

Bridging Student and Family-Centered Mental Health in School Systems: How School Nurses Link Care Coordination

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Hidden Healthcare in Schools

- Health care is delivered daily in schools at the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels of public health
- Schools should be partners in the delivery of mental/health care for students and families
- Schools should be included in the family-centered shared plan of care



(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2019)

Addressing Fragmented Care in Schools

- School Nurses (SN) as leaders in care coordination and health care within schools
- Develop steps to improve collaboration and teamwork related to student/family mental health services
- The Institute of Medicine states that care coordination is needed to improve the quality of healthcare in the United States (American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), 2016)

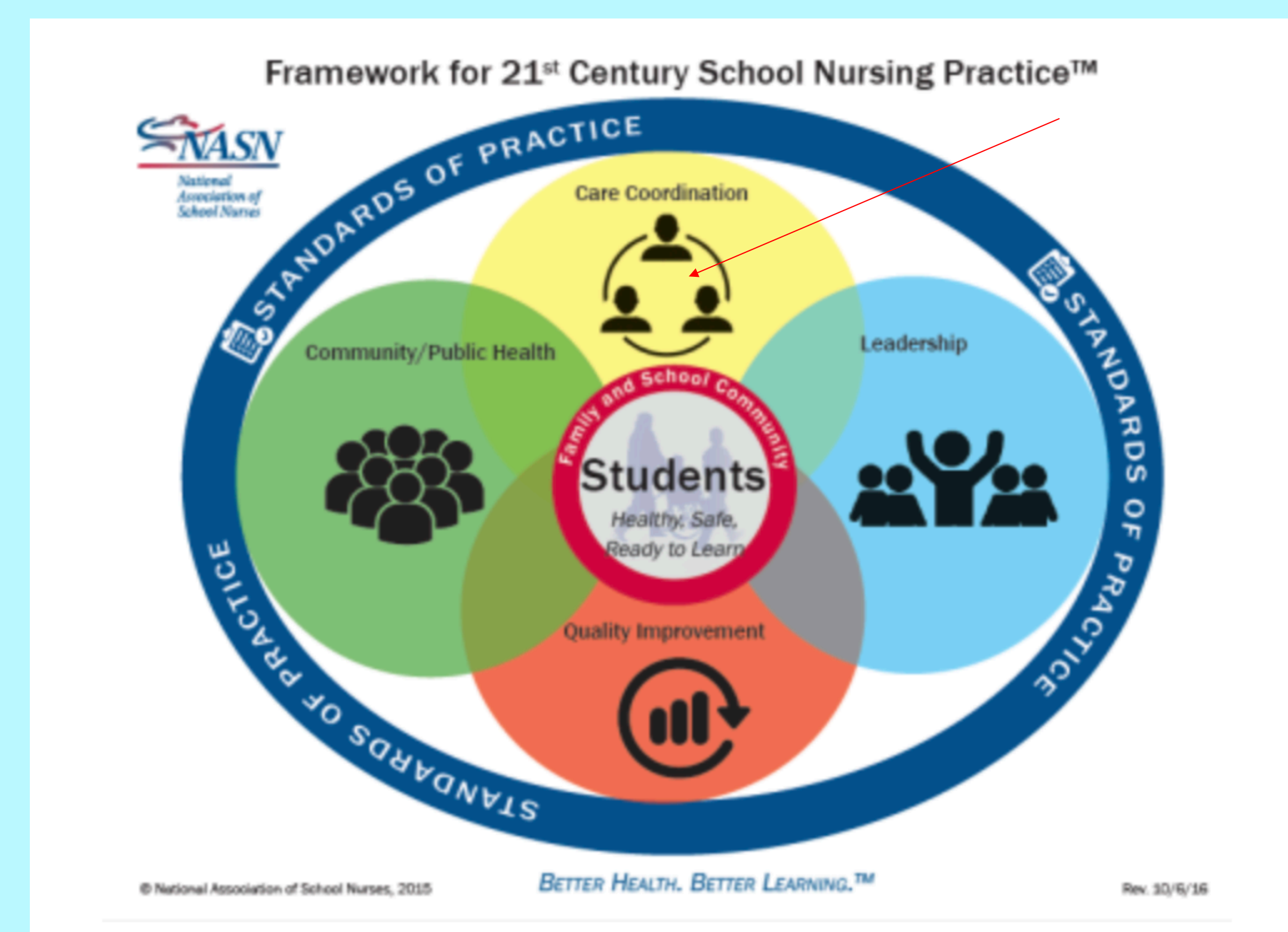
Mental Health:

The Heart of the Problem

- 30% of students who visit the SN present with mental health concerns as their primary issue
- 37% of SN have a case load of more than 10 students with mental health problems
- SN spend 31-38% of their time caring for students with mental health problems (AAP, 2016)

