



Weaving the Thread: The Integration of School Mental Health and Restorative Practices

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Family Service of Rhode Island (FSRI)

Our Mission: We partner for high impact, making communities healthier and stronger.

FSRI is...

- Private non-profit
- Accredited by Council on Accreditation (COA)
- Funding through third party billing, grants and contracts
- Focused on evidence-based practices, strength-based interventions and family involvement
- Services across the lifespan



What's Being Done In Schools

- **Clinical Services** – Office, schools, home and community targeted client center treatment.
- **Emergency Response Services** – Provides emergency coverage (24/7) through phone support and clinical interventions. ERS services are completed through telephonic and face to face contact with clients. Evaluations are conducted in office, schools, homes and other community locations.
- **Restorative Practices** occurs in educational settings contracted through FSRI to assist with creating a positive school culture where the student body is both academically and emotionally supported.



School and Community Services

- Full-time licensed master level clinicians dedicated to provide a model of Mental Health services within school settings.
- In addition we have several full-time clinical staff who provide Intensive Community Based services throughout the school district in Rhode Island
- We provide Restorative Practice program in Central Falls and Westerly school district
 - Initial School District Central Falls; Partnership began in 2009. Central Falls, Rhode Island - an urban school district with an impoverished population. It is the smallest and most densely populated city in the smallest state and out of 26,952 cities in the US it is ranked #51.
 - Next Providence Public School District; Partnership began in 2010. Lower South Providence- an urban school district with an impoverished population.
 - Lastly Westerly; Partnership began in 2011. Westerly, Rhode Island – a rural school district located on the beachfront southern shores of the state. Westerly becomes a large tourist attraction during the summer months during which the population nearly doubles.



How They Intersect

- **School**
- **Mental Health**
- **Restorative Practices**



Our philosophy is characterized by cross-collaboration, engagement, and utilization of evidence based, culturally relevant, and trauma-informed strengths-based practices.

Restorative Practices (brief overview)

Helping Students, Schools, Families, and the Community to:

- **Build/Connect Relationships**
 - Proactively build relationships and a sense of community to prevent conflict and wrongdoing.
- **Repairing Any Harm Done**
 - Use every instance of wrongdoing and conflict as an opportunity for learning. Separate the “Deed” from the “Doer”.
- **Making Things Right Whenever Possible**
 - Involve offenders actively; they have an integral role in repairing the harm they caused.



Rhode Island Data

- Of Rhode Island's approximately 1.1 million residents, close to 38,000 adults live with serious mental illness and about 11,000 children live with serious mental health conditions
- In the 2013-2014 school year, 9% of the student population was suspended from school. Suspension is linked to poor outcomes, including a higher likelihood of dropping out of school. Dropping out is in turn linked to poor lifetime outcomes. School based services seek to mediate conflict, address underlying clinical issues, and prepare schools to deal with the complex needs of children without utilizing disciplinary methods that are linked to counterproductive outcomes.
- In 2012-2013, Rhode Island ranked 34th nationally in high school graduation rates (with 1st being the highest rate, and 50th being the lowest rate), and was the lowest ranked State in the Northeast. The dropout rate in 2014 was 8% Statewide, but over 14% in the four poorest and largest cities. In fact, poverty and mental illness are strongly linked to dropping out of high school. School based services seek to address the underlying clinical needs of students that contribute to disengagement in school. By addressing the larger service system, school based services have an opportunity to make an impact on the significant needs of children.
- Restorative Practices have improved student well-being with a focus on holding students accountable for their behavior; repairing relationships between students, their families, and school personnel; overall school climate and culture; and, helped to reduce discipline referrals and classroom management issues.



Data...

Beacon Health Strategies/Neighborhood Health Plan client Mental health engagement: Members will have two consecutive visits in initial treatment.

- Rhode Island's largest Medicaid health insurance carrier-Beacon Health Strategies bench mark is n=60%.
- FSRI's n=87% where we served 245 of their members.

Beacon Health Strategies/Neighborhood Health Plan psychiatric crisis intervention:

- Members will have an n=60 for Inpatient stays
- FSRI n= 1.41 for inpatient stays
- Members will have an n=60 for utilization of Emergency Department evaluations
- FSRI n= 2.35 for Emergency department evaluations



Data...

Central Falls – serving 2,569 students in 5 schools grades K-12.

- Students receiving Special Education Services 21% (Statewide 15%)
- Attendance rate 92% (Statewide 94%)
- Chronic Absenteeism
 - Elementary - 25% (Statewide 13%)
 - Middle - 27% (Statewide 15%)
 - High S. - 40% (Statewide 24%)
- Suspensions Rate
 - Elementary - 0.6 per 100 (Statewide 4.6 per 100)
 - Middle - 69.2 per 100 (Statewide 37.4 per 100)
 - High S. - 16.8 per 100 (Statewide 37.1 per 100)
- Number of Infractions 122 (Statewide 15,867)
 - Elementary - 8 (Statewide 2,942)
 - Middle - 429 (Statewide 11,981)
 - High S. - 126 (Statewide 15,867)
- 72.0% four year graduation rate (Statewide 80.7)

Westerly – serving 912 student at the high school grades 9-12

- Students receiving Special Education Services 12% (Statewide 15%)
- Attendance rate 95% (Statewide 92%)
- Chronic Absenteeism 11% (Statewide 24%)
- Suspensions Rate 13.6 per 100 (Statewide 37.1 per 100)
- Number of Infractions 122 (Statewide 15,867)
- 90.5% four year graduation rate (Statewide 80.7)



Our belief in the creation of seamless web of quality, innovative, and transformative services to advance the health and wellbeing of children, families, schools, and the community ensures our success.

