

# Alliance, JCPS team up to improve student safety

In collaboration with Johnston County Public Schools (JCPS), Alliance Health was awarded a School Safety Grant for \$38,430 for the 2018-19 school year to focus on improving safety and early detection in public schools. The strategies implemented were purposefully designed to foster sustainability after the grant period.

Grant funds have been used to support the following initiatives in Johnston County:

## **PREPaRE School Crisis Prevention & Intervention Curriculum Training**

The PREPaRE curriculum, developed by the National Association of School Psychologists, is an evidenced-based training module for school personnel that focuses on how to establish and serve on school safety and crisis response teams. The curriculum teaches school professionals how to respond to students' behavioral health needs in times of crisis as well as how to establish and maintain building-level safety.

PREPaRE Workshop 1 helps schools create systems to meet the safety, crisis prevention, and preparedness needs of students, staff, and families, while Workshop 2 focuses on mental health crisis intervention and recovery.

Fifty-nine JCPS personnel completed Workshop 1 and 38 personnel completed Workshop 2. During the training, participants gained knowledge and resources to help them establish and sustain comprehensive school safety and crisis prevention and preparedness efforts.

The training helped to prepare the school district for potential crisis events by developing, exercising and evaluating safety and crisis plans. Test data for Workshop 1 showed a 40% increase in participants' feeling "very knowledgeable" of school crisis



**Kid In Crisis?  
Call for help.**

**800-510-9132**  
**AllianceHealthPlan.org**

Alliance  
Health

Top: billboards focusing on helping kids in crisis will be displayed in Johnston County over the next year; Right: Johnston County school professionals participated in PREPaRE School Crisis Prevention & Intervention Curriculum Training



prevention and preparedness.

School professionals also learned how to meet the behavioral health needs of students and staff following a school-associated crisis event. The pre/post test data for Workshop 2 showed an increase in participants' confidence level in their ability to know what to do if they were required to respond as part of a school crisis response team.

## **Suicide Prevention Training**

In December 2018, 88 behavioral health support staff within our local school district (counselors, social workers, nurses, student advocates, school psychologists, behavior specialists, and exceptional children specialists) completed an intensive suicide prevention training module that included how to respond when students who are at-risk are referred for evaluation. After completing the training, 90% of attendees reported feeling more adequately prepared

in times of crisis. Additionally, 86% have investigated at least one student risk situation with 42% of these situations resulting in contact being made to an emergency responder or admission into a mental health facility.

## **Multi-Media Campaign**

Alliance and JCPS have also worked together to develop a print campaign to inform school professionals, parents, caregivers, and community members about the appropriate steps to take when a child is struggling with behavioral health and/or substance use issues. Print materials that focus on students in crisis and how to access care have been distributed throughout all schools within Johnston County. Over the next year, 10 billboards with information about how to get help for kids in crisis will also be displayed throughout Johnston County.