Alliance-Wake Partnership for Student Mental Health

Presentation to the NC House Select Committee on School Safety
April 23, 2018
Kids in Crisis Campaign

- 1 in 5 NC students has a mental health and/or substance use disorder

- Suicide was second leading cause of death (ages 10-24)
  - Youth suicides in NC have doubled in recent years

- Schools often don’t know what to do or where to refer
  - Disconnect between schools and children leaving psychiatric treatment
Kids In Crisis Campaign

- Public-private partnership with WakeMed
- Designed to divert youth in crisis from the ED to more appropriate care settings
School Based Care Coordination

• Identify and connect Wake County Public School students to behavioral health services
• Help access assessment and treatment services
• Initiate process for intellectual/developmental disability service eligibility
• Link students with medical care, when needed
School Based Care Coordination

• Direct referrals from schools
• Any student needing extra support (Tier III)
• 441 students served in school year 2016-17, up 340% from 2015
• Identify and address service needs and barriers to treatment
Crisis Programs

• Support students leaving crisis and highest level psychiatric residential services
  ○ At highest risk for suicide, aggression, self-harm

• Served 147 students in school year 2016-17

• Staff attended 323 Child and Family Team meetings for face-to-face service coordination
Crisis Intervention Team Training

• First responders specially trained to respond to and de-escalate mental health crises
• All 23 Wake School Resource Officers are CIT trained
• Alliance coordinates the CIT program with participation from the SBCC initiative
• Communities that incorporate CIT are more successful in resolving serious crisis situations and diverting people into treatment
Diversion Program

• 16-17 year olds committing low level offenses in Wake schools offered opportunity to avoid adult criminal charges by participating in community or treatment services

• Referred to program by SROs

• 93 students benefitted from the program last school year

• 80% diverted from adult charges, avoiding criminal record
Program Specializations

• Intellectual/Developmental Disability (I/DD) Care Coordinator
• Bi-Lingual Care Coordinator
• Substance Use Disorder Specialist
• Care Coordinator stationed at Longview School (separate school for students with behavioral difficulties)
Young Child Mental Health

• Focus on children ages 3-6
• Early identification of children entering kindergarten
• Supporting children with I/DD
• Collaborate with community partnerships, including trauma informed schools
Working with the Alliance Access and Information Center

- Streamlined scheduling of initial treatment appointments
- Participated in Kids in Crisis campaign
- Crisis line has availability of interpreters for non-English speakers
- Trained to immediately refer school threats to WCPSS Crisis Response Team
Award-Winning Program

• 2017 Program of Excellence for Partnerships to Improve Services from the NC Council of Community Programs

• “The…collaborative allows our community to provide aligned, coherent efforts that strengthen families and the school families of students facing unique struggles.”

Karen Hamilton
Wake County Assistant Superintendent for Special Education Services
Award-Winning Program