

APPROVED

Mental Health Assistance Allocation Plan
Taylor County School District

JUL 24 2018

By Taylor County
School Board

Taylor County School District will expand its existing Mental Health Program with the following services and strategies...

Focus on delivering evidence –based mental health services

Taylor County School District will focus on delivering evidence-based mental health services within the school setting and community. Direct therapies in both individual and group modalities will be utilized, as well as consultation and collaboration with student services personnel, administration, teachers, and parents within each school in Taylor County. Problem solving teams at each school will select interventions that has evidence supporting its use and will select appropriate strategies based on the unique presenting problem. Given that mental health issues are often complex, it is often appropriate to select multiple interventions when needed. A three-tiered approach will be used similar to tiers already in use for academics and behavioral supports. A school mental health expert will attend these meetings as requested to guide teams in appropriate level(s) of support. This could include outside agencies that already work or could potentially provide mental health supports to students.

Includes description of supports that address mental health needs

The following supports will be implemented within the school district to address mental health needs including assessment, diagnosis, intervention, treatment, and recovery...

- Addition of a Mental Health Support Coordinator –The school district will contract with a licensed mental health counselor with expertise in working with children and adolescents to fulfill this role. This counselor will provide direct individualized and group mental health therapy to students across grade levels/schools. This position will also be responsible for the coordination of mental health services and the referral process for mental health services. This person will also work along with other student services professionals in the district to develop a protocol to assess, diagnose, and monitor the effectiveness of interventions and treatment plans. The coordinator will also monitor students that have had in-patient mental health services returning to school. This will assist in ensuring a continuity of support and services. This person will serve on all School Based Threat Assessment Teams.

- Addition of a Full Time School Psychologist – The school district will hire a full time school psychologist who will assist in the district with assessment, diagnosis, and intervention/treatment planning for students. This person will serve on all School Based Threat Assessment Teams.
- Summer Availability of School Counseling Services – School Counselors will schedule office hours during the month of July, which was previously not offered. This time will be spent offering individualized and group counseling with students in need of services as well as referral to appropriate providers if necessary.
- Awareness efforts will be coordinated on professional development days with the employees of the Taylor County School District. Awareness efforts could include Mental Health First Aid, Restorative Practices, Trauma Informed Care, Behavioral Deescalation, and PREPaRe. These efforts are included in Tier One supports as they will benefit all students.
- Tier One preventative services will be available to ALL students through Tier One Behavioral Supports, such as CHAMPS, Character Education Activities, Jason Foundation Suicide Prevention Curriculum for Middle and High School, and Character Education at Elementary Level. BASE Social-Emotional Software Courses will be assigned to students as needed.
- Standardized measures will be used for assessment of mental health needs. The PETRA, ACUTE, and structural interviews will be completed by qualified personnel as needed to measure the threat level (Low, Middle, or High) of a student who the district suspects may be a harm to themselves or others. The Student Risk Screening Scale will be used as a universal screener to ascertain need for mental health and behavioral intervention. Interventions will be determined by the School-Based MTSS team which will include

Tier 2 Interventions that will be available include the following –

- Small Group Counseling targeting specific coping strategies or relevant topics, Small Group Targeted Social Skills Training using Skill Streaming, BASE Software Lessons will be assigned to a targeted group

Tier 3 Interventions that will be provided includes the following –

Individualized mental health counseling based on student need, individualized social skills training, individualized behavior planning and assessment, referral to CAT team

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 diagnoses.

1. The following mental health services for students will be provided for one or more co-occurring mental health or substance abuse diagnoses and students at risk of such diagnoses ...
 - The Mental Health Support Coordinator will be responsible for identification of students with co-occurring diagnoses and for students at risk.
 - The Coordinator, in collaboration with the School Counselor at the student's school will meet with the School Based Intervention Team to determine the following ...
 - What current interventions or treatment plans are in effect for the student?
 - What community based agencies and/or school based programs are responsible for the intervention/treatment plans?
 - Is current treatment or intervention effective or does plan need to be revised?
 - What additional referrals or services should be completed at this time?
 - Meetings should occur at least quarterly for monitoring. Primary Care Providers will be invited to participate as necessary. Meetings can take place more often in the case of a return from in patient hospitalization, an escalation in symptoms, or at a parent or teacher request.
 - Individualized counseling and consultative services will be provided for the student. Families will be involved in treatment and intervention planning and invited to every meeting. A social worker with an extensive background in substance abuse counseling will be provided by Community Wellness Counseling and Support Services to eligible students.

Collaborative Partnerships and Information Sharing

2. Collaborative partnerships with community providers and agencies will be valuable and used in this process. The following community based agencies will be used onsite and will be available on a daily basis for students ...

- Community Wellness Counseling and Support Services – This agency will provide two Licensed Clinical Social Workers at the Master's level to provide counseling services, substance abuse counseling as well as medication management through telemedicine services by a Board-Certified Psychiatrist. This service will be onsite at schools daily.
- Apalachee Center – This agency will provide a Mental Health Counselor to provide counseling services as well as medication management by a Board-Certified Psychiatrist. This service will be onsite at schools.
- Capital City Youth Services – A social worker will be made available for counseling support within the schools including group and individual counseling.
- A New Dawn, A New Day – A social worker will be made available for counseling support within the schools including group and individual counseling.

The Mental Health Support Coordinator will meet with parents to secure signed medical release to share information and to consult/collaborate with Primary Care Providers and other mental health providers.

Program Implementation and Outcomes

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)

Taylor County Schools will keep record within a working spreadsheet of the following ...

- Students who receive mental screenings or assessments
- Students referred to mental health services provided in house or by community partners
- Students who received mental health services or assistance

Identifies number and credentials of mental health service providers contracted by the district

One Licensed Mental Health Counselor (Masters Level)

One School Psychologist (Masters Level, Nationally Certified School Psychologist)

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

Taylor County will be contracting with a licensed mental health counselor for \$95,000 for the provision and coordination of mental health services. We will also have a new full time school psychologist that the mental health allocation will pay for 60% of the salary (approx. \$48,000). Summer hours for mental health services delivered by school counselors will be paid from this allocation (approx. \$2000). BASE software will be purchased for direct mental health services at the Tier 1 and Tier 2 Level (\$7500). The remainder (approx. \$3500) will be used for travel and materials.

About 98% of the allocation will be allocated to direct mental health services or the coordination of services.

Describes how district will maximize use of other sources of funding to provide school-based mental health services, where appropriate.

Taylor County District will be billing for Medicaid reimbursement for services by our licensed mental health counselor and our new school psychologist for behavioral services. The district is collaborating with community agencies such as Capital City Youth Services that is grant funded and can serve all students within the district free of charge.