



# Maryland School Mental Health Response Program (MD-SMHRP)

Maryland State Department of Education

Presented By | Mike Muempfer  
Director Maryland School Mental Health  
Response Program

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# Presentation Outline

Overview of Maryland School Mental Health Response Program

Maryland School Mental Health Response Team

- Consultation
- Training
- Learning Community

Progress

- Assessment Interviews
- Action Plans



1. Overview of Maryland School Mental Health Response Program
2. Maryland School Mental Health Response Team
3. Progress

## Overview of Maryland School Mental Health Program

*Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has developed the Maryland School Mental Health Response Program (MD-SMHRP) to provide timely consultation and support to local education agencies (LEAs) to address student and family mental health concerns.*

## Core Coordination Maryland School Mental Health Response Program (MD-SMHRP)

- **Program Director:**  
Mike Muempfer
- **Administrative Specialist:**  
Ashley Stewart
- **Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist:**  
Dr. Jeff Bostic

## Maryland School Mental Health Response Team (MD-SMHRT)

- **Behavior Analyst:**  
Brandon Trapp
- **School Nurse:**  
Bianca Gaines
- **System Navigator/Counselor:**  
Candra Jackson
- **Substance Use Counselor:**  
Nia Noakes
- **School Social Workers:**  
Diana Cron  
Elizabeth Acheampong

## National Center for School Mental Health, University of Maryland School of Medicine (NCSMH)

- Dr. Sharon Hoover
- Dr. Jill Bohnenkamp
- Dr. Nancy Lever
- Catie Carpenter

Enrich and enhance, not replace, the work of site-based student support services personnel

## Components of MD-SMHRP

1. School Mental Health Response Team
2. Expansion of Current Programs
3. Electronic/Web-Based Hub
4. Research and Evaluation
5. Partnerships
6. Sustainability

LEAs can access the Maryland School Mental Health Response Team (MD-SMHRT) for:

- Consultation
- Training
- Learning Community

### Intended Outcomes

- Provide mental, behavioral, and physical health support for schools and districts.
- Provide school mental health training and professional development for school and district personnel.
- Build the capacity of school and school system comprehensive school mental health systems.
- Support LEAs in connecting students and families with local mental health resources.
- Enhance capacity for on-site school personnel to support student and family mental health needs
- Increase student and family access to high-quality coordinated mental health services (prevention, response, and wrap around)
- Increase educators' knowledge in supporting students and families experiencing distress



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## Maryland School Mental Health Response Team (MD-SMHRT)

*The Maryland School Mental Health team provides consultation, training, and establishes a learning community to Maryland LEAs*

- Consultation related to best practices around mental, physical, and behavioral health
- School Health Assessment and Performance Evaluation System (SHAPE)
- Complex Case Analysis
- Connection to:
  - Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist
  - Social Worker
  - Behavior Analyst
  - School Nurse
  - System Navigator
  - Substance Use Counselor
  - School Counselor
  - National Center for School Mental Health



## School Health Assessment and Performance Evaluation System (SHAPE)

- Free interactive tool designed to improve school and/or district mental health accountability, excellence, and sustainability
- Created by our partners at the National Center for School Mental Health



## Trainings for district and school-based staff

- Mental health literacy for educators
- Adverse childhood experiences and trauma
- Fostering positive teacher-student relationships
- Positive school climate
- Cultural inclusiveness and equity
- Re-engaging and increasing student motivation
- Educator well-being including self-care
- Crisis de-escalation
- Early childhood mental health

## Exclusive Professional Development provided by the MD-SMHRT Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist

- Child and adolescent brain development
- Early childhood mental health
- Function of behavior
- Brain based teaching and learning
- Medicine/effects

## Additional trainings based on district need

- Well-Being Information and Strategies for Educators
  - Developed by the Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTCC) Network with our partners at the National Center for School Mental Health
  - Satisfies the Behavioral Health component (one of two components) of the COMAR legislative mandate 13.A.07.11 Student Suicide Prevention and Safety Training in the state of Maryland.



MHTTC

Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network  
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration



### Monthly virtual webinars on topics related to best practices around mental, behavioral, and physical health

- **September:** School Staff Well-Being
- **October:** Recruitment and Retention
- **November:** Universal Screening and Referral Pathways
- **December:** Positive Teacher-Student Relationships
- **January:** Funding School Mental Health
- **February:** Family Partnership in Student Mental Health
- **March:** Crisis Management to Eliminate Seclusion and Restraint
- **April/May:** To Be Determined (based on LEA input)

### Office hours

- Designated office hours for personalized/group support from the Maryland School Mental Health Response Team

### Specific skill development

- Targeted based on need



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## Progress

*Initial outreach and on-going supports provided by the Maryland School Mental Health Response Team to the LEAs.*

# School Mental Health Response Team and NCSMH

## Phase 1

- All 24 LEAs attended an introductory webinar, met with individually for initial assessment interview, and received a summary document including strengths, challenges, training/TA needs, and an initial action plan
- 22 of 24 LEAs have begun implementing portions of their action plan

## Phase 2

- Implementation of LEAs action plans

Examples include SHAPE, Classroom Wise, Teacher Wise, complex case analysis, professional development, Youth Mental Health First Aid, PD planning, MTSS mental health integration, LGBTQIA+ resources, community referral best practices, mental health resources, etc.

- Learning Community
- Crisis support

### All 24 LEAs participated in initial assessment interviews led by the Director of the MD-SMHRP and members from the NCSMH

- The interview focused on current practices and future requests
- Conversational in nature with 23 scripted questions
- Questions were focused on 3 key areas:
  1. Consultation/Technical Assistance
    - Integration with existing support systems (Multi-Tiered System of Supports)
    - SHAPE
  2. Receiving Training/Professional Development
    - Menu of possible trainings
  3. Connecting to local resources
    - Review of referral process to community partners

# Questions or Comments

