

**MAKING AN IMPACT**  
A Newsletter for AISD's IMPACT Teams  
August 2001

Welcome to the 1<sup>st</sup> issue of MAKING AN IMPACT! Our goal is to highlight some of the great things that IMPACT teams are doing across the district, maintain the momentum, share ideas, and keep you updated of trainings, new resources and other developments pertinent to your IMPACT team. **Please submit suggestions and ideas for upcoming issues to Laura Payne at 414-0178, [lpayne@austin.isd.tenet.edu](mailto:lpayne@austin.isd.tenet.edu).**

**A word from Linelle Clark,  
AISD's Dropout Prevention/ Reduction Coordinator**

Let me first, extend my appreciation and thanks for all that you do to support children. Through your collective efforts and hard work you have "made a positive difference" in the lives of children who may have otherwise fallen through the cracks. Again, thank you, I look forward to working with you during the next school year, and sharing ideas on how we can positively Impact even more young people.

**What are IMPACT Teams, anyway?**

One of the recommendations of the Dropout Task Force, IMPACT teams are designed to ensure that no student falls through the cracks. The Task Force's vision for the IMPACT teams is that each campus within AISD have a functioning team of interdisciplinary professionals that meets regularly to address the needs of individuals and groups of students who may be at risk of dropping out of school.

As a result of this initiative, campuses across the district are working to establish IMPACT teams and fine tune problem solving teams that were already in existence. Naturally, each campus has different needs, and the IMPACT teams vary slightly from campus to campus, reflecting those differences.

One benefit to the schools and the community is becoming apparent. Community agencies that are working with families now have a central place to refer students that they are concerned about. In addition, community partners who want to support the schools' efforts have a centralized way to connect with identified needs of a particular campus and how they may be able to help.

**STEPS TO SUCCESS**

SCHEDULING: How can we possibly schedule these IMPACT meetings??  
How these three teams manage to survive and thrive...

**Williams Elementary**

At Williams Elementary, the Assistant Principal is the primary chairperson but the principal and counselor each chair one meeting per month. The team also includes one Special Education teacher, and at least one primary and intermediate teacher. Each teacher serves on the team for at least a month therefore teams members rotate from month to month. At the beginning of the year, all teachers sign up for their month-long commitment to the IMPACT team.

The team meets on Wednesdays from 3:00 to 4:30, typically discussing 5 referrals during that time period. The presenting teacher has a checklist of items to bring to the meeting, such as the cumulative folder, work samples, and report card. This seems to keep the discussion focused and allows the team to make the best use of limited time.

- Contact Monica Marin at 414-2525 for further information.

### **Small Middle School**

The Clint Small IMPACT Team meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday. This schedule has been established in order to avoid conflict with other school committees that are scheduled to meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays. This scheduling component is established at the beginning of the year and is posted on the Master Calendar for the year. Scheduling the IMPACT committee to avoid conflicts is critical, as the IMPACT members are probably on other leadership committees in the school. Committee members include: A teacher from each team of each grade level, a teacher from each of department of electives, the school nurse, the Visiting Teacher, all school counselors, at least one administrator (the chair of the committee).

- Contact Russell Lyday at 841-6711 for more information.

### **Community Resource Database Available Online!**

Last fall in the IMPACT trainings, many campuses voiced a need for additional resources, including information on community resources. In response to this concern, AISD has joined forces with United Way Capital Area's First Call for Help online database. The result is an online database of community resources available to all campus IMPACT teams online! If you haven't had a chance yet, take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the database and what it has to offer. The website is [www.uway-austin.org](http://www.uway-austin.org) and you can access the online database by clicking on the icon up top that says First Call for Help online. It takes a while to become familiar with the database and the easiest way to perform searches, so below you will find a few tips.

- When searching by geographical area, it seems to work best if you start with Travis County and then narrow your search, as needed.
- If you're looking for a particular program, search under program "name contains" but try an agency "name contains" search also
- If you are getting frustrated with the database, you can call 324-1899 and have a search specialist assist you.
- If you would like to schedule a hands-on training on the database, contact Laura Payne at 414-0178.

Go to [www.uway-austin.org](http://www.uway-austin.org) and  
click on First Call for Help Online  
or call 324-1899

One area that we are still working on is improvement of the keyword searches. If you have input that you would like to share, please contact Laura Payne at 414-0178 or through Lotus Notes at [lpayne@austin.isd.tenet.edu](mailto:lpayne@austin.isd.tenet.edu).

## Upcoming Trainings and Announcements

### General IMPACT Training:

Coordinators, please plan to attend with as many team members as possible.

- October 17 or 18 (Choose either date)Elementary: 8 am to 9:30 am, Secondary: 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
- February 14 or 15 (Choose either date)Elementary: 8 am to 9:30 am, Secondary: 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

All meetings will be held at CAC Board Auditorium.

In addition, Dr. Linda Metcalf is providing a series of training sessions on *Brief Solution Focused strategies for schools* for all IMPACT team members (Assistant Principals, Counselors, Visiting Teachers, Nurses, Parent Training Specialist, teachers, and others.) **Mark your calendars!!**

### Dates of Training:

Wednesday, September 12  
8-12 or 1-4 (choose either the morning or afternoon session)  
Location: Reagan HS Auditorium, 7104 Berkman Drive

Wednesday, November 14\*  
8-12 or 1-4 (choose either the morning or afternoon session)  
Location: To be announced

\* The November training will build on the information of the September training.