

SCIP Called! What Do I Do Now? September 2010

You may find yourself in a state of confusion when someone from your child's school calls and says something about being from the SCIP Team and wanting to talk to you about some concerns the school has regarding your child. You may wonder, "What is this about? What should I do now?" Here is some information about SCIP that is meant to help educate parents and guardians in case you receive such a call or you wish to speak to someone about your child's behavior.

The School Community Intervention Program has been in existence for over 25 years. It works in the schools, but is a program of the Lincoln Medical Education Partnership. You can visit our website at www.lmep.com, click on SCIP and find out more information. LMEP-SCIP trains teams of teachers and school personnel to be able to identify students who aren't being successful in school and intervene to assist them. The student's difficulties may be related to substance abuse or mental health concerns.

Just the facts:

- SCIP is a student assistance program created to identify, intervene, refer and support students. It allows the school to share concerns regarding a student's behavior and offer resources to the family.
- SCIP works in cooperative agreement with community agencies that will provide screenings/evaluations at no charge for children and youth referred to them through the SCIP Program.
- SCIP is not a disciplinary program, although a student may experience a disciplinary action at school due to a school policy violation.

What do I do?

- If you receive a call from someone involved with SCIP at your child's school, listen carefully to what the person has to say.
- Come to the school to meet with the person, if asked to do so. A face-to-face meeting, even a very brief one, can be very beneficial for your family.
- Carefully consider the options and resources offered when you meet with the SCIP Team Member.
- Stay in touch with the SCIP Team at the school.

What not to do!

- Don't panic! Kids sometimes make negative choices affecting their behaviors which are not a reflection on the parents.
- Don't ignore these concerns; this is an opportunity to assist your child.
- Don't feel you have to do this alone; many times parents wish to do that, but SCIP can be a great source of support.
- Don't let your child talk you out of what you've decided to do. If there isn't a problem, the SCIP screening or evaluation will confirm that for both of you!

What can SCIP do for me?

- SCIP can share with you the concerns the school and your child's teachers have for him/her. This may be new information to you!
- The SCIP Team can offer resources at school to help your child.
- The SCIP Team can offer you resources outside of school to help you assess what is happening with your child and make recommendations as to what your next step might be.
- SCIP can be a valuable resource for your family and SCIP can connect you to even more resources.
- The SCIP Team can offer you continuing support.

We know that early intervention can help prevent issues from becoming more serious and behaviors from getting more severe. Take advantage of these opportunities to help your child be more successful in school and in life!