/index.html> .

*PBS Pilot Project Team:* This group consists of key personnel from the UAA Center for Human Development, Special Education Service Agency, and Stone Soup Group. These organizations are partnering to develop and implement the Pilot Project activities.

*PBS Leadership Team:* This group consists of the Pilot Project Team plus decision makers from the Division of Behavioral Health, Senior & Disability Services, Education & Early Development, Medicaid, Infant Learning Programs, and other key state representatives.

*PBS Stakeholder Group:* Building from the Leadership Team, this group also includes providers, youth and family advocates, and others who have an interest the systematic development of universal, secondary, and tertiary PBS.

