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Education

C-2 Mental Health Intervention Team Pilot Program

2018 Legislation

In Sub. for SB 423 and House Sub. for SB 61, the 2018 Legislature created the Mental Health Intervention Team Pilot Program (Program) for fiscal year (FY) 2019 “to improve social-emotional wellness and outcomes for students by increasing schools’ access to counselors, social workers and psychologists statewide” (2018 Sub. for SB 423, Sec. 1(a)). The legislation required school districts and community mental health centers (CMHCs) to enter into partnerships through memorandums of understanding (MOUs) to implement the Program. Additionally, the legislation required mental health intervention teams to consist of school liaisons employed by the participating school districts and clinical therapists and case managers employed by the participating CMHCs. The legislation specified nine school districts that would participate in the Program.

The Legislature appropriated \$10.0 million from the State General Fund (SGF) to the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) to fund the Program. The appropriations included \$4.2 million to cover treatment costs for participating students. This included \$2.6 million in match for Medicaid costs and \$1.5 million for CMHCs. In addition, the appropriations included \$3.3 million to cover the costs associated with the school liaisons hired by participating school districts. Finally, \$2.5 million was included to create an online database to be used for the Program.

2019 Legislation

In House Sub. for SB 25, the 2019 Legislature reauthorized the Program for FY 2020. The Legislature appropriated \$8.0 million from the SGF. The Legislature also made several adjustments to the Program, reappropriating unused funds for the pilot program from FY 2019 to FY 2020, requiring a 25.0 percent local match for the school liaisons hired by participating school districts, and, finally, providing the State Board of Education (State Board) with the authority to expand the Program to additional school districts for FY 2020.

Program Overview

Scope of Program

As implemented by KSDE, the Program will focus on providing care to two groups of students. The “alpha group” consists of youth who are Children in Need of Care (CINC) and are in state custody. These students have experienced multiple placements and move school districts multiple times throughout the school year. The “beta group” consists of youth who may move from time to time, but are also likely to reside in one school district throughout their education.

Duties of Intervention Team Members

The duties of school liaisons employed by participating school districts include, but are not limited to:

- Identifying appropriate referrals;
- Acting as a liaison between the school district and the CMHC;
- Helping the CMHC prioritize interventions for identified students;
- Facilitating connections between identified students’ families and the CMHC staff;
- Communicating with child welfare contacts to get the educational history of a student who has moved schools; and
- Gathering outcomes to monitor the effectiveness of the program.

The duties of clinical therapists employed by participating CMHCs include, but are not limited to:

- Helping the school liaison identify and prioritize students for treatment interventions;
- Conducting a clinical assessment of the identified student and making appropriate treatment recommendations;
- Providing individual and family therapy;
- Communicating with school personnel to help them understand a student’s

diagnosis, family circumstance, and suggested interventions; and

- Gathering outcome data to monitor the effectiveness of the Program.

The duties of case managers employed by participating CMHCs include, but are not limited to:

- Working with the school liaison and clinical therapist to identify and prioritize students for treatment interventions;
- Providing outreach to students, families, and child welfare contacts to help engage in treatment;
- Helping maintain communication between all entities involved, including family, student, school, clinician, child welfare, and community;
- Making referrals to appropriate community resources; and
- Helping to reconnect students and families when they are not following through with the treatment process.

Memorandums of Understanding

Participating school districts are required to enter into two MOUs for the Program. The first MOU is with KSDE, which outlines the basic requirements of the Program and specifies how funding received for the Program is to be spent. The second MOU is between the school district and its partner CMHC. This MOU outlines how the school district and CMHC will cooperate in the implementation of the Program. KSDE produced and distributed a standard memorandum for this agreement, but did not require school districts to use it.

Additionally, KSDE has entered into a MOU with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), which covers the distribution of the funding for Medicaid-related costs. During FY 2019, the Medicaid funding for the program was distributed to the participating school districts. The school districts then made payments to KDHE. For FY 2020, however, KSDE will pay KDHE directly for Medicaid-related costs.

