

# SESSION C

## Behavioral Crises in Schools: Supporting Children's Social and Emotional Needs



LEA INSTITUTE: IT TAKES A CITY

Bridging LEAs to Resources for Enhanced Student Outcomes

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## Levels of Intervention

- **Primary Prevention**: Intervention strategies for all students to PREVENT mental health, behavioral, and social issues before they occur.
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- **Early Intervention Services**: These services are provided at the first occurrence of emotional, behavioral, or social concerns (e.g., Primary Project).
- **Treatment Services**: Treatment includes individual, family, and group therapy.
- **Crisis Services**: Interventions are provided for urgent situations and needs. Services include crisis debriefing, grief counseling, and psychiatric referrals.
- **Parent/Family Support**: Educational, supportive, and treatment services are provided for families.



## **Program Model:**

- Program started in 17 Charter schools in SYR 1999-2000
- Follow Public Health Model
- Provides an individualized plan for each school
- Places one DBH mental health professional in each school  
*(can be full-time or part-time based on criteria)*
- Evidence-based programs
- Referrals for intensive treatment
- For more information - [dbh.dc.gov](http://dbh.dc.gov)



# Department of Human Services

DHS' primary function is to empower every District Resident to reach their full potential by providing meaningful connections to work opportunities, economic assistance and supportive services

## **DHS direct and/or indirect services to youth and families:**

- Shelter & Housing Support
- Benefits and Medical Assistance
- Work Readiness and Employment Support
- Adult Protective Services
- Early Intervention Support Services for youth committing status offenses
- Diversion Services for youth at risk of becoming system-involved



# Department of Human Services

## **Key DHS Initiatives that support youth and families:**

- Reduce the number of Court-involved youths by creating a sustainable diversion system, and offering comprehensive early intervention/prevention programs for youths committing status offenses
- Reengage youths in school, improve youths' functioning at home and in the community, and help build stronger, safer neighborhoods
- Connect youth and their families with additional community and government supports and services, and reduce risk of truancy due to homelessness
- Support teen parents to pursue an educational program (either GED or high school) to comply with their TANF work requirements and move toward self-sufficiency
- Ensure TANF families with children ages birth to five are enrolled in high quality child development centers; and
- TANF customers receiving services from a 2 generational approach and with a family focused perspective.



## **Current DHS-Schools collaboration outlets:**

- The School's Homeless Liaison Office (families facing homelessness getting housing support);
- The Office of Early Childhood Education (TANF parents getting employment support)
- Attendance Counselors & Other Key Stakeholders (i.e. social worker, SPED coordinator) ( youth experiencing truancy, or in need of Individualized Educational Plan, etc.)
- DCPS Youth Engagement Division (YED) (for troubleshooting attendance issues)



## **Opportunities to further build the DHS-schools partnership:**

- Joint collaboration on early-intervention programs to prevent youth to be exposed to the juvenile justice system
- Data sharing around youth at risk of becoming homeless and support programs for pregnant and/or parenting youth
- Memorandums of understanding to secure access to real-time attendance data for public and charter schools

## **For more information about DHS Youth Services Division contact:**

Hilary Cairns,

Deputy Administrator Youth Services Division

Email: [Hilary.cairns@dc.gov](mailto:Hilary.cairns@dc.gov)

Phone: (202) 698-4334



# Office of Human Rights

## **What is your agency's primary function?**

DC OHR is the enforcement agency for all civil rights laws in DC.

## **What direct and/or indirect services do you provide to students and families?**

Any youth, parent or guardian can contact me to address an issue of bullying in schools, after school programs or DC Agencies such as Parks and Recreation or Libraries.

## **Please describe some of your key initiatives that support students, families, and educators.**

We provide training and support to schools and parents regarding prevention of bullying and addressing incidents of bullying.





## **How do you currently collaborate with schools?**

Through trainings and support on individual cases. We are part of a 30 school research project on school climate and violence prevention.

## **What do you see as necessary for effective partnerships?**

Trust that what we all want is what is in the best interest of youth.

- What ideas do you have for future collaboration?

Work more effectively with families.

- Who should schools contact if they have additional questions or need resources? [Suzanne.Greenfield@dc.gov](mailto:Suzanne.Greenfield@dc.gov)



# Department of Health Care Finance

The Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) administers DC Medicaid, DC Health Care Alliance, and the Immigrant Children's program.

**Division of Children's Health Services** is responsible for the development, implementation, and monitoring of policies, benefits and practices for children's health care services, including Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) services benefit, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the Immigrant Children's Program.

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## **EPSDT is the pediatric component of the Medicaid Program and has 3 major components:**

- **Access:** Inform families of the EPSDT benefit and services their children are entitled to and provide assistance so that children can receive the services they need
  - **Screenings and Education**
    - Assessments (and documentation) of physical, developmental and behavioral health in pediatric primary care visits (regular and as-needed)
    - Health education and counseling to parents
    - Assistance in understanding developmental phases of child's life
    - Information about benefits of health lifestyles and practices
  - **Diagnosis and Treatment**
    - When screenings/visits uncover health concerns, EPSDT requires coverage of services needed to diagnose and treat the concerns
    - Medically necessary services must be covered as long as they fall in the federal categories of Medicaid services, and regardless of whether they are in the individual State's Medicaid Plan
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## **Primary functions to support students & families enrolled in Medicaid**

- Inform families of the EPSDT benefit and services their children are entitled to and provide assistance so that children can receive the services they need
  - Process TEFRA/Katie Beckett application and renewals
  - Medicaid beneficiary travel authorizations and assistance
  - Liaison with Ombudsman on access/coverage issues
  - Process interpreter requests
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## **Current collaborations with schools:**

- School Health Requirements Interagency Committee
    - Representation by OSSE, DCPS, DOH & DHCF
    - MOA between DOH, DCPS & DHCF to coordinate and share data to identify disparities in the utilization of EPSDT services, including preventive dental services, well-child visits and associated screenings for children attending DCPS
    - Meets quarterly to discuss how to how each agency is using the data to drive programmatic and policy change as well as discuss how we can better collaborate to ensure children are accessing the care they need
  - Free Care Rule Working Group
    - Representation by OSEE, Charter Schools, DCPS, DBH, DOH, DME & DHCF
    - Purpose: to define the current landscape of health care service delivery in schools, and help operationalize the policies needed across the District's health and education agencies in order to implement the expansion of Medicaid reimbursement for school-based services
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For questions about the LEA Institute  
Series, please contact:  
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