

**Counselor's Corner**  
June 2023  
Jennifer Glenn Weber

- **SBMH/TISS Grants:** Ms. Weber is serving as the grant coordinator for two mental health grants through NKCES. As part of this role, she will serve on the steering committee for both grants and attend monthly meetings regarding the funding, data collection, and personnel hiring for the grants. The first meeting was held last week at the co-op. The School Based Mental Health grant (SBMH) provides \$65,000 to participating districts for the next five years to hire additional mental health providers to meet student needs. Southgate has elected to post a job for a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) or a Licensed Professional Social Worker (LCSW) who could offer intensive counseling services to students for free regardless of their health insurance status. Adding this position would be especially beneficial for our students with private health insurance who must pay heavy co-pays for mental health services and/or students who have no health insurance coverage and must pay out of pocket. The SBMH grant also offers \$15,000 per year for five years to each participating district to build capacity in their existing staff members who are interested in pursuing their master's degree or additional certification in school counseling or other mental health fields. If teachers are interested in this option, the grant monies could be used to cover their tuition and textbook expenses. We hope that someone on the Southgate staff will take advantage of this portion of the grant and bring additional mental health expertise to our building. The Trauma Informed Services for Schools grant (TISS) will provide trauma-informed training for all teachers and staff of participating districts. Ms. Weber and Mrs. Hansman will meet on July 31<sup>st</sup> with the grant liaison from NKCES to learn more about the type of training they will provide.
- **Summer Program:** Ms. Weber is teaching in the Me and My School kindergarten program and the preschool program one day each week throughout the summer session. These lessons will focus on social skills necessary for school success and will also feature some live animal visits for the students. The students always enjoy interacting with the pets and learning about their care and maintenance...and the pets always enjoy the attention they get from the kids!

