



# BREAKING DOWN THE BARRIERS OF MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS IN THE SCHOOLS THROUGH COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

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# Agenda

- How Hamilton Center, Inc. & Vigo County School Corporation Partnership Started
- Prevention and Intervention Services
- History of Crisis Referral Process
- Communication & Data Tracking Outcomes
- Expulsion Process with Mental Health Assessment
- Ongoing & Preventative School-Community Collaboration Initiatives

# Hamilton Center, Inc.

- HCI has grown since 1971 into a regional behavioral health system in central and west central Indiana.
  - *Serves 9 counties*
  - *Employs approximately 500 employees throughout corporation*
  - *Services offered include: Assessment, Crisis, Individual Therapy, Group Therapy, Case Management, Skills Training, Early Head Start, Healthy Families, Medicaid Services, Psychological Testing, Medication Training and Support, Grant Services*
  - *Sliding Scale Fee*
    - *Individuals 200% poverty or below*
- Child and Adolescent Services at Hamilton Center, Inc.
  - *In 2019 Hamilton Center has 21 school based providers dedicated to VCSC*
    - *Individual and group therapy*
      - *3 full time school based therapist as well as 1 dedicated child based crisis therapist*
    - *Care management/Skills training*
      - *18 dedicated care managers*

# Vigo County School Corporation

- Urban school district in west central Indiana
  - *29 schools – including a virtual academy*
  - *14,722 students*
    - 81.7% Caucasian, 7.9% Multi-racial, 5.2% Black, 3.8% Hispanic, 1.3% Asian, 0.1% Pacific Islander
    - 52.2% Free and reduced lunch
    - 80.7% General Education; 19.3% Special Education
    - 1.4% English Language Learners
  - *43 school counselors and 25 behavior interventionists*
  - *SPO/SRO in every building – 2-3 in each middle/high school*

# Building Relationships Between Community Providers

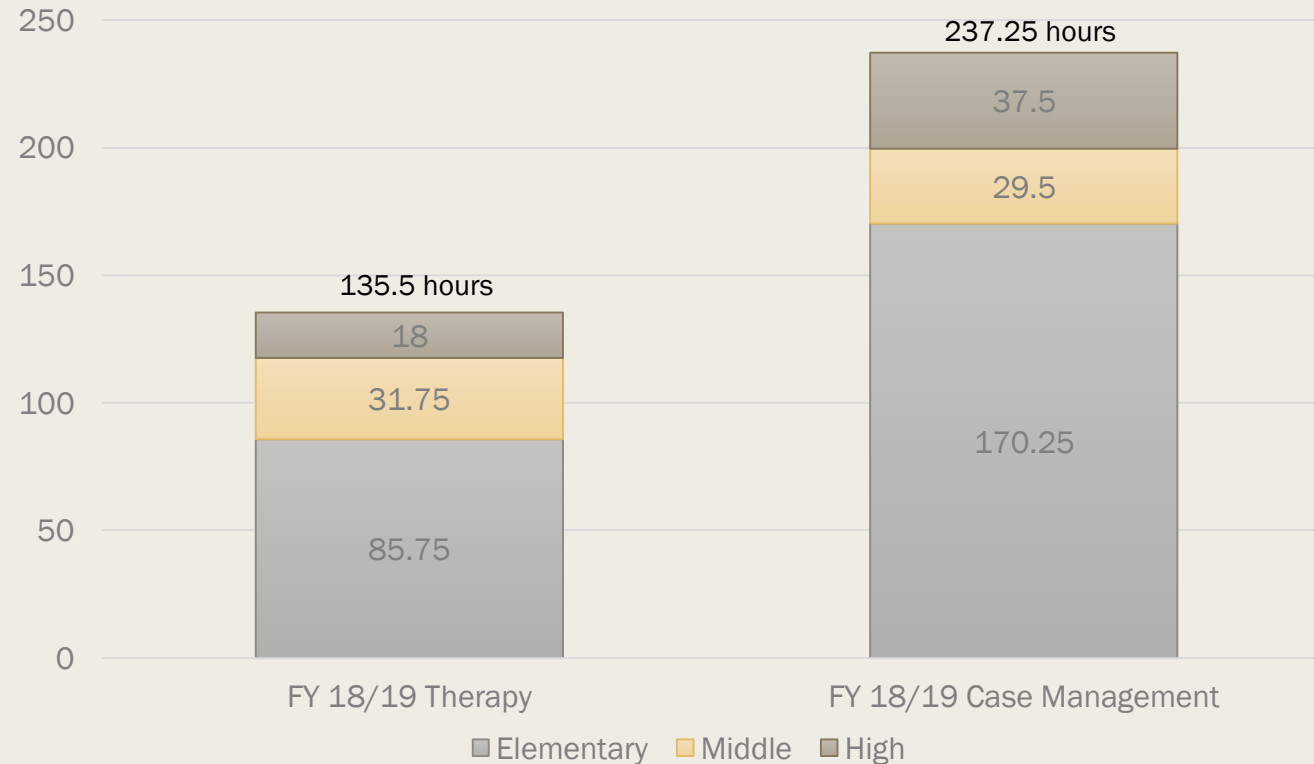
- Counselor In-Service Day
  - *Purpose: to build relationships with school counselors at the beginning of each year*
    - Began in 2017
    - In 2018, behavior interventionists joined
  - *Information included: Referral packets, Provider Yearbook, Crisis Referrals Packet, Wraparound Services referrals, and Provider log*



