

For M.S.D.W.T. Secondary Schools-Middle Schools, High School, and Career Center:

Grades 6-12

Community Health Network ***Behavioral Health School-Based Services***

Our Mission: To strengthen individuals and families by providing strength-based, family centered, culturally-competent, individualized, collaborative care in the school, home and community.

Our Goal: To help students through early identification, prevention, intervention, counseling and support.

Primary components of the School-Based Program include

Helping students to:

- cope in time of crisis
- access mental health services
- understand mental health diagnoses and medications
- become resilient, successful learners
- gain personal and social competencies

Supporting parents to:

- effectively participate in their child's education
- understand their child's developmental and educational needs
- understand mental health diagnosis and medications
- access school and community resources
- understand special education services
- strengthen parenting skills

Assisting educators to:

- work effectively with parents
- discover new resources
- participate in the special education process
- understand the family, cultural and community factors affecting students
- meet educational outcomes for students of diverse backgrounds

Work with administrators to:

- implement prevention programs and policies that address child abuse and neglect, violence, school safety, alcohol and drug use and abuse, bullying and suicide.

The School-Based Program is strength-based, family focused outpatient care primarily in the school setting. The services are provided in a more natural environment for the child and family, including the home, school, and community. This allows students an opportunity to function more successfully in those environments. The School-Based Program offers a new approach to the delivery of mental health care. Families can access services in an alternative, supportive school environment as well as in their home. School-Based services can also help facilitate the day to day working relationships between staff and students. This model enhances access to students and families who otherwise may not have access or seek services.

Our school-based program serves male and female youth, three to eighteen years of age who are currently enrolled in school and present with a documentable mental health disorder according to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders 5 or who require assessment for such a disorder.

A critical focus is the engagement of families in the therapeutic process. Families are crucial to any enduring positive change in the lives of children and adolescents. At some level all members need to be involved with the development and implementation of the treatment plan for the identified client. Often it is the change in the family dynamics that creates the environment that enables the child/adolescent to make positive changes.

We serve children and adolescents with a variety of clinical diagnoses including but not limited to:

- Depressive disorders
- Bipolar Disorder
- Attention Deficit Disorder
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Anxiety disorders
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
- Autism Spectrum disorders
- Conduct Disorder
- Adjustment Disorder
- Substance Abuse disorders
- Oppositional Defiant Disorder

Often the School-Based Program serves those children whose families have become disenfranchised from the 'system' at large and/or have not had access to mental health services. These children/adolescents would not typically receive services until or unless they were adjudicated or until a major crisis occurred in which serious and often irreversible situations occurred. A primary focus in this program is to actively engage the family in the child's treatment from assessment through treatment.

Services are provided by an experienced staff representing a full range of mental health disciplines including psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, social workers, masters level counselors, advanced practice nurses, registered nurses, activity therapists, mental health clinicians, and bachelor level care coordinators and life skills specialists.

School-Based offices are open during the weekdays year round with therapists, life skills specialists and care coordination at most sites. Our crisis services are available to all clients twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

All youth patients and families referred for services undergo a thorough bio-psycho-social assessment. The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths assessment is also utilized for all our youth and family to identify both youth and family strengths and

A wide array of services is available to meet the mental health needs of our youth and families. Services include:

- Individual psychotherapy
- Family psychotherapy
- Group psychotherapy
- Psychiatric evaluations and medication management for all youth patients
- Care coordination services
- Life skills training
- Home and community based services for youth transitioning from inpatient to outpatient services

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