

## **MENTAL HEALTH AND SCHOOLS TOGETHER – NH**

### **Final Interagency Agreement US Department of Education, Office for Safe and Drug-Free Schools CFDA: 84215M**

#### **Absolute Priority: Increasing student access to quality mental health care by developing innovative approaches to link local school systems with the local mental health system.**

In order to ensure that NH students in need of mental health services and their families have access to a full continuum of effective, culturally competent and linguistically appropriate mental health care including primary prevention and education, early screening and detection, diagnosis, treatment and crisis intervention supports and services in and around their local communities, the undersigned endorse the project: *Mental Health and Schools Together – NH*.

This endorsement establishes a commitment to:

- 1) Provide an agency representative to serve as a member of the regional collaborative which will (a) establish regular meetings during the grant period, (b) use data-based decision making to strategically identify regional needs and assets in order to create a plan for addressing gaps and alignment of supports and services in a coordinated and integrated fashion, (c) create protocols that clarify and communicate procedures and information between schools and mental health care providers, (d) assist schools, families and individual student wraparound teams in addressing systemic barriers to accessing quality mental health care, and (e) assist in the evaluation of the effectiveness of training, technical assistance and support on child and family outcomes.
- 2) Participate in staff training that results in an increase in the number of school and mental health partners who have knowledge of and skills in (a) the characteristics of mental illnesses and their effect on learning, (b) the early detection and systematic screening procedures to identify students at risk for developing mental health problems, (c) the procedures for making appropriate referrals to school-based targeted and intensive support systems as well as to community mental health agencies and wraparound facilitators, (d) the availability of local mental health resources and an understanding of what can be expected from referral to those services, (e) crisis intervention techniques for addressing and de-escalating student behavior, (f) engaging families using person-centered planning and wraparound facilitation as a tool for implementing systems of care, and (g) resource mapping strategies.

#### **Parties to this Interagency Agreement**

##### **Local Education Agencies:**

NH School Administrative Unit 12, Londonderry School District  
NH School Administrative Unit 15, Candia School District  
NH School Administrative Unit 84, Littleton School District  
NH School Administrative Unit 35, Profile School District  
NH School Administrative Unit 1, Contoocook Valley Regional School District  
NH School Administrative Unit 18, Franklin School District  
NH School Administrative Unit 59, Winnisquam School District  
NH School Administrative Unit 11, Dover School District  
NH School Administrative Unit 56, Somersworth School District

**Local Mental Health Authority:**

The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester, Manchester, NH  
Northern Human Services, Conway, NH  
Monadnock Family Services, Keene, NH  
Genesis Behavioral Health Services, Laconia, NH  
Riverbend Community Mental Health Center, Concord, NH  
Community Partners, Dover NH

**State Juvenile Justice Authority:**

NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Juvenile Justice Services

**Financial responsibilities for the services provided as part of this program**

- New Hampshire School Administrative Unit #12, Londonderry School District (the Londonderry School District) will serve as Fiscal Agent for the MAST-NH project.
- The Londonderry School District is responsible for oversight of the management contract with the Southeastern Region Education Services Center (SERESC) (see (b) below)
- The financial responsibilities of the Londonderry School District will conclude at the end of the grant period, and no later than June 30, 2008. Program activities will be continued through “in kind” contributions from the parties.

**Conditions and terms of responsibility for those services, including quality, accountability and coordination of services with other entities,**

- The Londonderry School District is responsible for the oversight of the management contract with SERESC:
  - The Superintendent of Schools and the Executive Director of SERESC have entered into a management contract for services under this program, to be coordinated by the Center for Effective Behavioral Supports (NH CEBIS), a program of SERESC. Under this management contract, SERESC carries out responsibilities for
    - MAST-NH staff and subcontractors
      1. Infrastructure development at state and local levels
      2. Development of interagency/cross-partnership community-based collaborative teams skilled in resource mapping and action planning to address service gaps
      3. Professional development and training for school, mental health center and juvenile justice staff, family and other community members
      4. Development and delivery of training in mental health/mental illness issues and effects on educational experiences
      5. Development of mental health services referral protocols
        - Involvement of families whose children attend schools in MAST-NH school districts
      6. Development of capacity for Wraparound planning services
      7. Ensuring existence of Crisis Response Plans in MAST-NH school districts
    - Stipends to Community Mental Health Centers and Family Organizations to support involvement of Community Mental Health Agencies and Family Organizations in MAST-NH activities, until the conclusion of the grant period

**Policies and procedures to ensure appropriate parental or caregiver consent for any planned services pursuant to State or local laws or other requirements.**

- Family Organizations: The Granite State Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health, NH Parent Information Center (NH PTI, NH PIRC), NAMI NH, and consumer family members will participate in the development of protocols for referral to mental health services. Once developed, families will be informed of these protocols through each participating School District’s usual school-family communications procedures.
- Consent for treatment and/or any planned services to be provided to students under this program will be obtained by participating school districts, community mental health centers and NH Division for Juvenile Justice Services pursuant to federal, state and local laws, regulations or other requirements.

**Effective Date and Duration of Interagency Agreement:**

This agreement follows the Preliminary Interagency Agreement of July 10, 2006 and continues all conditions of that agreement. This MAST-NH Final Interagency Agreement becomes effective on October 1, 2007 and continues through September 30, 2008, to be renewed annually upon the agreement of the parties. If any of the parties intends not to renew this agreement, it should give notice of such intent at least thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of the agreement.

In support of *Mental Health and Schools Together – NH* and as required under the terms of this grant program, the following agencies commit to the aforementioned work:

---

Nathan S. Greenberg  
Superintendent of Schools  
NH School Administrative Unit 12, Londonderry  
School District

---

Patrick C. Low  
Superintendent of Schools  
NH School Administrative Unit 35, Profile School  
District

---

Dr. Charles P. Littlefield  
Superintendent of Schools  
NH School Administrative Unit 15, Candia School  
District

---

Dr. Richard A. Bergeron  
Superintendent of Schools  
NH School Administrative Unit 1, Contoocook  
Valley Regional School District

---

Dorothy A. Danforth  
Superintendent of Schools  
NH School Administrative Unit 84, Littleton  
School District

---

JoEllen Divoll  
Superintendent of Schools  
NH School Administrative Unit 18, Franklin  
School District

---

Dr. Tammy Davis  
Superintendent of Schools  
NH School Administrative Unit 59, Winnisquam  
School District

---

Kenneth Jue  
Executive Director  
Monadnock Family Services, Keene, NH

---

Dr. John O'Connor  
Superintendent of Schools  
NH School Administrative Unit 11, Dover School  
District

---

Margaret Pritchard  
Executive Director  
Genesis Behavioral Health Services, Laconia, NH

---

Karen Soule  
Superintendent of Schools  
NH School Administrative Unit 56, Somersworth  
School District

---

Louis Josephson  
Executive Director  
Riverbend Community Mental Health Services,  
Concord NH

---

William Rider  
Executive Vice President  
The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester,  
Manchester, NH

---

Brian Collins  
Executive Director  
Community Partners, Dover, NH

---

Dennis MacKay, CEO  
Northern Human Services  
Conway, NH

---

William W. Fenniman, Jr.  
Director  
Division for Juvenile Justice Services  
NH Department of Health and Human Services