**PREVENTION AND  
INTERVENTION  
SERVICES**

# Provider Allotment Time FY18/19

Total Time:  
372.75 hours  
per week



# Groups

- HCI provided weekly social skills groups at 18 elementary schools (funded through VCSC grant: Project AWARE)
  - *Groups were set up to provide a maximum of 10 students per group selected by the schools. The groups were set to be weekly for 6 weeks.*
  - *Topics included:*
    - *Friendships*
    - *Anger Management*
    - *Grief*
    - *Self Control*



# Training

- HCI & Project AWARE: 201 VCSC staff and 74 HS seniors trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA)
- VCSC Project AWARE 2019:
  - *2018-19 SY - Completed 4 trainings with 117 VCSC staff being trained in YMHFA*
  - *2019-20 SY - 16 trainings projected with additional opportunity for training more high school seniors*
- Ongoing training offered for specific topics
  - *Suicide prevention for bus drivers and cafeteria workers*
  - *Trauma Informed Care*
  - *We Care Café – opportunity to engage parents in mental health topics*

# Alternative Programming

- Vaping/Tobacco

- *Beginning in August 2019, VCSC and HCI began offering alternatives to suspension programming for students who have been caught at school with vaping paraphernalia or tobacco.*

- HCI is utilizing the Catch My Breath and Stanford Curriculum

- Covered Bridge Special Education

- *HCI provides social skills group outings and therapy for Center Schools*
- *In August 2018, these groups were expanded to groups at the Boys and Girls Club as well as Vigo County Homes for Children*
- *In August 2018, 74 students were referred through Covered Bridge Special Education Services*

# Mentoring

- Mentoring
  - *Programming has seen successes with a 30% reduction in behavioral violations which impede with students ability to be present and learn in the classroom.*
- Programming was piloted at local middle school beginning October 2018.
- Purpose: to offer children and adolescents opportunities for quality services that lead to growth and positive social supports for at risk youth.
- Numbers Served
  - *In FY 18/19, 13 males and 8 females were mentored through group services*
  - *With the success of programming, HCI was tasked with expanding to a second middle school*
  - *Currently serving two middle schools, one high school, and one elementary school*

# Assessments

- HCI provides on-site assessments through two methods
  - *Assessment days at schools offering multiple therapists coordinated at the beginning of the school year or during peak referral times.*
  - *Single assessments are scheduled by therapist assigned to the school as an ongoing method to meet schools needs.*

