

**MENTAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE ALLOCATION PLAN
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHOOL YEAR 2019/2020**

A. Mental Health Assistance Allocation Plan (s. 1011.62(16)(a) and (b), F.S.)

a. Delivery of evidence-based mental health services.

The School District of Okaloosa County, Florida, (“OCSD”) will utilize a team-based framework to facilitate identification and coordination of services and interventions through the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Intervention process. In addition, OCSD will utilize licensed and/or certified mental health professionals to provide evidenced based mental health assessment, diagnosis, interventions, treatments, and recovery through a multi-tiered system of supports, including but not limited to Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Brief Solution Focused Therapy. For students needing intensive or medical based treatment of services, OCSD will refer these students to contracted professionals, including but not limited to Bridgeway Center, Children’s Home Society, The Mental Health Association of Okaloosa/Walton County and the Mobile Response Team based upon the individual student’s needs. OCSD will continue to train all elementary, middle and high school staff using the evidenced based Youth Mental Health First Aid program as selected by the Florida Department of Education to help identify and understand the signs of mental health and substance use and/or abuse disorders. OCSD will continue the practice of providing Trauma Informed Schools training to school based staff and all new employees through the Newcomers Orientation Program. Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS) and Social/Emotional learning programs will be encouraged to develop and enhance resiliency and protective factors among students. OCSD will continue the partnership with The Children’s Advocacy Center to provide Child Safety Matters and Teen Safety matters Curriculum to all elementary and middle school students during the 2019-2020 SY.

b. Evidence Based Mental Health Services for students with one or more co-occurring mental health or substance abuse diagnoses and student at risk of such diagnoses.

All students identified with one or more co-occurring mental health diagnoses will be referred to the school based Licensed Mental Health Counselor for evaluation and evidence based-treatment modality, including but not limited to CBT. For students needing intensive treatment or medical based services a referral to outside mental health and/or addiction treatment agency will be facilitated. School based mental health professionals will facilitate collaboration with community based mental health providers to ensure a continuum of care occurs within the school setting.

c. School-based mental health service providers.

In SY 2019-2020 OCSD will employ fifty-six (56) school counselors, twelve (12) FLDOE certified and/or licensed School Psychologists, thirteen (13) licensed mental health counselors/clinical social workers/marriage and family therapists, two of which are certified addiction professionals and eight (8) social workers. This reflects an increase in 2 school counselors, 1 ESE Social Worker and 1 mental health counselor from 2018-2019 SY.

d. During the SY 2019-2020, Mental Health Counselor assignments will be based on data and caseload review from 2018-2019 SY to more evenly distribute caseloads across all school sites. The addition of an additional Mental Health Counselor and two school counselors will allow an increase in the amount of time providers have to provide direct care by decreasing caseloads across assignments.

e. Interagency Agreements / Contracts / Partnerships:

OCSD has Memorandums of Understanding, contracts and / or collaborative partnerships with the following agencies:

1. Children's Home Society : Provides onsite mental health counseling services to referred students.
2. Bridgeway Center, Inc. : Provides Behavioral Health Services to referred students both onsite and off-site.
3. Mental Health Association of Okaloosa-Walton Counties: referral source for mental health services for students using the Brain Health initiative.
4. Mobile Response Team: Provides onsite crisis diversion services and wrap around services by providing immediate assistance and intervention to assist in diverting from hospitals, ER's etc.
5. Megellan Health: Provides Military Family Life Counselors to provide counseling to military students.
6. Okaloosa County Sheriff's Department: Provides School Resource Officers to provide safety and security at all school sites.
7. Children's Advocacy Center of Okaloosa-Walton Counties: Provides Child Safety Matters curriculum to all elementary school students and will begin facilitating Teen Safety Matters to all middle school students.
8. Families First Network: Coordination of foster care children and services within the school district.
9. Department of Children and Families: Provides child protective services to students.

f. Procedures for Referral Timelines

The OCSD Department of Student Intervention Services will establish procedures within the OCSD Mental Health Manual and develop monitoring tools to ensure referral timelines are met as follows:

1. Students referred for a mental health screening are assessed within 15 days of referral.
2. School-based mental health services are initiated within 15 days of identification and assessment
3. Community-based mental health services for students are initiated within 30 days of referral.

Student Intervention Services leadership will work with MIS to establish a system to monitor these timelines through the PAWS digital documentation system.

g. Process for Coordinating mental health services with a student's primary care provider and other mental health providers, including procedures for information sharing.

Parental consent and parental release of information will be required and obtained at the onset of services in order for information and data sharing with the student's primary mental health provider and other community providers involved in the student's care. OCSD will continue Memorandums of Understanding and Cooperative Agreements that allow information and data sharing and will provide the process and procedures for such information release.

h. Strategies or programs to reduce the likelihood of at-risk students developing social, emotional or behavioral problems; depression; anxiety disorders; suicidal tendencies or substance abuse disorders.

OCSD will continue the practice of providing Trauma Informed Schools training to school based staff and all new employees through the Newcomers Orientation Program. Positive Behavioral

Intervention and Support (PBIS) will be implemented at 12 schools in Okaloosa County School District and Social/Emotional learning programs will be encouraged to develop and enhance resiliency and protective factors among students. OCSD will continue the partnership with The Children's Advocacy Center to provide Child Safety Matters and Teen Safety Matters Curriculum to all elementary and middle school students during the 2019-2020 SY.

OCSD will continue to train all elementary, middle and high school staff using the evidenced based Youth Mental Health First Aid program as selected by the Florida Department of Education to help identify and understand the signs of mental health and substance use and/or abuse disorders.

