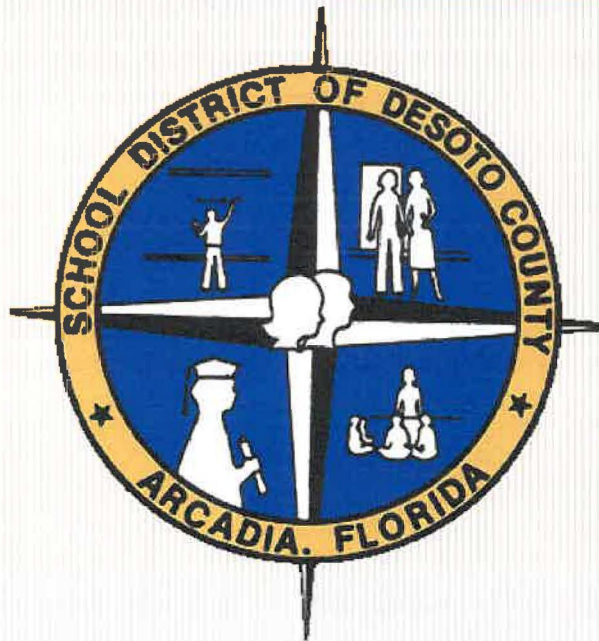


School District of DeSoto  
School Board Action

JUL 24 2018

APPROVED

# District Mental Health Assistance Plan



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF DESOTO COUNTY  
2018-2019

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## Part One: Mental Health Allocation Plan

### Description of Mental Health Supports that Address Mental Health Needs (Assessment, diagnosis, intervention, treatment, and recovery)

#### ***Evidence-Based Mental Health Services***

According to the National Association of School Psychologists (2016):

"School mental health services are essential to creating and sustaining safe schools. Increased access to mental health services and supports in schools is vital to improving the physical and psychological safety of our students and schools, as well as academic performance and problem-solving skills. Additionally, in the aftermath of a crisis, school-employed mental health professionals provide supports that facilitate the return to normalcy, are sustainable, and can help to identify and work with students with more intense or ongoing needs." (p. 1)

School-based mental health services include the following: A broad spectrum of assessment, prevention, intervention, post-vention, counseling, consultation, and referral activities and services (American Counseling Association, n.d.). To provide the students in DeSoto County mental health supports the following we will utilize district-employed staff as obtain services from collaborative partners.

#### ***Awareness/Prevention Efforts***

All of our awareness and prevention efforts fall into Tier 1 and Tier 2 of our Mental Health Plan Framework.

##### **Tier 1 Supports**

- o Universal Screenings for mental health issues
- o Consultation with school personnel: School counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, school nurses
- o Child Study Team Meetings
- o Threat Assessment Teams
- o Cloud9World
- o Student Trainings:
  - o Drug Abuse Awareness Training - Drug Free DeSoto
  - o Say Something - Sandy Hook Promise
  - o Start with Hello - Sandy Hook Promise
  - o SOS Signs of Suicide - Sandy Hook Promise
- o Staff Trainings:
  - o Youth Mental Health First Aide Training
  - o Youth Mental Health First Aide Training (Train-the-Trainers)
  - o 21<sup>st</sup> Century Behavior
  - o Trauma Informed Care
  - o CHAMPS Training
  - o Safety Assessment and Intervention -Sandy Hook Promise

##### **Tier 2 Supports**

- o Attendance Committee Meetings
- o Check and Connect Mentoring

- o Behavior Contracts
- o Ripple Effects
- o Check-in Check-out

**Tier 3 Supports**

- Behavior Intervention Plans
- YMCA Family Management Services (CINS-FINS)
  - o Individual Counseling
- DeSoto Psychiatric Services
  - o Individual and group therapy
  - o Substance Abuse Assessments & Counseling
  - o Psychiatric Evaluation
  - o Medication Services
  - o Case Management
- MCR Health Services - Community Care
  - o Individual and Group Therapy
  - o Psychiatric Evaluation
  - o Medication Services

**School Threat Assessment Teams**

- o Participants: School Based teams: District Safety Specialist, School Social Worker, School Administrator, Instructional staff (which may include a school counselor or teacher), ESE Staffing Specialists, School Resource Officer, and School Psychologist.
- o Responsibilities: These teams will meet on a monthly basis for the coordination of resources, assessment, and intervention with individuals whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of the school, staff, or students. Interventions may include, but are not limited to: Referral to MTSS (if not already participating in the MTSS process), referral to the District Threat Assessment Team, referral for mental health services, and/or referrals to our Alternative Education Program. Teams will identify who to report threats to in the school community and provide guidance to students, faculty, and staff regarding recognition of possible threats to the community, school or self. Teams may obtain criminal history record information if necessary for assessment but this information must remain confidential. Upon determination of a threat, the team immediately reports its determination to the Superintendent and the Director of Exceptional Student Education & Student Services.

**District Threat Assessment Teams**

- o District Based Team: Superintendent, Director of Exceptional Student Education & Student Services, District School Safety Specialist, Supervising Lieutenant, Sheriff, and City Marshall.
- o Duties: Meet monthly to review School Threat Assessment outcomes, protocols, and provide resources and guidance to the schools as needed. The team also will coordinate with school psychologists, social workers, and/or collaborative partners as needed to conduct comprehensive assessments as deemed appropriate. This team may make referrals for Alternative Placements.