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# CRISIS REFERRALS

# Crisis Referrals

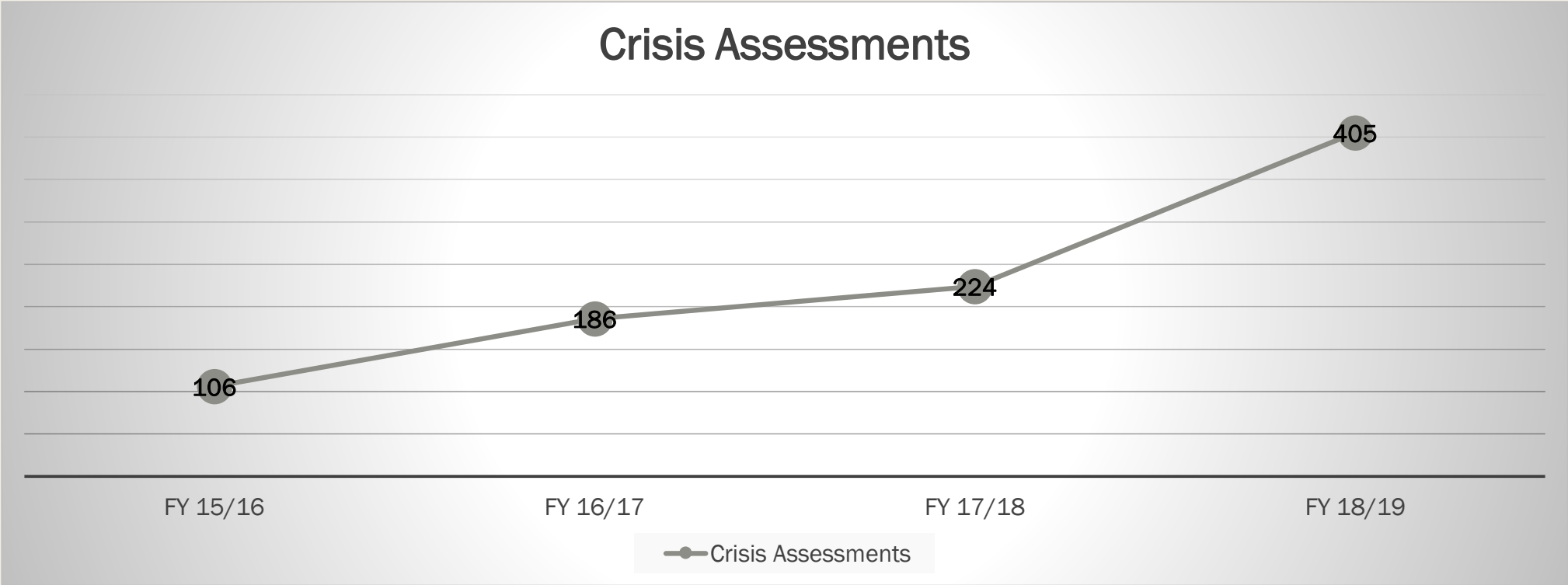
## ■ VCSC Process

- *Student is identified by school personnel of crisis concern*
- *School counselor talks with student and completes Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale*
- *School counselor sends referral to identified provider of choice*

