

# School Absenteeism: Universal Problem Seeks Gold Standard Solutions Program

## Monday 12 March 2018

Identifying the bottlenecks in establishing gold standards

- OUTCOMES
1. We illuminated the key bottlenecks that need to be addressed this week
  2. We clarified what it means to work towards gold standards this week

- 09:00 – 10:00 Welcome and registration with coffee/tea
- 10:00 – 10:15 Introduction: *Principles and organization of the Lorentz Workshop* (Lorentz Staff)
- 10:15 – 10:30 Introduction: *Aims and process for the workshop* (Workshop Organizers)
- 10:30 – 12:00 Interaction: *Fostering productive conversation*
- 12:00 – 12:30 Presentation: *Gold standards for operationalization and differentiation – Why are they so elusive?* (**Wendy Silverman**)
- 12:30 – 14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 – 15:15 Presentations: *The short version of a long, troubled history of differentiating among school attendance problems* (**Chris Kearney**); *Leveraging dissemination and implementation science in our work this week* (**Aaron Lyon**)
- 15.15 – 15.30 Coffee/tea break
- 15.30 – 17.00 Discussion & conclusions: *The bottlenecks warranting our attention* (moderated by **Bruce Tonge + Wendy Silverman**)
- 17.00 – 18.30 Wine and cheese party; further discussion in an informal context

## Tuesday 13 March 2018

Operationalizing problematic absenteeism, to support identification

- OUTCOMES
1. We pinpointed common problems in operationalizing SAPs, for Day 4
  2. We pinpointed common problems in identifying SAPs, for Day 5

- 09:00 – 09:30 Morning coffee/tea
- 09:30 – 10:00 Transition: Reflection on Day 1, Outlook on Day 2
- 10:00 – 10:30 Presentations: *How a sociological perspective allows us to identify bottlenecks in operationalization* (**Gil Keppens**); *A thumb-nail sketch of criteria and cut-offs used to study attendance problems* (**David Heyne**)
- 10:30 – 11:00 Global stories: A few of the ‘strengths and weaknesses’ in my state/country, regarding the registration of attendance and requirements for reporting problematic absenteeism. *Sweden* (**Malin Gren Landell**), *Norway* (**Kristin Gärtner Askeland**), *Denmark* (**Daniel Bach Johnsen**) *Netherlands* (**Floor Sauter**), *Belgium* (**Gil Keppens**), *Germany* (**Volker Reissner**),
- 11:00 – 11:15 Coffee/tea break; registration for this afternoon’s focus groups
- 11:15 – 11:45 Global stories: A few of the ‘strengths and weaknesses’ in my state/country, regarding the registration of attendance and requirements for reporting problematic absenteeism. *France* (**Marie Gallé-Tessonneau**), *Spain* (**Carolina González**), *Japan* (**Naoki Maeda**), *Australia* (**Glenn Melvin**), *US* (**Brian Chu**), *Canada* (**Anton Birioukov**)
- 11:45 – 12:30 Discussion and conclusions: *Synthesizing the strengths and weaknesses in the registration of attendance and reporting of problematic absenteeism* (moderated by **Brian Chu + Carolyn Gentle-Genitty**)
- 12:30 – 14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 – 15:15 Focus groups: *Groups of 4-6 participants work on solutions to a key bottle-neck in operationalizing problematic absenteeism*. Proposed topics: (1) Is the issue of ‘authorized/justified versus unauthorized/unjustified absence’ adequately accounted for in operationalizations of SAPs?; (2) Are the issues of ‘post-registration absence’ and

'specific lesson absence' adequately accounted for in operationalizations of SAPs?; (3) What should we recommend to stakeholders about 'cut-offs' and 'time-frames' to specify the presence of a SAP and the severity of a SAP?; (4) How do we deal with the 'unreliability of attendance data'?

