



Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Mohammed Choudhury
DATE: August 24, 2021
SUBJECT: Maryland School Mental Health Response Program Update

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this item is to provide an update on the work in establishing the Regional School Mental Health Response Teams.

BACKGROUND/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

Students in Maryland and across the country have been impacted by the pandemic academically, physically, socially, and emotionally. 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. With federal funding provided to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) on May 25, 2021, the State Board approved the establishment of Regional School Mental Health Response Teams, previously referred to as the Maryland Regional Crisis Response and Clinical Support Teams across the State.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

All job descriptions have been developed and positions related to the teams are posted on the MSDE Employment Opportunities website. A Memorandum of Understanding between the MSDE and the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), on behalf of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, National Center for School Mental Health (NCSMH), has been established to support the work and bring expertise to the work of the teams. Other partnerships are in the process of being established to strengthen the coordination of work with the local school systems and other agencies.

ACTION:

For discussion only.

ATTACHMENT:

Maryland School Mental Health Response Program Update PowerPoint



Maryland School Mental Health Response Program

Maryland State Board of Education

August 24, 2021

Clinical Support for Students, Families, and Schools

- Improve behavioral health services for Maryland's children and youth to meet the needs of children/youth and their parents/caregivers
- Supplement student support services by providing clinical support and assisting in implementation of prevention strategies *before* more restrictive and costly interventions become necessary

Professional Development

- Provide training and support to local school system educators on evidence-based supports and services for students

Crisis Response

- De-escalate crisis events and build/strengthen relationships between schools and community resources
- Provide suicide assessments, safety planning, coping skills, therapy, and education

Regional School Mental Health Response Teams



Core Team Members

- Clinical Psychologist
- Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor
- Licensed Certified Social Worker
- School Nurse
- Family Navigators

Administration

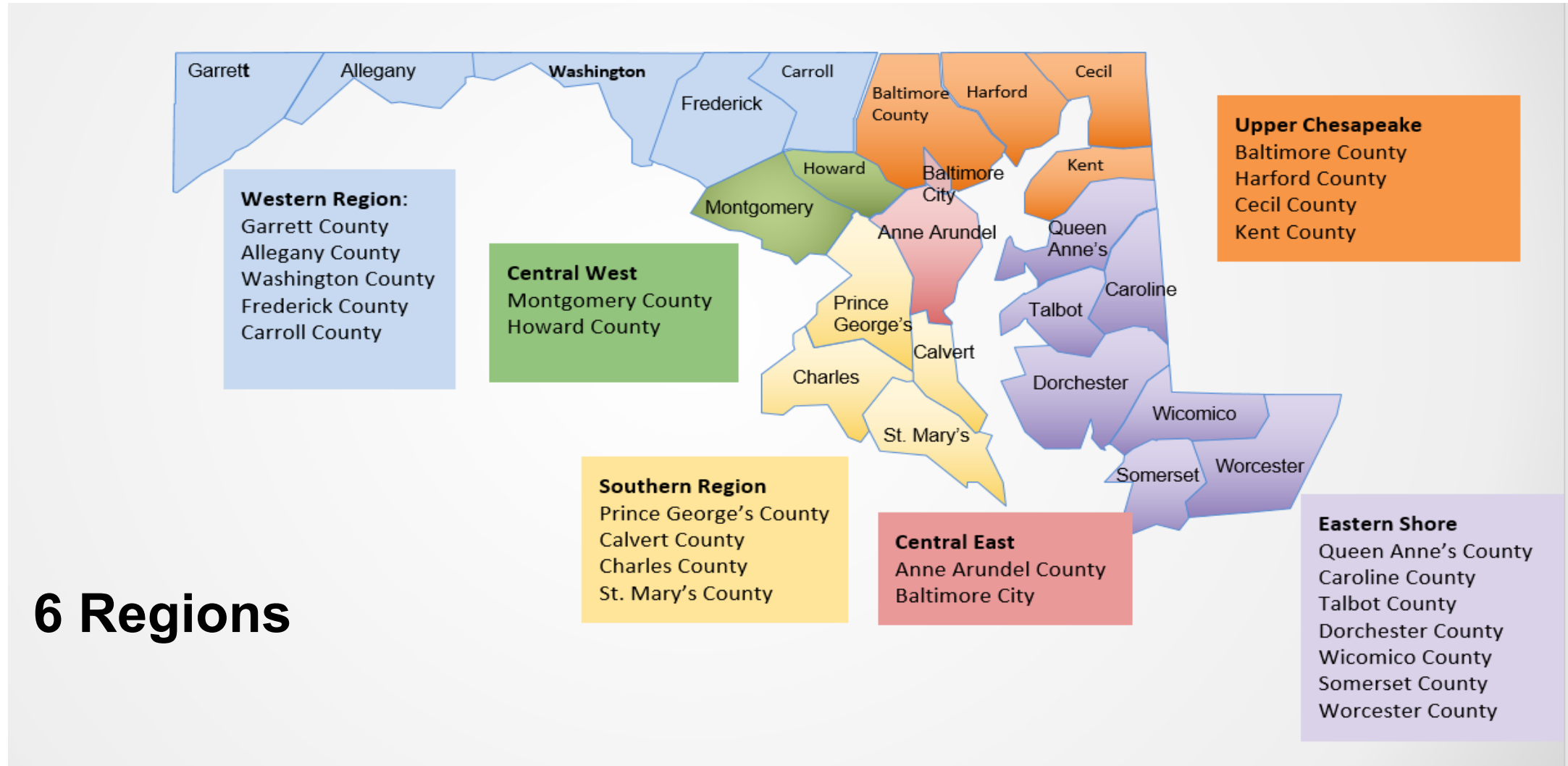
- Director
- Program Specialist
- Administrative Support

