

# University of Maryland Advancing School Mental Health Conference

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The Building Blocks of Mental Health Support in an  
Urban Public School:

Laying strong foundations to support the mental health  
of students with emotional support needs.

Allegheny County Office of Behavioral Health  
Pittsburgh Public Schools  
Oliver Citywide Academy

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# Allegheny County Office of Behavioral Health

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- School Based Liaison
  - Act as a link between the education system and the Office of Behavioral Health to build mental health systems within public schools.
- Datashare
  - Agreement between Allegheny County and Pittsburgh Public Schools to share human service and educational data.

# Oliver Citywide Academy

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- Center based school for students in the Pittsburgh Public School District with full time emotional support needs.
- Enrollment for 2015-2016
  - 112

# Needs Assessment

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- *Data Analysis: DHS service data as well as overview of outside provider utilization*
- *Services Available at Assessment: Outpatient Therapy, School Counselors, School Based Probation, and Psychiatry Services*
- *Change in philosophy from a more punitive philosophy to a more Positive Behavioral Support/Trauma Informed philosophy*

## Supports for the 2015-2016 School Year

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- Full time therapist to provide Outpatient and Mobile Therapy
- Full time Educational Service Coordinator
- Crisis Response Team onsite
- School District Added 2 School Counselors
- Child Study Team
- Trauma Informed Care Initiative

# Child Study Team

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- Team includes:
  - School Counselors, Service Coordinator and Supervisor, Crisis Clinician and Supervisor, Therapist, School Based Liaison, and Principal when available.
- Purpose:
  - Team meets twice monthly, to plan for new admissions, connect to outside services and supports, communicate with school team, connect with DHS providers, and problem solve concerns.

# Provider Data

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- Psychiatry Medication Management
  - 2014-2015 number of students served: 10
  - 2015-2016 number of students served: 32
- Family Links, Therapy Provider
  - 2014-2015 number of students served: 8
  - 2015-2016 number of students served: 32
- HSAO, Service Coordination Provider
  - New Service for 2015-2016, Students served: 40

# Building Upon the Foundation

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- Additional Supports for 2016-2017
  - Additional Service Coordinator added
  - Additional therapist, in addition both therapists are district funded in order to allow therapists to be more flexible with service delivery. Services can be provided in school and home setting.
  - Communication with outside provider agencies and other schools regarding enhanced supports now available at Oliver Citywide Academy.



Questions?