August 2006

The roles of school psychologists working within a pediatric setting.

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The roles of school psychologists working within a pediatric setting.

BACKGROUND IN PEDIATRIC SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

With an increasing number of children presenting with health conditions, pediatric care has expanded from solely a medical definition to a more comprehensive service delivery approach that includes psychology and education (Fritz, 1996).

An interdisciplinary, inter-systemic approach is needed to meet the needs of children across systems (Novak, Slajsz, & Daub, 2003).

School psychologists are uniquely qualified to facilitate collaboration between settings and systems due to their expertise in consultation and intervention.

Roles in pediatric school psychology include advocating for children’s educational and social needs, coordinating with care providers, families, and educators; and facilitating collaboration among these individuals (Novak & Harvir, 1999).

Conjoint behavioral consultation (CBC) is an evidenced-based practice that pairs a pediatrician with a mental health provider in a collaborative practice model, enhancing the delivery of care for children with emotional, behavioral, and developmental concerns (Stein, Aseltine, & Green, 2017).

Analysis:

• The Roles of School Psychologists Working Within a Pediatric Setting


Cynthia R. Ellis, M.D. – University of Nebraska-Medical Center

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Research Question 1: Cognitive Demographic Information

62% male

85% Caucasian

Mean age = 9.9 (SD = 3.1; range = 5-16)

Percentage of Clients with Various Diagnoses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>% of Clients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADHD</td>
<td>72.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ODD</td>
<td>14.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MH</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUT</td>
<td>28.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>22.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Referral concerns were addressed by CBC and non-CBC cases.

Referral Concerns Associated with CBC Service Delivery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Referral Concern</th>
<th>% of CBC Cases</th>
<th>% of Non-CBC Cases</th>
<th>Unadjusted Odds Ratio</th>
<th>Adjusted Odds Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>96.2</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Present</td>
<td>48.1</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>Referent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present</td>
<td>51.9</td>
<td>87.5</td>
<td>Referent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Present</td>
<td>55.8</td>
<td>31.3</td>
<td>Referent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present</td>
<td>44.2</td>
<td>68.8</td>
<td>4.4*</td>
<td>2.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Present</td>
<td>82.7</td>
<td>81.3</td>
<td>Referent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>0.82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p < .05

The majority of cases were referred due to school concerns followed by home and communication concerns. A limited number involved medical concerns.

Research Question 2: Referral Concerns

The high percentage of cases for which school concerns were prevalent limited the variance related to this factor in our analyses. Thus, it was dropped from all further and logistic regression analyses.

The odds ratio for school concerns was highly significant, and the referral concern is present, as compared to when not present, without adjusting for the effect of other concerns. However, the odds ratio presents conditional odds ratios. Results were calculated as follows:

1. Unadjusted odds ratio is the ratio of odds of receiving CBC services when a particular referral concern is present, as compared to when not present, without adjusting for the effect of other concerns. A significant unadjusted odds ratio suggests a strong association between the referral concern and receiving CBC services. However, this association may be driven by other factors not included in the model.

2. Adjusted odds ratio is the relative odds of receiving CBC services when a particular referral concern is present, as compared to when not present, after the other concerns are accounted for. A significant adjusted odds ratio suggests that the referral concern remains associated with receiving CBC services even after adjusting for the effect of other concerns.