15:15 – 15:30 Coffee/tea break

15:30 – 17:00 Discussion & conclusions: *Outcomes for the 'operationalization' part of the position paper* (moderated by **Carolyn Gentle-Genitty** + **Brian Chu**)

## Wednesday 14 March 2018

Differentiating problematic absenteeism, to support intervention

OUTCOMES

1. We agreed on relative strengths & weaknesses in approaches to differentiation
2. We generated key recommendations for the position paper (Day 4)

09:00 – 09:30 Morning coffee/tea

09:30 – 10:00 Transition: Reflection on Day 2, Outlook on Day 3

10:00 – 11:00 *Motivation behind the SNACK as an instrument to screen for SAP types/categories* (**David Heyne & Glenn Melvin**); *Are some risk factors unique to 'truancy' while others are unique to 'school refusal'?* (**Jo Magne Ingul**)

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee/tea break, registration for this afternoon's focus groups

11:15 – 12:00 Interim discussion & conclusions: *The value of types/categories for gold standard differentiation* (moderated by **Malin Gren Landell** + **Brian Chu**)

12:00 – 12:30 *The role of the School Refusal Assessment Scale in an evolving multi-tiered system of supports model* (**Chris Kearney**)

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 14:30 *Building upon the SRAS, where do we go from here?* (**Martin Knollmann**)

14:30 – 15:15 Interim discussion & conclusions: *The value of the SRAS for gold standard differentiation* (moderated by **Malin Gren Landell** + **Brian Chu**)

15:15 – 15:30 Coffee/tea break

15:30 – 16:15 Focus groups: *Groups of 4-6 participants work on topics related to differentiation.*

Proposed topics: (1) The typology/category approach to differentiation; (2) The SRAS approach to differentiation; (3) Broader issues in differentiation (other than 'typology' and 'SRAS'); (4) How broad do we go? How many different types of attendance problems do we want to 'capture' within a system for differentiation?

16:15 – 17:00 Discussion & conclusions: *Outcomes for the 'differentiation' part of the position paper* (moderated by **Brian Chu** + **Malin Gren Landell**)

17:00 – 18:00 Free time

18:00 – 18:15 Gather in hotel foyer, near the reception desk

18:15 – 18:30 Shuttle bus to Leiden Central station, to start the walking tour

18:30 – 21:30 Guided tour through Leiden to restaurant 'Het Prentenkabinet', Kloksteeg 25, the location for sponsored workshop dinner

## Thursday 15 March 2018

Position paper – the operationalization and differentiation of SAPs

OUTCOMES

1. We decided upon the main aims and structure for the position paper
2. We developed a plan for completion of the paper

09:00 – 09:30 Morning coffee/tea; registration for this morning's focus groups

09:30 – 10:00 Transition: Reflection on Day 3, Outlook on Day 4

10:00 – 11:00 Focus groups: *Groups of 4-6 participants discuss a component of the position paper.*

Proposed topics: (1) The main reasons consensus has remained elusive, and why consensus about classification is needed; (2) Operationalization - what could/should stakeholders hear from us about how much absence is too much?; (3) Differentiation - what could/should stakeholders hear from us about when to use the SRAS for

differentiation, and when to use the typology based on types/categories of problematic absenteeism?

- 11:00 – 11:30 Coffee/tea break, and further focus group work if desired
- 11:30 – 12:30 Discussion & conclusions: *Aims, structure, and process for the position paper* (moderated by **Bruce Tonge + Wendy Silverman**)
- 12:30 – 14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 – 15:15 Interaction and writing time
- 15:15 – 15:30 Coffee/tea break
- 15:30 – 17:00 Discussion & conclusions: *Progress on the position paper* (moderated by **Wendy Silverman + Bruce Tonge**)

## Friday 16 March 2018

Best practices policy/paper – the identification of SAPs

- OUTCOMES
1. We decided on key ways to promote best practices in the identification of SAPs
  2. We established the framework for an International Task Force

- 09:00 – 09:30 Morning coffee/tea; registration for this morning's focus groups
- 09:30 – 10:00 Transition: Reflection on Day 4, Outlook on Day 5
- 10:00 – 11:00 Focus groups: *Groups of 4-6 participants address key issues for promoting best practice in the identification of SAPs, drawing together points arising during the first four days of the workshop.* Proposed topics: (1) Which are the 'best practices for identifying SAPs' within a school setting?; (2) Which are the 'best practices for identifying SAPs' within a community / social welfare / mental health setting?; (3) How will we disseminate and implement the 'best practices for identifying SAPs'?
- 11:00 – 11:15 Coffee/tea break
- 11:15 – 12:30 Discussion & conclusions: *Promoting best practices in the identification of SAPs* (moderated by **Malin Gren Landell + Carolyn Gentle-Genitty**)
- 12:30 – 14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 – 15:30 *'Nailing down' the evolution, evaluation, and dissemination of targeted interventions for SAPs; Aims, membership, name, and channels of communication for the International Task Force* (moderated by **Carolyn Gentle-Genitty + Malin Gren Landell**)