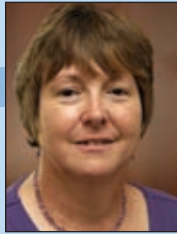


mental health
screening team

Who we are:

Bonnie DeLong, M.A.

Licensed
Psychologist



BCIU Head Start



Crystal Corcoran

M.H.S.,
Human Services
Mental Health Specialist

Ann Heiser

B.S.
Elementary
and Special
Education



Disability Specialist



Mission:

To provide a timely and systematic direction to individualization. A culturally sensitive, multidisciplinary team approach that uses multiple sources of information, from parents and experts that captures a valid “picture” of the student.



BCIU Head Start

A program of the Berks County Intermediate Unit
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Purposes:

Services:

Goal:

Head Start has always recognized that ensuring the healthy development of children includes attention to mental health. As with physical health, Head Start's primary strategy is to prevent problems by reducing risks and encouraging healthy habits. And when mental health services are needed, Head Start helps children and their families receive them. The Federal Guidelines core principles regarding mental health include:

1. Assist all children in their emotional, cognitive, and social development toward the goal of social competence;
2. Provide necessary mental health services to children with special needs;
3. Inform staff and parents of the need for an environment that is supportive and responsive to the developmental needs of the child; and
4. Coordinate community services to meet the mental health needs of children and their families.

What happens at a mental health screening?

In a classroom setting, a simple checklist is completed by the teacher and parent. The group dynamic is observed by a psychologist. Also, with parental permission, individual students can be evaluated by consultants.

To maximize student potential

Ensure student's success with weekly multidisciplinary team meetings

Help parents navigate special needs system

Provide support to families and educators

Make recommendations for individualized services

Monitor and assess student progress

Connect families with outside agencies

Help families and Head Start work together

We provide the following services free of charge:

- Student screening
- Whole classroom screening
- Individual evaluations and observations
- Ongoing tracking of services
- Classroom observation
- Bi-weekly phone consultations
- Weekly case review
- Referrals



“This year's class was challenging due to the behavior of several students. The educational and mental health staff of the BCIU Head Start was always available with helpful suggestions. Observations by a staff psychologist were arranged, as were parent conferences to assist the parents in obtaining needed services for these children. It was a great reminder of how important the Head Start Program is to Berks County.”

Linda Bossler, teacher, Union Community Bldg.

“Met my child's disability needs without discrimination or judgement.”

Robin Leon,
parent guardian



“We were at somewhat of a loss when it came to my son. Respect and obedience were not the issue, but how to get him to settle so he could hear us had us stumped. The mental health professionals at Head Start were able to get my son a proper evaluation. They changed us from parents in survival mode to a life of enjoyment with our kids.”

Tabitha Lee Dahlinger, parent