**Description of Mental Health Supports that Address Mental Health Needs (Assessment, diagnosis, intervention, treatment, and recovery)**

***District-Employed Supports***

The district currently employs one Licensed Clinical Social Worker. This therapist will provide the following evidenced based practices:

- Complete risk assessments and threat assessments as needed
- Identify and assess the need for a baker act and diagnose accordingly
- Collaborate with school and district personnel on threat assessment teams
- Provide training in mental health awareness for students and school staff
- Coordinate services with primary care and mental health providers involved in a student's care
- Communicate with other agencies and staff as needed and appropriate
- Communicate and collaborate with parents and guardians
- Document all threat assessment team services provided
- Maintain a list of resources available for threat assessment teams

The district currently employs one School Psychologist. Although this psychologist primarily provides evaluations for Exceptional Student Education, this individual may be asked to serve on Threat Assessment Teams, and/or provide psychology services to a student that was referred by a School or District Threat Assessment Team.

The district will be adding a part-time social worker. This individual will be responsible for the following activities:

- Complete risk assessments and threat assessments as needed
- Conduct mental health screenings
- Collaborate with school and district personnel on threat assessment teams
- Provide training in mental health awareness for students and school staff
- Coordinate services with primary care and mental health providers involved in a student's care
- Communicate with other agencies and staff as needed and appropriate
- Communicate and collaborate with parents and guardians
- Document all threat assessment team services provided
- Maintain a list of resources available for threat assessment teams
- Provide therapy for uninsured students

***Collaborative Partnerships (Contracted/Collaborative Mental Health Services Providers)***

***Charlotte Behavioral Health***

The contract with Charlotte Behavioral Health Center (CBHC) for two therapists: Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Licensed Mental Health Counselor, or Licensed Family and Marriage Therapist. These therapists will provide screening for students as well as therapy is deemed appropriate. Charlotte Behavioral Health Care staff will participate in any risk assessment committees as needed to provide insight into reported behaviors and help with treatment

recommendations. Duties of staff placed in the Desoto School system will include individual therapy, up to five sessions, with students needing support, working with students returning from crisis services, and providing professional development as able within their normal working hours. Priority for services will be for students identified by the School and District Threat Assessment Teams.

The contract with CBHC for psychiatric consultations will enable us to serve more students identified through the School or District Threat Assessment Teams. This expanded contract will allow for the coordination of mental health treatment services that are part of a stipulated agreement in lieu of expulsion, a stipulated order of expulsion or included in the district's threat assessment team recommendations.

### ***MCR Health Services/Community Care***

MCR Health Services has partnered with DeSoto County School District to achieve its goals for a school based mental health program by delivering evidence-based mental health services to the students of DeSoto County. The partnership includes the following deliverables:

- Develop procedures for mental health assessment referrals.
  - o School Staff Referrals
  - o Parent or Guardian Referrals
  - o Self or Peer Referrals
- Identify those students at need for services.
- Deliver mental health therapeutic services to all students in need.
- Provide required data to the district including numbers of students who received mental health screenings and numbers of those referred to other agencies.
- Develop measurable outcome data used to evaluate effectiveness of services.

MCR will work with the District to help ensure the financial sustainability of the program. We will work together to identify opportunities to enhance current tactics and migrate to ideal model overtime.

### **Coordination of Mental Health Services With Providers**

If it is suspected (or we are informed) that a student has an illness we will work with the parents to obtain information about the diagnosis and treatment of the child. We will ask the parents to sign consents for the release of medical information. We will send this release to all known providers of that student. The district will utilize this information to assist in the treatment of the child and to determine what services are needed.

## Part Two: Program Implementation and Outcomes

### Student Screenings, Student Referrals, Students Served

Number of Students to be screened: Up to 5000 students

#### Screening Methods:

- Parent/Guardian Referral
- Teacher Referral
- Peer/Self-Referral

#### Student Referrals:

The therapists will review the screening information to determine which provider will be supporting the students in the schools.

#### Students Served:

Mechanisms have been put in place to ensure that the District obtains regular reports from our partners in regards to the number of students screened and served each month. This information will be utilized for reporting and planning purposes.

#### *Credentials of Mental Health Services Providers Employed by the District*

Below are the credentials of district employed Mental Health Services Providers:

- One Licensed Clinical Social Worker
- One Part-time School Social Worker (Florida Department of Education License)
- One School Psychologist (Florida Department of Education License)

#### *Credentials of Mental Health Services Providers Contracted by the District*

Below are the credentials of contracted Mental Health Services Providers:

- Charlotte Behavioral Health
  - Two of the following: Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Licensed Mental Health Counselor, or Licensed Family and Marriage Therapist.
  - A Psychiatrist or a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner will be conducting the Psychiatric Evaluations
- MGR/Community Care
  - Licensed Clinical Social Workers

**Part Three: Expenditures**

**Planned Expenditures:**

Part-time School Social Worker <sup>3/4</sup> salary, benefits, retirement) District-employed	\$35,000
Therapists (LCSW, LMHC, LFMT)                      \$ 66,000 x 2 Contract with Charlotte Behavioral Health Care, Inc.	\$132,000
Contract with Charlotte Behavioral Health Care, Inc. for psychiatric consultations	\$5,000
Contract with MCR for therapy for non-insured students	\$5,000
Professional development & implementation costs:	\$8,000
Purchase of Research-Based Programs for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Support	\$15,000
	<u>\$200,000</u>

**NOTE:** Funding totals are approximate and funds may be adjusted between the above earmarked categories as determined by the district.



### References

National Association of School Psychologists. (2016). School-based mental health services improving student learning and well-being. Bethesda, MD.

American Counseling Association. (n.d.) An overview of school-based mental health services. Alexandria, VA.