

# **Mental Health Assistance Allocation Plan**

ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD APPROVED JULY 10, 2018

## Mental Health Allocation Plan

**The St. Johns County School District has developed a Mental Health Allocation Plan that addresses the delivery of evidence-based mental health services to support all levels of need:**

Tier 1:

Elementary school students will receive classroom lessons to introduce and support competencies regarding American School Counselor Association Mindsets and Behaviors for Student Success Standards which will help students manage emotions and apply interpersonal skills. In addition, CASEL Social Emotional Competencies will be integrated and practiced in elementary classroom English Language Arts instruction through Being a Reader, Being a Writer, and/or Making Meaning. Middle school students will receive lessons to support substance abuse prevention and safe and healthy relationships. High school HOPE classes will be enhanced by providing supplemental mental health awareness instruction provided by licensed mental health counselors (including typical mental health issues, self-interventions, where to get extra help). Also at the high school level, school-wide prevention programs addressing topics including substance abuse, suicide, bullying and dating violence will be implemented. The District Crisis Response Team will provide training and support to develop school-based crisis response teams for supporting students and staff in the event of disaster or loss. FortifyFL training will be provided as mandated by the State of Florida.

Tier 2:

School based counseling will be provided from a school counselor, school social worker or school psychologist (brief solution-focused counseling, Heart Math, and/or group counseling focusing on family issues, anxiety, anger management, and/or social skills). Additional interventions may include prevention groups provided by a district mental health counselor, wellness check-in/check-out procedure, mentor program, referral to community agencies (grief, parenting, behavior, substance abuse, domestic violence, etc.), Student Support Plan (concern for harm), and/or on-site mental health clinic (30-minute sessions will be available two hours per week at each school site for single session counseling or screening students for further services).

Tier 3:

Tier 2 services may be provided along with the addition of individual and/or group counseling with a district mental health counselor or outside provider. Social worker will help coordinate with outside agencies for more intensive services, if approved by student's parent/legal guardian. The Mobile Crisis Response Team will be utilized when a student crisis situation is indicated.

**Includes description on supports that address mental health needs (assessment, diagnosis, intervention, treatment, and recovery).**

Least intensive supports will be identified and addressed through the use of assessments such as Early Warning System indicators, the Crisis Consultation form or the Threat Risk Assessment Checklist. The Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) framework and problem-solving process will be utilized to identify a need or diagnosis and if necessary, determine appropriate intervention and/or treatment strategies.

Students needing more intensive supports will be identified through assessment tools such as the Crisis Consultation form, the Threat Risk Assessment Checklist, by the MTSS team or District Mental Health Counselor. Supports may include short-term individual or group counseling with district mental health personnel or a community agency provider.

Students needing the most intensive supports will be identified through the Crisis Consultation Form, the Threat Risk Assessment Checklist or by the MTSS team. If necessary, Baker Act Procedures will be implemented and the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) utilized. Supports may include referral to the Community Action Treatment team, a community agency or a primary care provider.

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

Students with one or more co-occurring mental health or substance abuse diagnoses and students at risk of such diagnosis will be identified through the Early Warning System and the Multi Tiered System of Supports framework. Once identified, evidence-based services will be coordinated between the primary care provider, community mental health/substance abuse care provider, and school-based or district mental health resources.

**Describes the collaborative partnerships with community providers and agencies.**

Provider agreements are entered into between the St. Johns County School District and community providers/agencies to provide individual and/or family assessment, behavior management services, individual, group and family counseling, parent education, treatment plans, case management and/or other therapeutic services as specified by the plan of care. In return, community providers/agencies are permitted to meet with students on campus (strict procedures/requirements are in place per the agreement). Agencies will be encouraged to maximize third party health insurance benefits and Medicaid claims for services.

Community agencies will provide awareness prevention & intervention training to staff, students and parents. School counselors and social workers will facilitate referrals for students and their families needing counseling services, shelter and/or coordination of services.

**Describes process for coordinating mental health services with a student's primary care provider and other mental health providers, including procedures for information sharing.**

After the student is brought to the Multi Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) problem solving team, the school social worker and MTSS team will have parents/guardians provide releases to receive and share information with the student's primary care provider and/or other mental health providers. The MTSS will also ask the school nurse for any relevant information including clinic data for the student.

Included in agreements with outside agencies, community providers/agencies must maintain records, submit generic non-client specific cumulative outcome data to the St. Johns County School District and meet standards as necessary to bill Medicaid or other 3<sup>rd</sup> party providers for necessary mental health and related services.

The Mobile Crisis Response Team will provide detailed information on the services it provides as required per their provider agreement and in compliance with Florida law. In addition, school social workers have built relationships with Baker Act receiving facilities to encourage parents to release information when a student is hospitalized from home.

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

Students can be referred to the Multi Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) team for services by their school counselor, dean, administrator, staff, parents or students can self-report. The MTSS problem solving team will screen/assess student needs. As students receive screenings and assessments, logs will be kept by the MTSS team, school psychologists, school social workers, mental health counselors, and outside agencies. The school social workers and MTSS team will compile this data to report to the School Board and State.

