

Escambia County School District Mental Health Assistance Allocation Plan

Section 1 – Allocation Plan for Evidence-based Mental Health Services

A. Delivery of evidence-based mental health services

The Escambia County School District (ECSD) will utilize a team-based multi-tiered framework for coordination of mental health services and interventions through awareness and facilitation of evidence-based mental health services. All required school staff will be trained using the evidence-based Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) program to help identify and understand the signs of emotional disturbance, mental illness, and substance abuse disorders. This comprehensive training program will be completed by all employees one of the following ways:

1. A minimum of six (6) District trainers of YMHFA. This may include certified trainers of YMHFA from community service providers.
2. School-based teams comprised of at least one (1) building level administrator and other certified/professional staff at a ratio of 1:300 students will complete the eight (8) - hour YMHFA Training Program (First Aiders).
3. All school staff other than the YMHFA District Trainers and First Aiders will complete abbreviated online awareness/preventive program developed by FLDOE.
4. Initially, all employees will be shown a brief awareness video or presentation provided by SEDNET.

The training program will provide such personnel with the skills to assist students who are developing or experiencing an emotional disturbance, mental health, or substance use problems. Additionally, the District will continue Trauma-Informed Care approaches and strategies, trainings, and workshops. School-wide social-emotional programs and curricula will be promoted to develop and enhance resiliency and protective factors among students. Ongoing efforts to increase the number of schools trained in Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) to build capacity for implementing tiered approach for social, emotional and behavior support will be continued.

ECSD will contract with outside agencies to introduce select multi-disciplinary personnel (school counselor, school psychologist, school nurse and school mental health counselors) to evidence-based trauma treatments which may include, but not limited to, Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing (EMDR) and Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI). This second tier of training allows for school-based staff to provide a higher level of mental health services for those identified students. ECSD will use a combination of contracted and direct-hire mental health counselors to provide targeted counseling based on students individualized treatment plans. All mental health staff will be required to identify their evidence-based mental health interventions.

B. Description of supports that addresses mental health needs (assessment, diagnosis, intervention, treatment, and recovery)

Students will be identified using existing student information early warning system (EWS) data or by referral. Students whose data indicate a potential concern will be referred for additional evaluation by mental health professionals. Once it is determined mental health services are necessary for a student and parent consent is obtained, a mental health counselor will provide an evidence-based therapeutic treatment plan. Mental health counseling services at the elementary and middle schools levels will be provided by contracted agencies. ECSD mental health employees will provide mental health services for high schools students.

It is expected that all mental health providers, whether contracted or district employees, will diagnose within the limits of their credentials and /or refer to other providers as necessary. Following the diagnosis, a treatment plan will be developed and shared with parents/guardians/adult students to obtain consent for implementation. Mental health providers will provide ongoing intervention and treatment as long as deemed necessary to move the student toward recovery or a level of stability no longer requiring ongoing counseling.

C. Identify evidence-based mental health services for students with one or more co-occurring mental health or substance abuse diagnoses and students at risk for such diagnosis

Through a vetting process using recommendations from FLDOE and District staff based on research of evidence-based programs, the following programs were determined to best meet the needs of ECSD students for the following tiers:

Tier 1 - PBIS, social-emotional curricula (Suite 360 and Sanford Harmony), YMHFA, Trauma-Informed Care, bullying prevention campaigns, Capturing Kids Hearts, Community Drug and Alcohol Council (CDAC), EWS and progress monitoring

Tier 2 – EWS, Suite 360, Suite 360 ISS, individual and group counseling provided by Student Services Personnel, Risk and Suicide Assessment meetings for identified students and family involvement

Tier 3—referral to contracted counseling services, individualized re-entry plans, progress monitoring, Lakeview Center, Inc.’s Community Action Team (CAT) and Wellness Recovery Action Plan Team (WRAP), collaboration with private providers, and family involvement

D. Describe the collaborative partnerships with community providers and agencies

ECSD will enter into contractual agreements or memoranda of understanding with the following community mental health services providers: Lakeview Center, Inc.; Children’s Home Society; Motivational Coaches of America; and Magellan Behavioral Health. Contracted services enable a broad range of student and family behavioral health and substance abuse services. The agreements provide for effective communication between District personnel and contracted agencies; individual and group counseling; psycho-social evaluations; transition services; consultation and education services; and

implementation of behavioral health and/or crisis plans. Risk and Suicide assessment meetings will be held to discuss identified students who may be at-risk for mental health and/or substance abuse problems or those who are those who are currently receiving services. In addition, District staff will attend the scheduled collaboration meetings with community mental health providers and members of Law Enforcement for coordination of care for identified students.

