



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
DATE: May 25, 2021
SUBJECT: Maryland Regional Crisis Response and Clinical Support Teams

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this item is to request approval of the establishment of Maryland Regional Crisis Response and Clinical Support Teams.

BACKGROUND/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

Students in Maryland and across the country have been impacted by the pandemic academically, physically, socially, and emotionally. From the sudden transition to online learning, the continued isolation, and the return to in-person learning, we do not know the long-term consequences for some students and the needs of the local school systems to address the student needs and build the capacity of the educators to meet these needs. Federal and state funding has been provided to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and local school systems. One of the uses of the federal state set-aside funds, with approval, will be to meet the needs of students through the establishment of Regional Crisis Response and Clinical Support Teams.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

A Mental Health Committee, under the leadership of the State Superintendent, has been established and has met every two weeks since February 26, 2021. Regional Crisis Response and Clinical Support Teams will be developed to serve in six regions across the State. The Teams will work closely with the local Superintendents to provide clinical support, meet crisis needs within the school systems, and provide professional development. Details on the development and components of this response to the needs of students, specifically because of the present and future ramifications of the COVID 19 pandemic, will be shared at the State Board meeting.

ACTION:

This is an action item requesting approval of the Maryland Regional Crisis Response and Clinical Support Teams.

ATTACHMENTS:

Maryland Regional Crisis Response and Clinical Support Teams PowerPoint

Maryland Regional Crisis Response and Clinical Support Teams



State Board of Education

May 25, 2021

Mental Health Initiative

Initiative will include the following major components:

- ✓ Clinical support for students, families, and schools
- ✓ Professional Development
- ✓ Crisis Response

Purpose of the Regional Crisis Response and Clinical Support Teams

- Improve behavioral health services for Maryland's children and youth
- Meet the needs of children/youth and their parents/caregivers
- Provide support and assist in implementation of prevention strategies
- De-escalate and ameliorate a crisis before more restrictive and costly interventions become necessary
- Provide direct clinical support
- Ensure connection to necessary services and supports
- Shift from overuse of high-end services to home and community-based services

Teams Will Include:

- Clinical Psychologist
- Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor
- Licensed Certified Social Worker (Clinical)
- School Nurse
- Family Navigator(s) (tentative 2 per team)

Supporting Positions to Teams

- Clinical Psychiatrist – Chief Medical Advisor
- Substance Abuse Counselors (3) – will be assigned to certain teams but available to remaining teams
- Board Certified Behavior Specialists (3) – will be assigned to certain teams but available to remaining teams
- Interpreters
- Director of the Program
- Specialist for the Program
- Administrative Support

Teams and Outreach

- A team of professionals and paraprofessionals, who are trained in clinical support and crisis intervention skills to ensure timely access to supports and services.
- In addition to helping resolve the crisis, teams work with the individual, their families, and the school to identify and develop strategies for effectively dealing with potential future crises.
- Must include school superintendents, but may also include other areas within education, emergency responders, businesses, other health and human service-related providers, family advocacy groups, peer organizations, and emergency dispatchers.

Tentative Regions

- Western (Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Washington)
- Upper Chesapeake (Baltimore County, Cecil, Harford, Kent)
- Central West (Howard, Montgomery)
- Central East (Anne Arundel, Baltimore City)
- Southern (Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, St. Mary's)
- Eastern Shore (Caroline, Dorchester, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, Worcester)

Activities to Date

- Established the Mental Health Advisory Committee (first meeting February 26, 2021) – Meets every two weeks
- Established a Mental Health Sub-Committee (first meeting March 5, 2021) – Meets every two weeks
- Continue to add membership to ensure representation
- Developed a survey to identify evidence-based programs at State and local levels (distributed March 26, 2021)
- Meeting with Human Resources, Procurement, and Finance
- Collaborated with other State agencies and institutions of higher education (IHEs)
- Developing a budget, timeline, and implementation plan

Membership Representation (Senior Staff and Local School Systems)

- Dr. Karen Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools
- Dr. Sylvia Lawson, Deputy Superintendent (School Effectiveness)
- Amalie Brandenburg, Deputy Superintendent (Finance)
- Dr. Holly Wilcox, State Board Member; Associate Professor, Department of Mental Health; Psychiatric Epidemiologist; Leads a Suicide Prevention Workgroup at Johns Hopkins; Co-chair of Governor Hogan's MD Commission on Suicide Prevention and MD's Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Network (MD-SPIN)

Membership Representation (Senior Staff and Local School Systems)

