



Supporting the Emotional Well Being of Students

The Monroe County School Boards Association believes that resources to support the emotional, social and physical needs of all children is necessary in order to meet the mission of public education. MCSBA calls on the state legislature to provide the critical funding needed to help all students achieve their potential.

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Concern</u>
<p>The demand for mental health services has increased as a result of better information on childhood trauma</p>	<p>There is increased concern regarding the significant numbers of students scoring high on ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) assessments as a result of exposure to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased levels of poverty, • homelessness or home insecurity, • substance abuse, • exposure to violence in the home and/or the community. <p>Trauma undermines a student’s ability to learn by impacting their ability to self-regulate, sustain attention, problem solve, control impulses and manage physical responses to danger.</p>
<p>Funding gaps and regulations limit collaborations and undermine social service efforts to help students and families in need</p>	<p>Current funding constraints have left areas that support the critical needs of students and their families overwhelmed and less effective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools have had to limit the number of counselors, school psychologists and social workers they hire due to funding cuts and pressures from the tax levy cap. • Funding for behavioral intervention models have been cut even as NYS has highlighted the importance of such programs. • Limits exist for social service agencies’ ability to create mental health partnerships with school districts. Agency budgets have been impacted by incremental increases in the state minimum wage and the need to use operating funds to recruit child psychologists, psychiatrists, as well as licensed mental health practitioners. • Gaps exist for children not eligible for Medicaid funding, but require services not covered by Child Health Plus or are beyond reach for working poor families. • Other barriers currently impede both school districts and the agencies that provide coordinating services from providing early intervention, research-based social emotional learning models, and support services for students and families.
<p>Community Schools</p>	<p>Community Schools need a sufficient, long-term viable funding source. The Community Schools model needs to be available at the school building level for districts where demographics meet the poverty criteria.</p>
<p>Additional Grant Opportunities</p>	<p>Grant opportunities for mental health awareness, teacher training and coordination of services to families in crisis need to be expanded (ex: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grants up to \$210 million dollars for Project Aware State Education Agency grants).</p>

MCSBA members support increased mental health funding and believe that schools should have the option to offer on-site mental health services.

MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS IN MONROE COUNTY/ IMPACT ON LEARNING

Data was available from the 2015 Monroe County Office of Mental Health Youth Risk Behavioral Survey showed 45% of students surveyed experienced two or more ACE's with 16% experiencing four or more ACE's. Students with two or more ACE's are recommended for intervention services. Students dealing with trauma are:

- Two and a half times more likely to fail a grade
- Score lower on standardized assessments
- Have more receptive & expressive language difficulties
- Are suspended or expelled more often and
- Are referred to or classified and designated to special education services.

Elizabeth Meeker and Tim Dobbertin, MCSBA Information Exchange Meeting; Complex Trauma & Toxic Stress, January 11, 2017.

Anne Sherman and Tim Dobbertin, MCSBA Information Exchange Meeting; Taking Action: Building Resilience, November 8, 2018.

NYSCOSS SURVEY OF DISTRICT NEEDS

School superintendents rank increasing cost of mental health related services as a top priority.

Fifty two percent of the Superintendents would increase counseling, social work, mental health or similar student services in their districts if an increase in funding beyond what would be needed to fund mandates was available. This is up from 32% in 2016.

"Losing Ground", *NYS Council of School Superintendents*, October 2017.

Teachers can help students' mental health needs with an array of specific strategies. These, however, are not part of typical teacher training programs and will require professional development on the part of school districts.

Deborah Yaffe, "How K12 is outwitting Anxiety, District Administration, April 9 2018. https://www.nyscoss.org/resources/Publications_94_pg.htm

Increased mental health needs alter teacher practices, often requiring a mindset change to their approach to teaching and may even require structural adaptations to classrooms and school buildings. Such shifts can significantly add to district's costs.

AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES

The Office of Children and Family Services is currently reducing the placement of juvenile delinquents in secure residential facilities and instead placing juvenile delinquents with severe and persistent emotional disturbances close to home in non-secure settings under section 4047 of Social Services law. **Pediatric inpatient care for children with high intensity mental health needs is limited locally and behavioral health capacity is at crisis point.**

Talking points. NYS Coalition for Children's Behavioral Health. <http://cbhny.org/crm/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/TalkingPoints.pdf>

The Center for Disease Control tabulated data on the number of providers per 10,000 children 0-17 years of age for each county in NYS in February 2017. The data shows:

Of Providers per 10,000 for Children age 0-17 years

County	Pediatricians	Psychiatrists	Licensed Social Workers	Psychologists
Monroe	12.4	6.4	44.2	19.1
Ontario	4.8	3.5	30.2	12.7
Orleans	1.2	0.0	25.9	3.5

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/adhd/stateprofiles-providers/new-york/index.html>

Unlike any other aspect of Medicaid, **the children's behavioral health system is under-resourced and has insufficient capacity.** Expansion of services was to begin in 2018, but have been delayed for two years despite \$7.5 million being earmarked in previous NYS spending plans for expansion and \$10 million dollars in start-up funding being included but never released. These dollars are desperately required for students in need.

"2018-2019 State Budget-Support Community School-Mental Health Grants" and "2018-2019 State Budget-2-year Delay: NO!, \$15 Million for Children's Services Needed Now!" NYS Coalition for Children's Behavioral Health.

<http://cbhny.org/crm/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/CCBH-SPA-Pilot-Bud-Request-020718.pdf>

<http://cbhny.org/crm/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/CCBH-CommSchools-Bud-Request-020718.pdf>