



# Illinois Coalition for School Health Centers

*A project of the Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition*

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## Mental Health Committee January 10, 2003 Minutes

### c. Teen Screen (Leslie McGuire)

- i. Leslie McGuire, Teen Screen Director from Columbia University, introduced the Teen Screen Program. It identifies kids that are at risk for suicide or suffering from mental illness. It is in place in 62 national sites in 25 states. Their ultimate goal is to get a mental health screening for all students.
- ii. They offer the screening tools and technical assistance. The screening is a multi-staged process; they have two specific models: a) risk for suicide and b) general mental health screening. Both require parental consent and they prefer students choose to participate.
- iii. The suicide model starts with a 10-minute paper screening. Those that test positive go on to the computer test that will report which disorders they may suffer from. The computer model is modular (by section), diagnostic, and approximately one hour in completion length. It gives an abundance of information to the clinician. There are currently 15 school health centers using this screening process.
- iv. The mental health checkup model requires parental consent. While it is not diagnostic, it can predict a diagnosis. It is a shortened version of the computer screening.
- v. Although free of charge, Teen Screen requires a minimum of 200 students per year to be screened and that **all screening results are to be shared with them.**
- vi. There was some discussion regarding the redundancy and overlap of the GAPS and Teen Screen programs. There were concerns regarding whether the screening was developmentally appropriate, how to follow-up a large-scale screening, and opposition to mandating screenings.
- vii. Vyki Jackson will follow up with some of the school health centers in the country using Teen Screen. The committee will re-visit the program and discuss how to make the program available to school health centers who may want to use it. Vyki Jackson agreed that if school health centers would use the program there would need to be discussion around the GAPS form.