

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2020 2:06 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Mental Health Proposal
Attachments: Mental Health Proposal for THS & TMS.docx

What are your thoughts on this?

[REDACTED]
Assistant Superintendent/Secondary Education
Tupelo Public School District

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 10:19 AM
To: Robert J Picou <rjpicou@tupeloschools.com>, [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Mental Health Proposal

Hi Dr. Picou and [REDACTED],

Last year we discussed the need for school-based mental health therapists (employed by the school district). As suggested by you, I have done some research and spoken with several schools who are trying to focus more on mental health services. Desoto County Schools, by far, has the most successful implementation of a mental health department within the district. They began with four therapist and a social worker and now have expanded to 6 therapists. Please take a look at their website, services, and helpful information. <https://www.desotocountyschools.org/mentalhealth>.

I understand this will be a huge undertaking, but I also believe it is necessary as the need for mental health services increases throughout the state and country. Please let me know if you have any questions/concerns or if you would like to discuss further. I appreciate your time.

Thank you!

[REDACTED]
Tupelo High School
9th Grade Counselor
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Proposal for Mental Health Positions

-Training on risk assessments for Administrators, School Counselors, and School-Based Mental Health Therapists

www.schoolta.com

-Training from National Association of School Psychologists PREPaRE Training for Administrators, School Counselors, and School-based Mental Health Therapists www.nasponline.org

Mental Health Proposed Structure at THS and TMS

- Initially, four school-based mental health counselors (LPC credential) 2 @ THS & 2 @ TMS
- Ideally, THS would have one school-based mental health counselor per grade level (4 total)

The Mental Health Services department should have a Central Office Director that oversees the school counselors as well as the school-based mental health therapists. The director should hold an LPC (License Professional Counselor) and/or LPC-S (License Professional Counselor-Supervisor) credential.

All referrals must come through either the school counselor or parent. The reason for referral must constitute a mental health concern: severe anxiety, depression, self-harm, suicidal ideation, bi-polar disorder, gender identity disorder, etc. The school-based mental health therapist (SB-MHT) treats students and families as if they were in the mental health clinic setting including informed consent, intakes, assessments, consultations, diagnosing, and treatment planning. The SB-MHT will have a case load of no more than 50-75 students depending on the needs of the school. Referrals to Lifecore, other outside mental health clinics, or in-patient facilities may be made by the SB-MHT depending on the degree of treatment needed, ability to pay, medication management, case management, etc. The SB-MHT, will also provide professional development and training for administration and faculty, individual teacher consultation, in-class student observations, and parent consultation as needed.

Possible funding resources: Through Federal Programs look at Title 4 Safe Schools Grant money as well as CARES funding ALSO distinct supplemental funding