Secondary Mental Health Counselors will explore and develop suicide prevention educational programs for designated students at the middle and high school levels.

i. Charter Schools

The charter schools within the OCSD will be informed of the school district's Mental Health Assistance Allocation Plan via email and will be offered the option to participate in the district's plan or advised that they be required to submit their own plan to their governing board, OCSD School Board and FLDOE for approval. Each charter school within the district will complete the MHAAP Assurances form designating their option.

For charter schools that participate in the school district's plan, the following coordinating services will be offered:

- An itinerant School-based Mental Health Counselor will be assigned to each school to serve their students.
- Charter school staff will be offered opportunities to participate the school district's Youth Mental Health First Aid trainings throughout the school year.
- For those schools with an identified high number of at risk students, such as Okaloosa Academy, the district's contracted alternative placement program, a collaborative agreement with Bridgeway Center, Inc., will be encouraged to provide additional onsite assessments, screenings, therapy and treatment.
- Charter school staff will be offered Trauma Informed Schools training.
- Charter school staff, including but not limited to, school counselors and administration, will be encouraged to participate in monthly trainings related to mental health professional development and strategies for at-risk students.

j. Identifies strategies to:

1. The Early Warning System (EWS), MTSS Process, and teacher/staff input will be used to improve early identification of social, emotional or behavioral problems. The district's Mental Health Team will additionally explore the use of screening tools and processes for the use screening tools for early identification of social, emotional or behavioral problems or substance abuse disorders.
2. Students identified with mental health concerns will be assessed and referred to the School-based Mental Health Counselor for services. Based on school staff concerns and collaboration with mental health providers students will be identified and discussed with the MTSS Problem-Solving Team, to include a mental health professional. Through the tiered system, students identified as needing tier 2 or tier 3

mental health supports will be referred to the Licensed Mental Health Counselor for intervention, treatment and recovery support.

3. Students identified as dealing with trauma and violence will be referred to the School-based Mental Health Counselor for assessment, intervention and services as necessary. The OCSD is collaborating with district SROs utilizing a “handle with care” strategy to inform school administration of those students who experienced “law enforcement encounters” or Baker Act evaluation while outside the school setting.

B. Expenditures (s. 1011.62(16), F.S.)

a. Number of school-based mental health providers funded by the allocation and licensure / certification for each.

OCSD will directly employ ten (10) Florida licensed school-based mental health providers using the Mental Health Assistance Allocation.

All providers will carry Florida licensure in at least one of the following areas:

- Licensed Clinical Social Worker
- Licensed Mental Health Counselor
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapy

b. OCSD will not fund any community-based mental health providers using the Mental Health Assistance Allocation, however, OCSD will have contracts and agreements with those agencies listed in Section A (e) above.

c. OCSD will not fund any contract-based collaborative efforts or partnerships using the Mental Health Assistance Allocation, however, OCSD will have contracts and agreements with those agencies listed in Section A (e) above not requiring school district expenditures for services.

d. In State Categorical Project 9110 – Mental Health Assistance the following expenditures totaling \$16,807:

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| 1. Other compensation 0102.6140 to pay for summer work for a Mental Health Counselor for program data reporting and planning | \$5,000 |
| 2. Florida retirement system / FICA 0210 & 0220.6140 for other compensation | \$807 |
| 3. In-County Travel for Mental Health Counselors (13 total) 0330.6140 | \$5,000 |
| 4. Printing materials (brochures and Mental Health Record Folders 0390.6140 | \$1,500 |
| 5. Supplies for general operations 0510.6140 | \$2,000 |
| 6. Computer Hardware (iPads and computer accessories) 0644.6140 | \$1,000 |
| 7. Software for iPad for mental health / social emotional learning apps 0692.6140 | \$500 |
| 8. Technology supplies (ink for printers, flash drives etc.) 0519.6140 | \$1,000 |

TOTAL \$16,807

C. Expenditure Assurances (s.1011.62(16), F.S.)

- a. One hundred percent of state funds are used to expand school-based mental health care by direct employment of Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Licensed Mental Health Counselors or Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists to provide direct mental health services to students, support school staff in detecting mental health issues and to connect children, youth and families with appropriate behavioral health services.

- b. Mental Health Assistance Allocation funds will not supplant other funding sources or increase salaries or provide staff bonuses.
- c. **Maximize the use of other sources of funding to provide school based mental health services, where appropriate. (e.g. Medicaid reimbursement, 3rd party payments, grants).**
All mental health professionals will be required to bill Medicaid for services provided for eligible students. School psychologists will continue to bill Medicaid for direct services provided to eligible students.
Title IV grant funding will be applied for and utilized as an additional funding source for mental health programs, and other mental health resources.

D. Program Implementation and Outcomes (s. 1011.62(16)(d), F.S.)

- a. **Number and ratios of FDOE-certified or licensed, school-based mental health services providers employed by OCSD**
In SY 2019-2020 OCSD will employ forty-seven (47) FLDOE certified school counselors, nine (9) out-of-field school counselors, twelve (12) FLDOE certified and/or licensed School Psychologists, thirteen (13) licensed mental health counselors/clinical social workers/marriage and family therapists and eight (8) FLDOE certified ESE social workers. Based on current enrollment of 30,171 the ratios averages are:
- School Counselors – 1 per 520 students
 - School Psychologists – 1 per 2,514 students
 - Licensed Mental Health Providers – 1 per 2,320 students
 - ESE Social Workers – (provides mental health services to EBD and ASD students for a total of 831) 1 per 70 students
- b. OCSD will utilize a data / documentation system developed in the 2018-2019 school year by the MIS department to document and track all students identified and / or receiving screenings or assessments, referrals or interventions through both school-based and community-based providers.