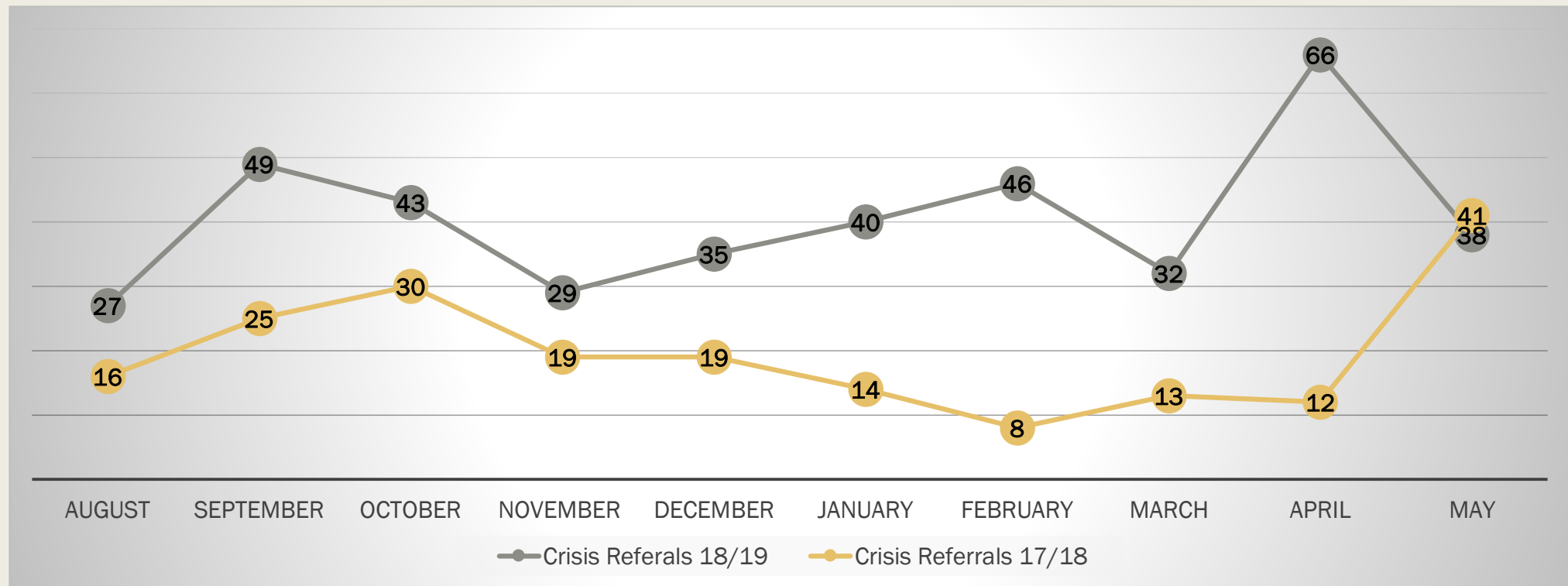
## ■ HCI process

- *Once fax has been received, managers will track who has been referred during the day and reach out to family to identify when they may present*
  - *If student has not arrived to the center by 4 pm on the day referred, then the school is contacted to identify if DCS call for safety concerns needs to be made.*
- *Once student arrives, he or she will be seen by therapist to identify if higher level of care is needed or if student may return home and school with safety plan*
- *Outcome form with recommendations is sent to the school counselor as well as principal*
- *HCI and VCSC continue to track referrals to guide care and prevention needs*

# Crisis Referral Tracking



# Crisis Referrals by Month





# Funding

- As a CMHC, HCI is able to sustain services billed to Medicaid and leverage other funding, including DCS/CMHI/CMHW/Commercial Insurance/Grant Funding, and often braids funding with referral partners
  - *HCI is competitive in grant writing and has secured grants for partnering with Vigo County School Corporation*
    - DMHA EBP Social Services Grant 2015
      - *Hosted directly at elementary schools in VCSC*
      - *Utilized Strengthening Families Curriculum*
    - SAHMSA Project Aware 2015
      - *Taught Youth Mental Health First Aid to community partners across 10 counties*
        - HCI was able to provide stipends for teachers attending from VCSC
    - DMHA Parent Café 2017
      - *Peer to Peer support system*
      - *Funding for emergency assistance*
    - DMHA Project AWARE Systems of Care Grant 2019
      - *Focused on strengthening partnership between system of care and school corporation*
- Vigo County School Corporation funding sources for mental health services
  - *Project AWARE*
  - *Title IV*

# How Hamilton Center, Inc. & Vigo County School Corporation Partnership Started

- 2008
  - *HCI partnership with special education co-op to serve students with special education needs*
- 2011
  - *HCI explored expanding referrals for students in general education*
  - *Therapy referrals began in 2011-2012 academic year*
  - *Expanded services into 28 school buildings*
- 2012
  - *Expanded crisis services to the schools*
- 2014
  - *VCSC began hiring behavioral interventionist*
- 2017
  - *Began School Counselor In-Service Day for increased communication between entities*
- 2018
  - *Expanded services to Mentoring Services*
- 2019
  - *HCI to hire full time school based therapist*



COMMUNITY CRISIS  
RESPONSE

# Trauma Response

- Student and staff-related tragedies within schools
- Threats of violence against students, staff, and schools

# Ongoing & Preventative School-Community Collaboration Initiatives

- Handle with Care
- Crisis Coordination/Liaison
- Code Red Follow-Up

# Obstacles/Barriers

- Commercial insurance funding
- Parent engagement
- Transportation
- Ongoing stigma of mental health

# Questions?

## Contact Information:

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