

BOE
Agenda



**Mental Health,
Addiction & Recovery
Services Board of
Lorain County**

May 19, 2023

Jerome Davis, Superintendent
Clearview Local School District
4700 Broadway Ave.
Lorain, OH 44052

Dear Superintendent Davis:

I am writing to invite you to review an agreement with Mental Health, Addiction and Recovery Services (MHARS) Board of Lorain County for the provision of Mental Health Consultation, Education and Prevention activities which are fully funded by the MHARS Board and provided by mental health agencies to collaborating schools.

MHARS-funded services are designed to complement existing resources within a school and to proactively address the mental health needs of students. These services include:

Prevention: Agency clinicians can provide evidence based tiered prevention groups on a range of topics (social skills, emotional management, etc.) Groups for students and groups for parents are funded by MHARS. All groups are developed in collaboration with school counselors, social workers, and other school staff and are meant to complement services already provided by school staff members.

Consultation: Agency clinicians are funded to act as a liaison between the school, the parent and a mental health agency within Lorain County. For example, if a school staff member identified a particular child with mental health concerns that warranted treatment beyond what is typically provided by school staff, and a consent form is signed by the parent, the agency clinician is funded to: meet with the child, determine the best resource within the community, and call or meet with the parent to encourage connecting the student with the most appropriate service.

Education: MHARS funds agency clinicians to provide in-service training to school staff. Network staff can provide presentations of varying length on issues related to mental health, suicide prevention, the impact of trauma on youth, youth depression, and early childhood mental health. Educational sessions can also be provided directly to youth on issues of mental health awareness and suicide prevention. If the clinician(s) working



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with your school can not meet the needs for mental health related-education that your district experiences, please **contact Rebecca Jones at rjones@mharslc.org**.

In addition to Board-funded services, particular agencies may also partner with schools within your district to provide mental health services within the school. Mental health treatment within schools is typically funded by the student's insurance. However, in special circumstances, clinical exceptions can be made and MHARS may fund the provision of treatment on a time limited basis.

To address workforce issues which have impacted school-based service delivery, the MHARS Board has encouraged that provider agencies utilize a team approach. A school may be served by a team of trained individuals including clinicians and prevention specialists.

If you have any questions about what services are available, please do not hesitate to call. We are highly interested in ongoing improvement in the MHARS-funded services and in enhanced collaboration between mental health and school districts. If you are interested having these **free** services available within your district during the upcoming school year, please sign and return a copy of the attached agreement no later than June 30, 2023.

Warmly Yours,

Rebecca Jones, LPCC-S
Children Behavioral Health Services Director
Mental Health, Addiction and Recovery Services (MHARS) Board of Lorain County
440-787-2076
rjones@mharslc.org

PM/rj

Attachment

**MENTAL HEALTH, ADDICTION AND RECOVERY SERVICES (MHARS)
BOARD OF LORAIN COUNTY AGREEMENT WITH LORAIN COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT:
Clearview Local School District**

The Mental Health, Addiction and Recovery Services (MHARS) Board of Lorain County is invested in supporting the social and emotional wellness of Lorain County Students and values the opportunity to work with Lorain County School Districts to this end. Because MHARS does not provide direct service, MHARS contracts with certified and accredited community behavioral agencies to provide mental health and substance use services.

MHARS directs funding to community behavioral health agencies for the provision of school-based mental health services within Lorain County Schools. Toward this end, the Board funds community behavioral health agencies to provide:

- (1) prevention services,
- (2) education/training for staff, parents and students,
- (3) individualized consultation to connect students with necessary services,
- (4) classroom consultation to assist teachers in promoting the social and emotional development of children in classroom settings, and
- (5) participation by the clinician in school teams that focus on suicide prevention or mental health promotion.

Additionally, the Board funds clinical services (e.g. counseling, psychiatry) for students when families have no other means of payment. Board funding is tied to the following expectations:

Community behavioral health agencies providing Board-funded school based services have agreed that agency staff or supervisors are responsible for the following:

- Meeting with the school principal or designee to identify the array of behavioral health services that would be most helpful to a particular school.
- Ensuring that the service plan is approved by MHARS within ten days of the plan being agreed upon by the school principal or designee and the supervisor from the community behavioral health agency.
- Providing or coordinating the provision of the agreed-upon school-based services.
- Informing the school principal or designee and the Board of staff changes that could impact the provision of planned or existing services to students as soon as these become known to the agency.
- Submit to the principal or designee a plan for coverage of existing services in the event that a staff change may impact the provision of school services.
- With permission of parent/guardian, keeping designated school staff informed about outcomes of individualized consultation or progress in treatment.

The Board expects that the school district shall:

- Provide parents with a letter introducing the consultation and education services.
- Support the provision of behavioral health services by facilitating the collection of necessary permission slips, and release of information forms from parents/legal guardians.
- Commit to utilizing behavioral health professionals at least half a day per week throughout the school year.

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- Utilize the crisis hotline the MRSS call center at 1-888-418- 6777 or 9-8-8, if a student is in mental health crisis (School based clinician can assist when there is a crisis, but if a student is judged to be at significant risk, the hotline should be utilized).
- Provide private space (at least 100 sq. feet) within the educational setting dedicated for the provision of confidential behavioral health-related services for individual and groups of students and/or staff.
- Provide access to the school wi-fi when possible.
- In the event that the school is dissatisfied with any aspect of the provision of school based behavioral health services or would like additional services, the principal or designee shall communicate the concern or request for additional services to the clinician and then to the clinician's supervisor, if necessary. If no resolution is achieved, the principal or designee agrees to contact MHARS to seek resolution. The point of contact for MHARS is Rebecca Jones. Rebecca may be reached at rjones@mharslc.org or at (440) 787-2076. If the principal or designee seeks out a different agency to provide consultation, education or prevention services within his/her school, without following this process, these services will not be funded by MHARS.

In agreement with the above expectations we hereto affix our signatures.

Printed Name of Superintendent or Designee

Signature of Superintendent or Designee

Rebecca Jones LRCC S

Rebecca Jones, Children Behavioral Health Services Director

Date

05/19/2023

Date