

*A Phenomenological Investigation of Universal Mental Health Screening: Making Meaning for School Counseling*

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In the U.S., K-12 schools have experienced a double-pandemic of COVID-19 and ongoing systemic racial injustices. Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), including universal mental health screening, can assist students through these pandemics. While research on MTSS for school counselors is ample, school counseling literature about universal mental health screening is limited. This phenomenological investigation studied participants' experiences with universal mental health screening recruiting multidisciplinary, school-based team members, particularly school counselors.

across the school to more comprehensively, efficiently and effectively serve all students through a team-approach. As such, through this universal mental health screening-based collaboration, school counselors are better equipped to overcome the struggles inherent with universal mental health screening and to shift the culture of their school to maximize their efforts in prevention, use of data, gaining a more holistic perspective and advocating for school counseling roles. School counselor education preparation programs can ensure teaching content on universal mental health screening, including types of screeners, ethical and legal considerations, and interventions post-screening (e.g., evidence-based practices), within the context of MTSS. D8 m0 g0 G(ie)MT-2(S)4ontef-