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TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.

DATE: March 20, 2018

SUBJECT: Mental Health Committee Update

PURPOSE:

Provide an update on the Maryland State Department of Education's (MSDE) implementation of the Mental Health Committee's recommendations and proposed actions.

BACKGROUND:

In June 2016, the State Board approved the formation of the Mental Health Committee (Committee) to explore student mental health issues and best practices for supporting students and local school systems. The areas of focus for the Committee are suicide prevention and human trafficking. On October 24, 2017, the Committee's recommendations and proposed actions were presented to the State Board. The MSDE has developed a three-year plan to implement the recommendations and proposed actions of the Committee.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Mental Health Committee's three-year plan is being implemented. Activities include hosting a state-wide Suicide Prevention and Child Abuse Prevention Coordinators Fall Conference (December 8, 2017); the development and distribution of a *Resource Guide of Maryland Mental Health and Wellness Programs*; and identifying trainers to expand a human trafficking pilot to additional school systems.

Next steps include collaboration with the Maryland Center for School Safety and the Maryland Department of Health to address mental health issues with students; continued focus on mental health and trauma issues for spring meetings with local student service supervisors and directors; and redesigning the MSDE Student Services and Strategic Planning website to highlight mental health and school safety initiatives and resources.

ACTION:

No action is necessary, for discussion only.

Mental Health Committee Update



STATE BOARD MEETING

March 20, 2018



Objective

To provide an update on the Maryland State Department of Education's (MSDE) implementation of the State Board Mental Health Committee's recommendations and proposed actions.

Background

- ❑ In June 2016, the State Board approved the formation of a study group (Committee) to explore student mental health issues and best practices for supporting students and Local Educational Agencies (LEAs).
- ❑ Two focus areas emerged from initial Committee meetings:
 - suicide prevention, and
 - human trafficking.
- ❑ On October 24, 2017, the recommendations and proposed actions of the Committee were presented to the State Board.
- ❑ The MSDE has developed a three-year action plan to implement the recommendations and proposed actions of the Committee

Implementation

- ❑ On December 8, 2017, the MSDE hosted the Suicide Prevention and Child Abuse Prevention Coordinators Fall Conference (Proposed Action 1.1). The objectives of the conference were to:
 - Deepen participants' understanding of the relationship between childhood trauma, suicide risk, and child abuse; and
 - Discuss State-level efforts for addressing youth mental health issues and concerns related to child abuse and suicide risk.

- ❑ Presenters shared best practices for addressing early childhood trauma and the effects on mental health.

Implementation (continued)

- ❑ Finalized the *Resource Guide of Maryland School Mental Health and Wellness Programs* in January 2018 and posted the Guide on the newly-developed MSDE Youth Suicide Prevention web page, which contains additional resources to support student mental health (Proposed Action 2.2).
- ❑ Developed a website for Child Abuse, Neglect, and Human Trafficking.
- ❑ Completed the development of a database of mental health experts and speakers to present on the topic of mental health, trauma, and suicide prevention issues to local school system staff (Proposed Action 2.1).

Implementation (continued)

- Currently, in the process of working with identified trainers to expand a pilot on awareness of signs of human trafficking (Araminta) to additional school systems.
 - The purpose of the pilot was to train school staff on how to identify signs of potential human trafficking and how to refer students to the proper professionals (Proposed Action 6.1).
 - The pilot was conducted in three school systems (Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Prince George’s County).
 - Approximately 2,459 school staff were trained, including teachers, administrators, social workers, school counselors, pupil personnel workers, school psychologists, school resource officers, and other mental health workers.
 - A post-test, administered after the pilot training, indicated that 90 percent of participants stated that they would know what to do to report suspected trafficking.

Implementation (continued)

- Developed draft regulation which implements the requirements of House Bill 920 (2017) – *Primary and Secondary Education – Certified School Personnel – Training Requirement*. (Proposed Action 5.1).
 - Requires that all certificated school personnel who have direct contact with students on a regular basis complete training that will enable them to understand and respond to youth suicide risk and identify professional resources to help students in crisis.
 - Will present to the State Board request for permission to publish at the March 20 meeting.

Next Steps

- Continue to review, update, and implement the three-year action plan.
- Provide regular implementation updates to the Mental Health Committee and the State Board of Education.
- Continue to leverage partnership with the Maryland Center for School Safety to address mental health issues.
- Continue to focus on mental health and trauma issues:
 - School Psychology Supervisors—March 20, 2018
 - School Safety Directors—April 20, 2018
 - Student Service Directors—May 23-24, 2018

Next Steps (continued)

- Re-design MSDE Student Services and Strategic Planning website to highlight mental health and school safety initiatives and resources.
- Continue collaboration with the Maryland Children’s Mental Health Campaign (Mental Health Association of Maryland).
- Continue to monitor legislation, the Governor’s Executive Order, and other initiatives to support mental health and school safety.
- Continue collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health on suicide prevention and human trafficking initiatives.