- Dr. Michael Martirano, Howard County Public Schools, Superintendent PSSAM
- Ruschelle Reuben, Montgomery County Public Schools, Associate Superintendent (PSSAM)
- Kate Hession, Maryland Center for School Safety, Executive Director
- J. Dino Pignataro, Maryland Center for School Safety, Deputy Director
- Kim Muniz, Carroll County Public Schools, Supervisor of Student Services (School Psychologist)

Higher Education Membership Representation

- Tiffany Beason, Associate Professor, University of MD School of Medicine
- Dr. Margo Candalaria, Associate Professor & Co-Director, Parent, Infant, Early Childhood Program, University of MD

Higher Education

Membership Representation

- Dr. Sharon Hoover, Licensed Clinical Psychologist & Professor at the University of MD School of Medicine, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; Co-Director of the National Center for School Mental Health and Director of the Center for Safe Supportive Schools
- Dr. Nancy Lever, Associate Professor & Co-Director - Center for School Mental Health; Executive Director - University of MD School Mental Health Program; Associate Director, VA/UMB Psychology Internship Consortium

Maryland Agency Representation

- Dr. Meenakshi Brewster, Maryland Department of Health
- V. Glenn Fueston, Jr., Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services, Executive Director
- Joana Joasil, Maryland Department of Health – Child, Adolescent and Young Adult Services, Deputy Director
- Vanessa Lyon, Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services, Chief of Staff
- Dr. Maria Rodowski-Stanco, Behavioral Health Administration, Maryland Department of Health; Director – Child, Adolescent and Young Adult Services, Speciality Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Maryland Agency Representation

- Chalarra Sessoms, Maryland Department of Health
- Jessica Wheeler, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services; Senior Director of Juvenile Justice Services & Victims, Maryland Department of Health – Behavioral Health Administration
- Christina Drushel Williams, Sr. Policy Analyst, Children and Youth Division, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services
- Dr. James Yoe, Maryland Department of Health, Director, Forensics Services

Parent and Student Representation

- Ann Geddes, Director of Public Policy, MD Coalition of Families
- Ian Herd, Chairperson, MD Youth Advisory Council; Student Member of Charles County Board of Education; Junior, La Plata High School; Parliamentarian, MD Association of Student Councils
- Trisha Reddy, MD Association of Student Councils, Mental Health Co-Coordinator; Student Council Member; Senior, Mt. Hebron High School, Howard County Public Schools

MSDE Representation

- Dr. Marone Brown, Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy, Student Services & Strategic Planning Branch – (Safety) Lead Specialist for School Safety
- Carmen Brown, Division of Early Invention and Special Education Services, Branch Chief, Interagency Collaboration
- Kim Buckheit, Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy, Student Services & Strategic Planning Branch – Alternative Programs Section Chief for School Climate and Safety

MSDE Representation

- Reginald Burke, Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy, Youth Development Branch, Education Program Director
- Dr. Matthew Duque, Senior Research and Data Specialist, Office of Research
- Tanya Filson, Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy, Director of Community Schools
- Dr. Amir Francois, Office of Research, Senior Research and Data Specialist
- Mary Gable, Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy, Assistant State Superintendent
- Tresa Hanna, Division of Early Childhood, Director, Head Start Collaboration

MSDE Representation

- Lea Jaspers, Division of Curriculum, Instructional Improvement, and Professional Learning, Health Education Specialist
- Christopher King, Office of Human Resources, Section Chief
- Cynthia Lessner, Division of Early Childhood, Collaboration and Program Improvement, Branch Chief
- Michelle Mediavilla, Office of Human Resources, Director
- Dr. Lynne Muller, Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy, Student Services & Strategic Planning Branch Section, Chief for Student Services, School Counseling Specialist

MSDE Representation

- Lora Rakowski, Office of the Chief of Staff, Director, Communications
- Walter Sallee, Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy, Student Services & Strategic Planning Branch, Director of Student Services
- Terrell Sample, Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy, Student Services & Strategic Planning Branch – Project Director for BJA Stop School Violence and MD AWARE Grants

MSDE Representation

- Dr. Dara Shaw, Executive Director, Office of Research
- Stacey Spencer, Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy, Executive Associate
- Dr. Christy Thompson, Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy, Executive Director
- Judy Walker, Division of Early Childhood, Early Learning Branch Chief

