

# Mental Health Intervention Team Grant



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# What is the MHIT?

- Focuses on K-12 students and their families by identifying students, helping families navigate mental health services, and linking them to the already existing statewide behavioral health system and resources within the Mental Health Providers network.
- Focuses additional resources on foster students in need of Mental Health Services
  - Liaisons work closely with Foster Contractors
- Helps break down barriers in place for our youth to receive mental health services.



# Monitoring

- Schools identify one or more ‘indicators of concern’, which impact school success, to track:
  - Academics
  - Attendance
  - Internalizing Behaviors
  - Externalizing Behaviors
- Liaisons are ‘the bridge’ – sharing educationally appropriate information with providers and classroom, helping families navigate waivers and paperwork, and scheduling services.
- Communication between the MH Professional and school is permitted through both an MOU and if the parent agrees, a release.



# Funding

- Has been in the proviso bill every year since 2018.
- 75% of funding goes to Liaison salary and benefits.
- 25% of total request (or 1/3 of the 75%) flows through the district to the CMHC.



# How it started

2018-2019

Legislators met with several districts and Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) leadership. The “Pilot” MHIT program and funding was approved for 9 districts and 5 CMHC partners:

**Nine pilots:** KCK, Topeka, Wichita, Parsons, Garden City,  
Consortium of Abilene- Solomon- Herington – Chapman

**Pilot CMHC:** PACES, Family Service and Guidance Center, Labette County  
Mental Health, COMPASS, and Central Kansas Mental Health

The program funded 45 Liaisons

The first year 212 Foster Students were served

Total Number of students receiving services: 1,708



# Students Served by School Year

- 2018-19: 1,708 (9 districts)
- 2019-20: 3,266 (32 districts)
- 2020-21: 4,711 (56 districts)
- 2021-22: 5,117 (56 districts)
- 2022-23: 6,014 (66 districts)
  - Number of Liaisons: 150
    - 552 Foster students served



# 2023-2024 School Year

- 90 School Districts applied
  - 24 NEW districts
- 182 Liaisons



# Wichita State Study

- Without individual student data for analysis, true effectiveness cannot be established. Aggregate data are not adequate for demonstrating effectiveness.
- School-wide impacts included improved school climate, a decrease in stigma, and an increase in resources and mental health services.
- MHIT team members consistently responded that they have seen a reduction in the stigma of mental health services, improvement in outcomes for students, better coordination of care for students, and improved communication regarding students.





# Wichita State Study Conclusion

We can offer conclusions about the perceived impact of the program based on the information gathered from the liaisons and the mental health providers. MHIT team members consistently responded in interviews, surveys, and when shadowed by WSU-CARE staff that they have seen a reduction in the stigma of mental health services, improvement in outcomes for students, better coordination of care for students, and improved communication regarding students. The dedication and commitment of the liaisons and mental health staff involved in MHIT programs was evident throughout the process and can be seen in the extraordinarily strong response to the survey. The high rate of response is also an indication of the perceived impact of the program.



# Success Stories

- Our teachers and staff have become so familiar and comfortable with referring that we never have a shortage of referrals, and we have eyes on our kids, from the quietest kid to the kid with the loudest behaviors!
- In person weekly sessions have been extremely helpful in the therapeutic process.
- Many of our foster students have been adopted by their placement homes in this community. I attribute a part of this to how our school walks with those families, and how this program can provide services they need within this rural setting. It has been a major blessing seeing these students become part of something and how their progress in the program has improved as well.
- Many of my students were not getting therapy because families struggled taking them for whatever reason, now they are guaranteed the help that they need because they are able to get it at school.



# Why this matters:

- From a high school student:  
“My therapist saved my life.”





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