Support Staff

- Clinical Psychiatrist – Chief Medical Advisor
- Substance Abuse Counselors
- Board Certified Behaviors Analysts
- Interpreters

Note: All positions are posted on the MSDE [website](http://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/OHR/Employment.aspx) at: <http://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/OHR/Employment.aspx>

Regional School Mental Health Response Teams



Memorandum of Understanding



Entities

- University of Maryland School of Medicine, National Center for School Mental Health
- Sharon Hoover, Ph.D. – Professor, Division of Adolescent Psychiatry; Director, National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN); Center for Safe and Supportive Schools – University of Maryland School of Medicine

Purpose

- Provide support to the MSDE for hiring, start-up, and ongoing training for the regional teams and local school system personnel in issues related to the mental health concerns of students

Examples of Training

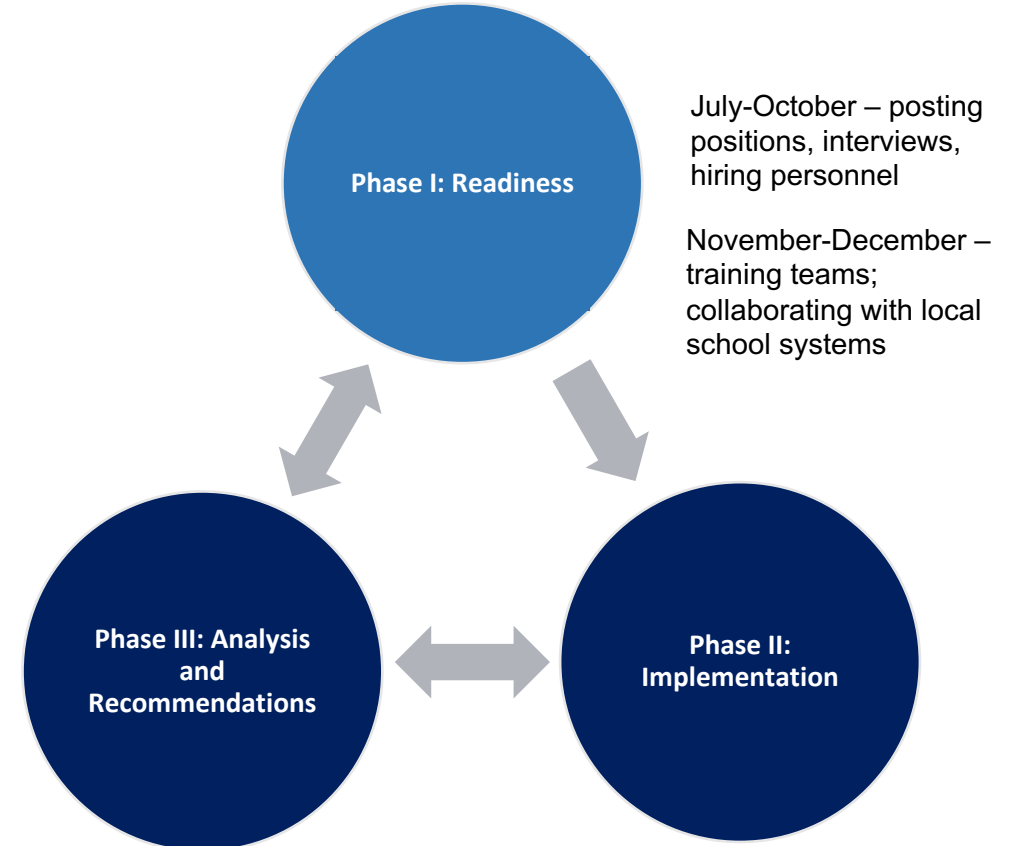
- Specialized training in child and adolescent development and behavioral health and illness
- Special focused training in early childhood development and mental health needs of young children
- Skills to navigate family systems during crisis calls
- Guidance for de-escalating children and adolescents and their family members, as needed
- An array of child and adolescent supports and service delivery options, including pediatric primary care, school supports and services, local child and adolescent behavioral health providers, and other community supports

The MSDE is working to build/strengthen relationships with agency partners and stakeholders:

- Local school systems
- Community partners
- Institute for Innovation and Implementation, University of Maryland School of Social Work
 - Michelle Zabel, Assistant Dean and Director
- Maryland Department of Health, Behavioral Health Administration
- Maryland Department of Health, Workforce Development Office

Regional School Mental Health Response Teams will support school systems:

- **Clinical Support Services** will be provided to students and families
- **Professional Development** will support capacity-building for educators and team members



Next steps for the Maryland School Mental Health Response Program include:

- ✓ Interview and fill positions
- ✓ Review resources and protocols with Advisory Committee
- ✓ Formalize work with other agencies, as needed
- ✓ Determine team training needs
- ✓ Design implementation of phases of intervention and support
- ✓ Determine professional support components