

Implementation of the District’s New School-Based Behavioral Health Services Plan
School Year 2017-2018 Phased-In Rollout

The District’s Early Childhood and School-Based Behavioral Health Services Plan outlines a model to expand behavioral health services to every public school and public charter school in the city. The timeline below describes the transition and onboarding periods available to schools to ensure a smooth, phased changeover to the new behavioral health framework in the 2017-2018 school year. During the transition and onboarding time-periods, schools will work with DBH to identify an appropriate community-based behavioral health provider, complete all steps necessary for the provider to begin providing services by the end of that phase, and begin work with a DBH Clinician in the new role described below.

DC Public School and Public Charter Schools with Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) Clinicians

Cohort 1: May 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

In Cohort 1, schools that currently have a DBH Clinician will work with DBH to identify an appropriate community-based behavioral health provider and complete all necessary steps for the provider to begin providing services by the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year, or as soon thereafter as is reasonable and practical. The DBH Clinician will then work with the provider, families, and the school to smoothly transition students currently receiving services from a DBH Clinician to the new provider and coordinate referrals for new students. Until the transition is complete, the current DBH Clinician will continue providing direct health services to students at the school.

In addition, DBH Clinicians will work with the schools to implement the prevention, universal screening, and technical assistance envisioned by the Plan, to the extent feasible in their first year. These “Tier 1” activities will be conducted in coordination with school leaders and tailored to each school’s unique needs, capacity, and available resources.

DC Public School and Public Charter Schools Currently Not Served by DBH Clinicians

Cohort 2 (Start of School): June 1, 2017 – August 31, 2017

Cohort 3 (Fall Semester): September 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

Cohort 4 (Spring Semester): January 1, 2018 – April 30, 2018

DC Public Schools and Public Charter Schools with newly assigned DBH Clinicians can choose the onboarding cohort that best meets their school’s needs. Schools should indicate their preferred cohort by the deadlines indicated below to ensure a smooth transition of all schools by the end of the 2017-18 school year.

School Readiness Factors in Selecting a Cohort:

- ✓ School wants to get started and take advantage of the new behavioral health resources;
- ✓ School is ready to work with the DBH Clinician to start developing their “Tier 1” plan and begin implementing prevention and screening activities within the school as appropriate; and
- ✓ School is ready to be matched with a community-based behavioral health provider (e.g., Core Service Agency) and complete onboarding the provider in a timely manner to begin serving individual students.

DBH Clinician role:

- ✓ Work with each cohort school’s designee to assess the school’s existing Tier 1 resources, identify remaining Tier 1 needs, and coordinate with and/or provide Tier 1 services to the school as appropriate;
- ✓ Work with each cohort school’s designee to identify additional resources needed; and
- ✓ Coordinate with families and schools to link students to appropriate services across all Tiers of services.

Deadlines:

- ✓ All schools wishing to be in **Cohort 2** must notify DBH by **May 31st 2017**.
- ✓ All schools wishing to be in **Cohort 3** must notify DBH by **August 15th 2017**.
- ✓ All schools wishing to be in **Cohort 4** must notify DBH by **December 15th 2017**; and
- ✓ **All schools not signed up for an earlier cohort by December 15th 2017 will be a part of Cohort 4.**

To indicate a cohort preference or for more information, please contact Dr. Charneta Scott at charneta.scott@dc.gov.