Professional Development Components

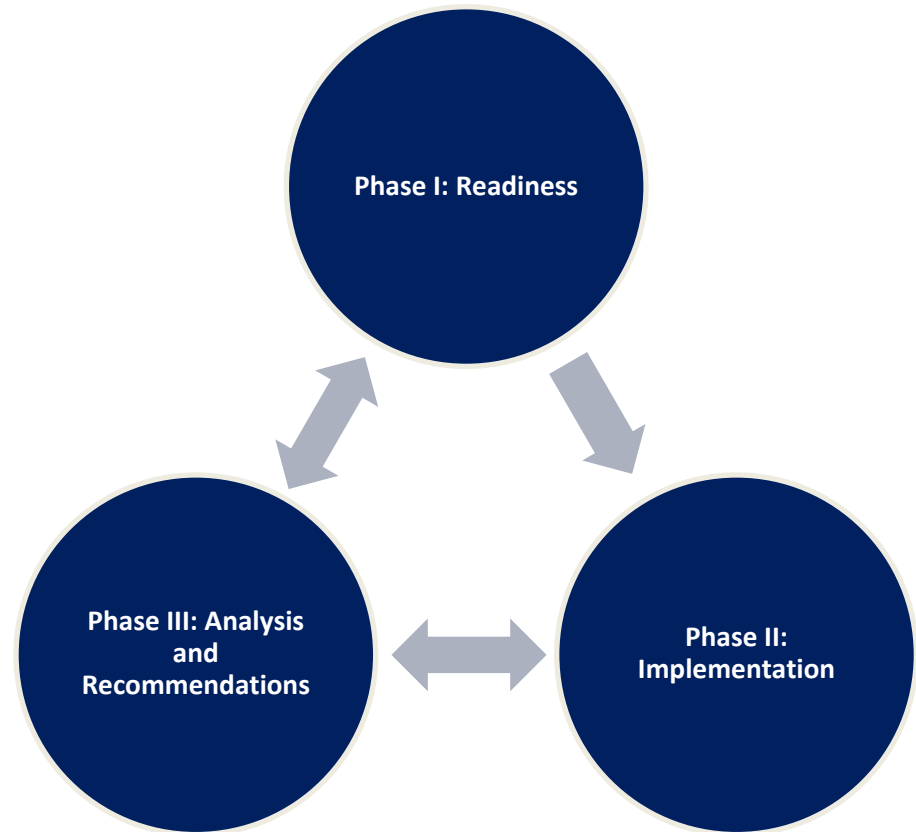
- **Youth Mental Health First Aid**
 - Teaches you how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders in youth.
- **Question Persuade Refer**
 - Identify signs and symptoms of suicidal ideation/referral to appropriate mental health supports.
- **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)**
 - Understanding the origins of physical, social, mental health, and well-being. Recognizing the impact of trauma on brain development and how that can manifest.

Professional Development Components

- **Trauma-Informed Approach Guidelines**
 - Developed to provide a framework to local school systems in establishing a holistic approach to education in which all teachers, school administrators, staff, students, families, and community members recognize and effectively respond to the behavioral, emotional, relational, and academic impact of stress.
- **Restorative Approaches Collaborative**
 - A partnership between the Center for Dispute Resolution, University of Maryland (C-DRUM), and the MSDE that is increasing the capacity of local school systems across the State to implement restorative approaches and provide training, support, coaching, and guidance to the local schools systems as they implement these practices in their schools.
- **Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports**
 - Part of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework designed for all students to have the supports they need to foster their personal, academic, social-emotional, and behavioral development.

Professional Development Components

- Mental Health Crisis Teams will support schools and school systems
- Clinical Support will provide services to students and families
- Professional Development will support building capacity for educators



Funding

In addition to funding positions, plans are being developed for funds to cover:

- Partnerships with the Behavioral Health Administration for training
- Partnerships with other agencies
- Partnerships with IHEs for training and educational opportunities to build sustainability by increasing the number of student services staff in local school systems
- Professional development for local school system staff
- Staff to build a resource hub
- Program evaluation

Funding

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Set Aside Funds

Available through September 30, 2024

Total: \$40 Million from ESSER II and III

Action

Request the State Board
to approve
this mental health response to create the
**Maryland Regional Crisis Response
and Clinical Support Teams**
in support of Maryland students

Next Steps

- ✓ Advertise, interview, and fill positions
- ✓ Review resources and protocols with advisory committee
- ✓ Formalize work with other State agencies and IHEs
- ✓ Determine team training needs
- ✓ Design implementation of phases of crisis intervention and clinical support
- ✓ Determine professional support components