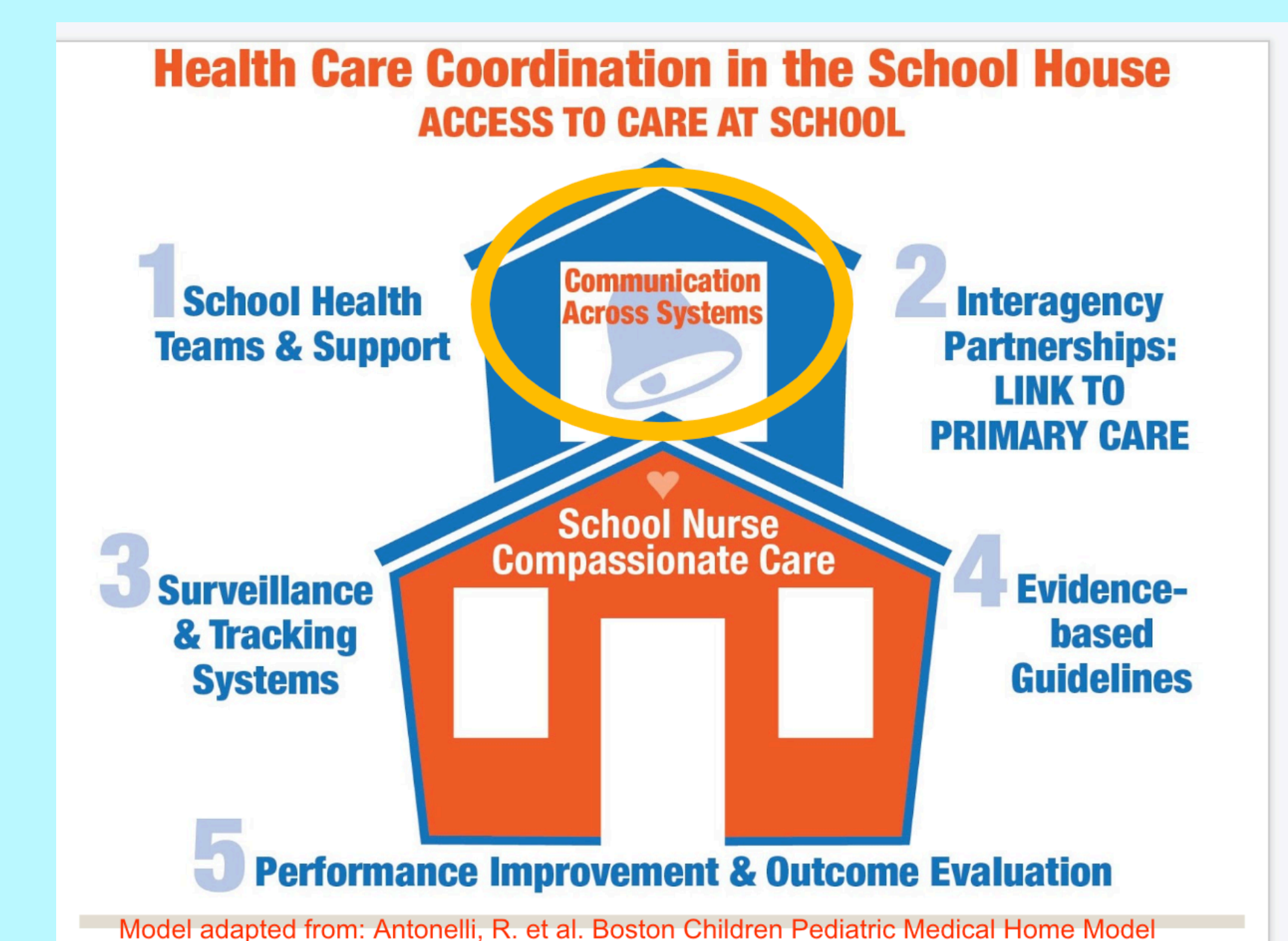
Care Coordination in Schools

- Identify key components of SN-led care coordination model in delivering student/family mental health services
- Develop steps for improving collaboration and teamwork in nursing practice related to student/family mental health services
- SN must move beyond basic care management to a systems-level approach for delivery of school health services, including mental health care



Care Coordination Model

- SN engage in efforts to create school health care homes that serve as an axis of coordination for student and families between primary care offices and the schools (Baker & Johnson, 2017)
- Effective care coordination requires SN not only know the principles of traditional case management but also understand complex systems that drive effective care coordination



- Improved access for family and students to navigate school and community services
- Improved self-advocacy skills for students and families

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