

## **Request for New Mental Health Positions**

Dayton Independent Schools continues to apply for Medicaid reimbursement for services provided by medical providers. These services include, special transportation, speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, orientation and mobility services, mental health services, and nursing services.

The School-Based Health Services (SBHS) program authorizes local education agencies in Kentucky to enroll as a Medicaid Health service provider for children who are eligible under the Medicaid program and under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The Medicaid SBHS program is designed specifically to allow school districts to act as health care providers and be reimbursed under Medicaid. School districts may be reimbursed approximately 70 percent of the state and local funds they spend on some related services in the individualized education programs (IEP) of children with disabilities who are eligible under both IDEA and Medicaid.

In the past three years this is what our Medicaid dollars have been:

17-18 \$50,500

18-19 \$69,200

19-20 \$74,000+ (this is from March 2020 numbers)

Up until this year, only Medicaid eligible services that were listed on a student's IEP were reimbursable. In 2018-19 school year, an expanded care act/bill was passed that would allow schools to not only get reimbursed for services that were listed on an IEP, however, this act now includes all students. Therefore, schools will be allowed to get reimbursement for these services they provide, as long as the student is Medicaid eligible and there is documented parental consent. This new act also expanded services and our billing codes went from 40 to over 100. A lot of these new additional billing codes stem around mental health and nursing services.

With our current counseling and mental health needs increasing, I am requesting that DISD add the positions of District Mental /Brain Health Coordinator, and a mental/brain health therapist. These positions will be able to be funded by the additional Medicaid funds coming in for these services.

For example, we currently have a contract with Holy Hill for our day treatment services. They are billing Medicaid, not us. If we are able to hire our own therapist we would be able to receive around \$3500/weekly and \$14,000/monthly for 6 students who receive three hours of day treatment with our mental health therapist.

Our current contracts with North Key and Cincinnati Behavioral Health will continue as we have two full-time therapists in each building servicing students, and their caseloads continue to be full. This new position will continue to provide day treatment counseling services, as well as, additional individual and group counseling.

The Mental/Brain Health Coordinator will oversee all district mental health initiatives (i.e. suicide prevention, anti-bullying, drug prevention, trauma informed care trainings, etc). This

person will communicate and organize procedures with our outside agencies. This position will also be responsible for developing district mental health universal screenings and assessments, wrap around services (including home visits), and head district crisis intervention team, as well as, provide acute crisis support to students. This position will supervise therapist position as well as, continue to provide additional student therapeutic counseling sessions and family support.