



Partners of Change

In support of School Centered Mental Health

All children and families deserve access to culturally appropriate, comprehensive and preventative mental health services that partner with schools and families to prepare Wisconsin students for academic success and successful transition into adulthood.

The **Partners of Change (PoC) committee** is a coordinated group of individuals, community organizers, schools, coalitions, donors and healthcare providers committed to improving children's mental health in Wisconsin. We believe in action, not just discussion. This is an urgent issue, and we are using our collective expertise to **influence policy change at the state level including Medicaid changes, and increased funding.**

Why do we need Mental Health in Schools?

When schools can provide mental health supports to identified students we see these outcomes:

- Increased academic success
- Decreased behavior concerns or time out of the classroom
- Reduce the dropout rate
- Foster a school climate that supports learning

Even with adequate funding, the role of a social worker, school counselor, and/or community partner would be insufficient to meet the needs. We believe our children and families deserve better.

What is our plan for policy change?

Current reimbursement for mental health services is less than the cost to providers.

PoC is asking the state legislature to:

- Renew consultation reimbursement that is set to end in June of 2019. **COMPLETED**
- Advocating to align data collection to demonstrate the need and impact of school based services.
- Fund pilot program in multiple communities across the state of WI.
- Expand the scope of what is reimbursable under Medicaid including a continuum of support.
- Increase overall Medicaid reimbursement rates for Mental Health services.

What does school mental health look like today?

NO SERVICES



REFERRAL

Students have a social worker/counselor in school that makes a referral to community based services as available. Varies by community.



THERAPY IN SCHOOL

A school district therapist, or community therapist provides mental health services at the school for identified students. (May include consultation with teachers)



<1%



SCHOOL CENTERED MENTAL HEALTH MODEL

Ideal - A comprehensive school-based model that utilizes a trauma-informed team approach to pro-actively address and improve social stressors and structural barriers for the child and their family in the home, school, and community.

Financial Gap

Medicaid Reimbursement

* Percentages based on statewide resources in representative districts served by members of this committee.

To find out how you can help to improve the future of Wisconsin's children and families
Visit lsswis.org/partnersofchange or email: PartnersOfChange@lsswis.org

Partners of Change School-Centered Mental Health (SCMH) Initiative

A comprehensive school-based model that utilizes a trauma-informed team approach to pro-actively engage the child and their family in the home, school, and community.

The SCMh therapist and Family Coach work together and with the child's family, school team, and other identified supports and/or service providers to implement the **model's seven components described below.**

Up to 50%

have an acute mental illness that impairs their ability to function every day



8-10 year delay

The average delay between onset of symptoms and intervention for children is 8-10 years



37%

of students age 14 & older with a mental health condition drop out of school



School Partnerships

- On-board and partner with schools who can:
- provide referrals and onsite space for therapy
- implementation of child-specific interventions.
- support data collection for program outcomes.
- Share data related to academic success, attendance & behavior referrals

Therapy

- Evidence-based individual and/or family therapy at school, in-home or community.
- Increased parent engagement and access to services

Health Navigation

- Connect families to needed community health services
- Help establish primary care providers
- Expanded health education

Training and Education

- Provide parent and community education
- Facilitate school staff training



Research and Assessment:

- Collect data using valid and reliable assessment tools.
- Conduct shared analysis with other school based programs
- Use data to measure impact

Behavior Interventions

- Conduct classroom observations
- Develop child-specific behavior interventions and support teacher implementation
- Foster positive teacher/student relationships
- Improve classroom learning environment

Family Coaching

- Provide skill development, parent education that align with therapeutic goals
- Co-create strength-based home interventions
- Connect the family to needed resources that impact social determinants of health



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