



**Innovations in Counseling: Working with Minority Populations- Part 6
Session 6: An Ecological Theory: School Counselors' Effectiveness With
African-American Boys With Disabilities**

Webinar Follow-up Question and Answer Session with Dr. Christopher Townsend

Question from Leslie Contos

What is the role of special ed. funding - that assigning a label of ADHD or Autism brings in additional funds for aides in the classroom, etc.?

Answer from Presenter

Legislation provides funding to address areas of disabilities (i.e. IDEA, Title 1). School must report their numbers as apart of obtaining federal funding.

Question from Linda Pugh

I experienced having several African American boys, ages 3-5, introduced as defiant! I work in a school setting on the preschool level and I believe the change must start with the system and with mindsets because teachers and counselors are feeling frustrated. How do we begin to advocate and bring about change at the preschool level?

Answer from Presenter

Involve parents and apply laws that support children with “disabilities.” Its time to hold the system accountable. We need a reform in systemic practices. We have the supportive lives, however how they are applied is another concern.

Question from Linda Pugh

We know that parental engagement is vital, so how we get to the community level on the model when parents are fearful and resistant?

Answer from Presenter

Empowerment through educating about their options and provide evidence of inadequacies.

Question from Arona Roshal

What is the role of parents?

Answer from Presenter

The role of the parent is to hold the system accountable to the law to ensure equitable education for their children.

Question from Arona Roshal

Sounds like what is missing in a referral is specifics - description of what the student did, description of the circumstances.

Answer from Presenter

We are in need of standardized practices of referral that minimizes subjectivity and biases.

Question from Arona Roshal

What you just said - counselors on duty in the lunch room and school buses - perfect opportunity to observe behaviors and intervene if necessary

Answer from Presenter

The participants agreed that it's a wonderful opportunity to get to know the children and see them in different aspects, however other areas are neglected also.

Question from Allen Vosburg

What have the counselors been able to receive as support from their school administration. Have superintendents and principals been openly involved or have experienced these individuals dragging their feet or pushing the issue to the side?

Answer from Presenter

There are pockets of effective collaborative relationships between administrators, teachers and school counselors. Student outcomes are better when these relationships are aligned.

Question from Benjamin Willis

What would be the biggest thing that counselors in the community can do to help bring about these changes?

Answer from Presenter

Advocacy, Advocacy, Advocacy. Call out the truth and offer solutions through the research.

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