

AWARE : Advancing Wellness And Resiliency in Education

Awarding Federal Agency: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Funding Cycle: September 30, 2018 through September 29, 2023; 5 years

Funding Amount: 1.8 Million annually

Key Goals for the Program

1. Develop model comprehensive school-based mental health programs and build the capacity of educators to identify and address the needs of students. The program will accomplish the following:
 - a. Focus **Prevention**- Build **Safe and Supporting school climates** (PBIS /Mental Health First Aid Trauma Informed Schools, ACE awareness)
 - i. **PBIS** (Positive Behavior Intervention System) a systematic approach to behavior expectations and consistent positive discipline practices with in a school setting
 - ii. **Mental Health First Aid** (Provides layperson with basic training to intervene in the presence of someone in crisis. (has been described as the equivalent to CPR to the health care field).
 1. 150 Train The trainers at the end of 5 years
 2. Arkansas currently has the lowest rate of MHFAiders in the nation
 3. CJI is attempting to secure funding for MHFA for Law Enforcement, including SROs
 - iii. **Trauma informed schools** – provides for understanding and awareness for school staff students with behavior diagnosis. Provides for resources and opportunities to develop a supportive school environment for students and staff.
 - b. Focus **Intervention**-Comprehensive School- based and linked MH services
 - i. Develop 3 distinct models across the state which are scalable to any district in Arkansas (Texarkana, Marvel-Elaine, OUR Cooperative (Ozark Mountain, Valley Springs, Eureka Springs)
 - ii. Each site will employ the following
 1. Licensed Mental Health Professional
 2. Behavioral Specialist
 3. Project Coordinator
 - iii. Schools are a key component in outcome based care, and aligns with the State efforts to implement organized care model (PASSE).
 - c. Follow-up – Data collection and Evaluation
 - i. (Student GPS)
 - ii. Implementation of the **SHAPE Assessment** (School Health Assessment and Performance Evaluation System)
 - iii. Implementation data, Behavior and discipline data

Additional Talking Points for Stacy Only-

Key opportunities

2. The ADE currently has a **School-Based Mental Health Specialist, Dr. Elizabeth Kindall**, pursued this grant. She has work to assist school district with the development of quality school-based mental health programming with local providers for the past decade. This is the result of her vision she has had for a very long time.
3. The **ADE will employ a Project Aware Coordinator** to oversee the direct grant activities and to provide technical assistance and training
4. The ADE and **DHS/DBHS will create a formal partnership to jointly employ a Project AWARE Co-Coordinator**; this will allow the ADE and DHS to work together collectively specifically to support this aspect of school-based health strategies.

School Safety Commission

Answers School Safety Commission Recommendations

#13. SHAPE (School Health Assessment and Performance Evaluation System)

#14. PBIS/Trauma Informed Schools

#15. Comprehensive School-Based Mental Health Service Models

#16. SHAPE Assessment/Evaluation Tool -behavioral threat assessment team and process.

School Counselors

Gatekeepers to SBMH services

Social Workers

In 2007 legislation was passed (Act 1050) to implement the human service worker school program. This program initially was to be funded through the DHS. However, appropriation for this purpose did not happen, therefore implementation was hindered. The ADE does have a job code (427) set up in eFinance specifically for Social Workers serving in districts. This job code is not tied to a specific certification, therefore the licensing of these professional serving in schools is unknown. The last report I have from efinance is from 2015.