E. Describe the process for coordinating mental health services with a student’s primary care provider and other mental health providers, including procedures for information sharing.

Collaboration meetings with school staff, law enforcement, and mental health providers will be held for discussion of students who are at-risk or receiving services. If a parent/guardian/adult student provides primary care provider contact information and signs a release of information, school staff will attempt to establish communication with the primary care provider so that coordination of care is fostered. Memoranda of understanding and contract agreements will include data sharing protocol so that critical information is exchanged to support students’ individual treatment plans following HIPAA and FERPA requirements.

Section 2 – Program Implementation and Outcomes

A. Identify how many students are screened/assessed, how many students are referred for services and how many students receive services/assistance (school-based and community)

The District will create an electronic database tracking system within our current Student Information System (Focus) to document how many students are screened/assessed, are referred for services, and have received school-based and community services. The EWS indicators will be used to evaluate effectiveness of mental health services. The lead mental health counselor and clerical support staff will assist in tracking and verifying student data for state reporting elements.

B. Identify the number of and credentials of mental health services providers employed by district

Currently, ECSD employs two (2) licensed mental health counselors, eighty four (84) certified school counselors, fourteen (14) school psychologists and seven (7) school social workers. The District will hire a Coordinator of Mental Health Services who will serve as the lead mental health counselor. This position will also manage the newly implemented mental health assistance allocation plan. Two (2) additional mental health counselors will be hired to serve high school students and those students in alternative or charter schools. A school psychologist will be hired to provide additional support facilitating the Response to Intervention (RTI) process for identified students and psycho-educational assessments as needed.

C. Identify the number of and credentials of mental health services providers contracted by district

ECSD will enter into agreements and /or contracts with multiple agencies to provide preventive and treatment based mental health counseling services.

<i>School Category</i>	<i>Provider</i>	<i># of Counselors</i>	<i>Licensure</i>
Elementary	Lakeview Center, Inc. (contract)	12	5
Middle	Children's Home Society (contract)	9	4-5
Middle	Motivational Coaches of America	2	2
High	ECSD employees	5	2-3
ESE Center School - Lakeview School Day Support	Lakeview Center, Inc. (contract)	6	2
ESE Center School - Escambia Westgate	Children's Home Society (contract)	1	1
Alternative Schools	Contracts identified above will provide services at these sites		
Charter Schools	Services provided under District plan		

Section 3 – Expenditures

A. Documents 90% of expenditures allocated were allocated to direct mental health services or coordination of such services with primary care and mental health providers.

Children's Home Society	A combination of 9 licensed and non-licensed mental health counselors to provide mental health services for middle school students	\$497,579
Mental Health – Coordinator (professional scale - 12 month)	Serve as lead for mental health counselors, manage mental health contracts and coordinate services for students and families	\$83,733
Three (3) Licensed Counselor (professional scale - 10 month)	Provide mental health services for high school students and	\$213,042

	students placed in alternative and charter schools	
School Psychologist (professional scale - 12 month)	Provide support in EWS, RtI and conduct psycho-educational assessments for identified students	\$83, 733
Confidential Administrative Specialist (professional scale - 11 month)	Provide administrative support for the Mental Health Coordinator and Protection Services	\$51,000
Training YMHFA for school staff	To include travel, training materials and substitutes as needed	\$40,535

B. Includes assurances that Mental Health Assistance Allocation does not supplant other funding sources OR increase salaries or provide staff bonuses.

All new direct-hire employees and contracted services are in addition to the previous mental health services provided by the District. Lakeview Center, Inc. contract agreement with ECSD for mental health services has been intact for numerous years and this established relationship will continue to be utilized and will not be funded through the Mental Health Allocation. The memorandum of understanding with Motivational Coaches of America has been renewed for a second year and is at no cost to the District.

C. Describes how district will maximize use of other sources of funding to provide school-based mental health services, where appropriate (e.g., Medicaid reimbursements, 3rd party payments, grants).

The contractual agreements and MOUs have provisions for ensuring that other funding sources will be utilized prior to billing ECSD. ECSD School Psychologists and mental health counselors will seek Medicaid reimbursement for billable services provided. The Title IV, Part A Grant will be funding social emotional curriculum (Suite 360). Additionally, the Title IV Grant will fund training for Capturing Kids Hearts.