

OKALOOSA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT



MENTAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE ALLOCATION PLAN

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MENTAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE ALLOCATION PLAN
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHOOL YEAR 2018/2019

SECTION 1 Mental Health Supports and Services

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. All school staff will be trained using the evidenced based youth mental health awareness program developed by the Florida Department of Education to help identify and understand the signs of mental health and substance use and/or abuse disorders. In addition, OCSD will utilize their licensed professionals to provide evidenced based treatments, 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 based upon the individual student's needs. OCSD will continue the practice of providing Trauma Informed Schools training to school based staff and all new employees through the Newcomers Orientation Program. School wide Social/Emotional programs will be explored 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 Curriculum to all elementary students district wide as well as introducing Teen Safety Matters in the 2018-2019 SY for all middle school students district wide.

All student referrals to outside agencies will be coordinated through the school based Licensed Mental Health Counselor.

All School Psychologists and Licensed Mental Health Professionals employed by OCSD will receive PRE PaRE training to improve and strengthen school safety and crisis management and response.

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

Early Warning System Indicators (EWS) and administrator/teacher referrals to flag mental health concerns will be used to assess and identify students needing mental health referrals and services. Based on screening results and/or school staff concerns, 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.

C. 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.

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.

Co-occurring substance abuse diagnoses will be referred to the school based Licensed Mental Health Counselor for evaluation and likely referral to outside mental health and/or addiction treatment agency.

D. Collaborative partnerships with community providers and agencies.

OSCD has memorandum of understandings, contracts and / or collaborative partnerships with the following agencies:

Children's Home Society: Provides onsite mental health counseling services to referred students.

Bridgeway Center, Inc. : Provides Behavioral Health Services to referred students both onsite and off-site.

Mental Health Association of Okaloosa-Walton Counties: referral source for mental health services for students using the Brain Health initiative.

Megellan Health: Provides Military Family Life Counselors to provide counseling to military students.

Okaloosa County Sheriff's Department: Provides School Resource Officers to provide safety and security at all school sites.

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.

Families First Network: Coordination of foster care children and services within the school district.

Department of Children and Families: Provides child protective services to students.

E. 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 for information and data sharing. OCSD will enter into Memorandums of Understanding and Cooperative Agreements that allow information and data sharing and will provide the process and procedures for such information release.

The release of all personally identifiable student information will be in accordance with the requirements of both the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).

Section 2 Services and Providers

A. Identification of numbers of students screened/assessed, and / or referred for services and numbers of students receiving services/assistance (school-based and community).

OCSD will develop a computer based reporting system through its MIS Programming Department to document students receiving mental health services as mandated in legislation.

B. Number and credentials of mental health services providers employed by OCSD.

OCSD currently employs fifty-three (53) school counselors, nine (9) FLDOE certified School Psychologists and two (2) licensed and FLDOE certified School Psychologists. OCSD will look to add an additional two (2) School Psychologists using general funding.

OCSD will use the Mental Health Allocation to hire an additional ten (10) Licensed Mental Health Counselors, Licensed Clinical Social Workers or Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists to provide direct mental health counseling/ services.

C. Number and credentials of mental health services providers contracted by OCSD.

OCSD does not directly contract with individual mental health providers at this time.

OCSD will continue collaboration with outside agencies (Children's Home Society, Mental Health Association of Okaloosa-Walton Counties and Bridgeway Center) through Memorandums of Understanding and Cooperative Agreements to provide Mental Health Services - Substance Abuse Services to our students both on campuses and off site.

Section 3 Funding

A. 90% of expenditures allocated are allocated to district mental health services or coordination of such services with primary care and mental health providers.

OCSD is allocating 100% of the Mental Health allocation to newly implemented mental health strategies and intervention programs effective beginning in the 2018-2019 school year. This allocation will be budgeted and accounted for in a uniquely numbered project where all expenditures will be easily tracked and accounted.

B. Assurances that mental health assistance allocation does not supplant other funding sources OR increase salaries or provide staff bonuses.

OCSD will be using the funds to direct hire new Licensed Mental Health Counselors, Licensed Clinical Social Workers and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist to provide direct counseling services to students in the school setting.

Current Mental Health service related staff will continue to be funded through other OCSD budgeted funds.

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).


OCSD currently has a contract with the School Board of Seminole County to provide Medicaid billing services.

All mental health professionals will be required to bill Medicaid for services provided. School psychologists will continue to bill Medicaid for direct services provided. Title IV grant funding will be explored and applied for as an additional funding source for mental health programs, universal screeners and other mental health resources.

SCHOOL BOARD APPROVED:

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By:


Lamar White
Chairman

7/23/2018

Date


Mary Beth Jackson
Superintendent

7/23/2018

Date