

Executive Summary: Student Assistance Program

Proposal:

Since November of last year, as a part of our Student Assistance Program, we have included a School Based Mental Health Therapist to support students who need services beyond those that are typically provided by the Student Assistance Liaisons. The Liaisons are Bachelor Level mental health workers who meet with the SAP Team to identify the needs of students referred for services and provide some educational programming to students. The Mental Health Therapist is a Master's Level clinician who works with students who need education in understanding their mental health issues, refers students to inpatient and outpatient services as needed, provides group sessions on topics such as grief, adolescent issues, dealing with divorce and other issues that students face in daily living. This also helps to reduce the amount of time that students might be absent from school to seek treatment for mental health concerns that can be handled through a few sessions or education. We would like to continue this service for the 2010-2011 school year.

Actions to Date:

This service has been in place for the past year with individual sessions being utilized by approximately 50 students. Groups operated by the Therapist have included additional students. The therapist rotates between the four high schools, Beaty and YEMS to meet with students. This service has really helped to fill a gap for students who are waiting for outpatient services, those who are returning to school from mental health placements and those who need to participate in mental health groups to support their daily efforts in the school setting.

Financial Implications:

The cost of this service has been included in the Accountability Block Grant funding and no district funds will be required to continue this service to our students.

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of School Directors approves the continuation of the Beacon Light Contract for a School Based Mental Health Therapist to support the Student Assistance Program.