**Identifies number and credentials of mental health services providers employed by the district.**

For the 2018-2019 school year, mental health services will be provided by the following District Staff: 80 school counselors who hold state certification in Professional Guidance and Counseling K-12, 18 school psychologists who hold state certification in School Psychology, 13 mental health counselors (10 who hold state Department of Health certification and 3 who hold state certification in Professional Guidance and Counseling K-12), and seven school social workers who are either licensed mental health counselors, licensed clinical social workers, or certified by the Florida Department of Education as school social workers.

**Identifies number and credentials of mental health services providers contracted by the district.**

Currently we have Provider Agreements with eleven licensed mental health service agencies, who provide counselors that are either licensed mental health counselors or registered mental health interns. We include in our provider agreements that the School District will offer a private space on campus for the agency to work with students onsite and encourage the agency to maximize third party health insurance benefits and Medicaid claiming for services.

1. Adapt Behavioral Services
2. Betty Griffin House
3. Big Bear Behavioral Health
4. Children's Home Society of Florida
5. Daniel Memorial
6. Jewish Family & Community Services
7. EPIC Behavioral Healthcare
8. Motivational Coaches USA
9. St. Augustine Youth Services
10. Stewart-Marchman-Act Behavioral Healthcare
11. Youth Crisis Center

- **Describe awareness/prevention efforts that address mental health issues.**

Elementary school students will receive classroom lessons to introduce and support competencies regarding American School Counselor Association Mindsets and Behaviors for Student Success Standards which will help students manage emotions and apply interpersonal skills. In addition, CASEL Social Emotional Competencies will be integrated and practiced in elementary classroom English Language Arts instruction through Being a Reader, Being a Writer, and/or Making Meaning. Middle school students will receive lessons to support substance abuse prevention and safe and healthy relationships. High school HOPE classes will be enhanced by providing supplemental mental health awareness instruction provided by licensed mental health counselors (including typical mental health issues, self-interventions, where to get extra help). Also at the high school level, school-wide prevention programs addressing topics including substance abuse, suicide, bullying and dating violence will be implemented. The District Crisis Response Team will provide training and support to develop school-based crisis response teams for supporting students and staff in the event of disaster or loss. FortifyFL training will be provided as mandated by the State of Florida.

- **Describe the mental health screening and assessment procedures for determining which students need mental health interventions and treatment.**

Anyone, including the student, can submit a request to review the need for mental health support with the Multi Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) team. The MTSS team may refer the student to the district mental health counselor for a prevention group, a single counseling session or a screening session. The district mental health counselor will use these opportunities to observe the student and determine if further supports are needed (more intensive individual or group counseling).

- **Describe process for identifying and delivering evidence-based mental health interventions.**

Appropriately licensed and certified staff are hired to provide individual and group counseling interventions. In addition, performance/progress data are collected to identify whether or not interventions are working. Published counseling strategies and curricula are adapted as needed to meet student needs. District staff are active members of Professional Learning Communities to fine-tune their skills.

- **Describe procedures for referring students to school-based mental health interventions and community-based mental health providers for treatment.**

Students will be referred via the Multi Tiered System of Supports team, the Threat Assessment Team, or the Mobile Crisis Response Team. The school social worker will gather the information and paperwork necessary to secure or refer school-based and/or community-based treatment from parents or legal guardians.

- **Describe other outcome data that will be used to evaluate effectiveness of services (e.g., Early Warning System indicators, Youth Risk Behavior Survey data, school climate/student engagement data).**

Outcome data that will be used to evaluate effectiveness of services. Data will include but not be limited to: number of students identified through the Early Warning System indicators, number of students that are referred to MTSS for mental health services, number of students who received screenings or assessments, number of students that are considered "WATCH" in the MTSS process, number of students receiving services from District employees or outside agencies, and behavioral data (i.e. professional observation during sessions, referrals, anecdotal reports).

- **Describe how services will be delivered within a multi-tiered system of supports {universal/prevention, targeted, and intensive}.**

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2018-2019 with no changes	Avg Sal/Benes	positions	IDEA		Operating		Mental Health	
			%	\$	%	\$	%	\$
School Psychologists	78,538.61	16	80%	1,005,294.21	20%	251,323.55		0.00
Mental Health Counselors	67,403.61	6	100%	404,421.66		0.00		0.00
Social Workers				0.00		0.00		0.00
<b>TOTALS:</b>				<b>1,409,715.87</b>		<b>251,323.55</b>		<b>0.00</b>

2018-2019 with MHA	Avg Sal/Benes	positions	IDEA		Operating		Mental Health	
			%	\$	%	\$	%	\$
School Psychologists +2	78,538.61	18	71.11%	1,005,278.50	17.78%	251,354.97	11.11%	157,061.51
Mental Health Counselors +6	67,403.61	12	50%	404,421.66		0.00	50%	404,421.66
Social Workers	69,300.00	2.5		0.00		0.00	100%	173,250.00
<b>TOTALS:</b>				<b>1,409,700.16</b>		<b>251,354.97</b>		<b>734,733.17</b>

This chart is to show that no Mental Health Allocation dollars are being used to supplant operating dollars for the 2018-2019 school year. Additional positions are being purchased with Mental Health Allocation dollars with no decrease in the amount of operating dollars allocated.

**Total Mental Health Assistance Allocation:** \$ 995,078.00  
 Total Mental Health Assistance Allocation spent on personnel: \$734,733.17  
 Contracted Direct Mental Health Services: \$ 260,344.83