Breakdown of Funding

Total funding for the Program for FY 2020 is \$9.3 million. This includes the \$8.0 million appropriated by the 2019 Legislature and \$1.3 million reappropriated from FY 2019 to FY 2020. Most of the funding for the Program flows through the participating school districts. Following is a description of the two different grants to school districts and the payments to be made to KDHE.

School Liaison Grant. This grant is distributed to school districts on a monthly basis. School districts submit requests each month to cover anticipated expenditures. Allowable expenditures for this grant include salary, fringe benefits, travel expenses, and a computer that must be used exclusively by the school liaison. Beginning in FY 2020, participating school districts must cover 25.0 percent of the cost of the liaisons. Anticipated school liaison grant funding for FY 2020 is \$3.8 million, compared to \$3.3 million in FY 2019.

CMHC Grant. This grant will be distributed quarterly to school districts. School districts must forward all payments to the participating CMHC to cover the cost for treatment and services for students who are uninsured or underinsured. Anticipated CMHC grant funding for FY 2020 is \$2.0 million, compared to \$1.5 million in FY 2019.

KDHE Payments. As mentioned above, KSDE will make payments directly to KDHE to cover Medicaid costs related to the Program. Anticipated KDHE payments for FY 2020 are \$2.6 million, which is the same as in FY 2019.

Reporting Requirements

KSDE requires participating school districts to submit, in conjunction with their partner CMHC, two reports during the fiscal year. A report covering the first half of the school year is due December 20, 2019. The second report covering the entire year is due June 30, 2020.

These reports track the number of students served and various academic performance measures, including attendance, behavior, and graduation. Additionally, the year-end report will include a

financial report on program expenditures for the fiscal year.

Participating School Districts

During the first year of the Program, there were a total of 9 participating school districts, serving 79 schools. They included:

- Topeka (USD 501): 28 schools;
- Wichita (USD 259): 22 schools;
- Kansas City (USD 500): 10 schools;
- Parsons (USD 503): 5 schools;
- Garden City (USD 457): 5 schools;
- Abilene (USD 435): 3 schools;
- Herington (USD 487): 3 schools;
- Chapman (USD 473) 2 schools; and
- Solomon (USD 393): 1 school.

Using the authority provided in 2019 House Sub. for SB 25, the State Board has expanded the Program for FY 2020. According to information provided by KSDE, the Program will serve students in 180 schools in 32 school districts during the 2019-2020 school year.

The table on the following page includes a list of all school districts participating in the Program during FY 2020, along with the estimated grant payments to each school district.

Participating School Districts for FY 2020

<u>USD</u>	<u>USD Name</u>	<u>School Liaison Grant</u>	<u>CMHC Grant</u>
239	North Ottawa County**	\$ 44,580	\$ 14,860
259	Wichita*	1,261,977	1,049,031
262	Valley Center	45,345	15,115
266	Maize	85,520	28,507
270	Plainville	20,222	6,741
286	Chautauqua County	25,008	8,336
305	Salina	279,000	93,000
306	Southeast of Saline	33,825	11,275
310	Fairfield	32,785	10,928
311	Pretty Prairie***	39,429	13,143
329	Wabaunsee	32,100	10,700
349	Stafford	44,939	14,980
382	Pratt	48,741	16,247
383	Manhattan-Ogden	49,734	16,578
402	Augusta	50,648	16,883
435	Abilene*	91,029	125,750
438	Skyline	28,667	9,556
446	Independence	35,700	11,900
453	Leavenworth	39,681	13,227
457	Garden City*	58,976	55,500
461	Neodesha	45,130	15,043
484	Fredonia	42,655	14,218
489	Hays	41,975	13,992
490	El Dorado	79,200	26,400
500	Kansas City*	752,250	133,800
501	Topeka*	424,441	208,000
503	Parsons*	57,375	78,000
State Totals		\$ 3,790,932	\$ 2,031,710

* Participating school district during FY 2019. Abilene also serves as the fiscal agent for Solomon (USD 393), Chapman (USD 473), and Herington (USD 487).

** Serves as the fiscal agent for Twin Valley (USD 240).

*** Serves as the fiscal agent for Haven Public Schools (USD 312).

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