

Memorandum of Understanding

between

Gulf Shores City Schools

and

AltaPointe Health, Inc.

Population to Be Served:

AltaPointe Health, Inc. (AHS) in partnership with the Gulf Shores City Schools (GSCS) will provide services to children and families in designated schools.

The target population will include children and families who are in need of mental health services and are enrolled in designated GSCS schools.

Program Goal:

The overall goal of this project is to improve the access to mental health services for the students of GSCS. The purpose of these services is to assist children and their families with Childhood and Adolescent Disorders. The following outcomes are expected:

1. Improved access to mental health services
2. Improved emotional/behavioral functioning
3. Increased school attendance
4. Reduced school disciplinary issues
5. Improved academic performance

Scope of Services:

The goal is to fully integrate mental health services within the GSCS by having therapists based at select schools. AltaPointe plans to accomplish this by placing an experienced Mental Health therapist in schools mutually selected by AHS and GSCS. Services provided on site include:

1. Mental health assessments
2. Individual therapy
3. Group therapy
4. Family therapy
5. Crisis intervention services

6. Family support and education
7. Professional mental health consultation

Additionally the AHS counselor will be available to provide training to the school staff. The AHS counselor will facilitate referrals to other off-campus AHS services such as case management, psychiatric services (medication evaluation/monitoring), summer day treatment, In-Home therapy services, psychiatric hospital as well as to external agencies for a variety of social service needs. The main intent of this partnership is to improve the access to mental health services for the students of GSCS. It is not intended to take the place of needed emergency/crisis services or act as a disciplinary arm of the individual school. GSCS will provide a private office space, computer/internet access, phone and use of office equipment at each of the selected schools.

GSCS will designate a "Gatekeeper" to oversee the referrals to the school-based mental health services program (in similar programs this is typically the school guidance counselor). The Gatekeeper will be responsible for receiving referrals from staff, students and/or parents and completing a referral form to provide to the school-based therapist. The Gatekeeper will fully document the reason for the referral and expected outcomes. The Gatekeeper will contact the parent and discuss the recommendation for mental health services and seek the parent's verbal agreement to proceed. The Gatekeeper will then provide the referral information to the school-based therapist who will contact the parent to schedule an intake assessment for admission to services. At the intake session, the therapist will obtain a signed release to share information with school staff, obtain medical/insurance information, and complete an assessment. Once this is completed, the student will be able to receive treatment services on the school campus.

AHS and GSCS administrative staff will meet to develop administrative procedures prior to implementing the project. Once the program starts, monthly meetings will be held at the school board or at AHS's Children's Outpatient Services with GSCS's designee and AHS's Children's Clinical Director and/or designee. The purpose of this meeting will be to review severe cases, administrative issues, and other issues relevant to the program. This time will be used to discuss and make any program adjustments as well. This monthly meeting will serve as a vital link between both agencies to help ensure the effectiveness of the program as well as for performance improvement purposes.

AHS will depend on insurance reimbursement (Medicaid, AllKids and other eligible third party sources) to support this project. In light of this, all referrals to the program must have an existing payment source. In the event there are no resources available for payment for treatment services, GSCS vouchers will be accepted or appropriate referrals to outside agencies will be made to school staff by the therapist.

Exchange of Information

- AHS will keep and maintain assessment and therapy records.
- GSCS will hold student profile information, but will share quarterly information related to behavior, grades, attendance as needed.
- GSCS will provide information needed for the establishment of a baseline.
- Outcome measurement results will be the joint property of AHS and GSCS.

Mental Health Staff:

The program will be staffed by Masters level clinical therapists who meet the qualifications set out by the State Medicaid Agency and the Department of Mental Health. The staff assigned to the program will be directly supervised by the Clinical Director or designee in accordance with the supervision standards set out in the AHS Policies and Procedures.

Facility:

The AHS counselor will provide counseling services at designated schools.

Operating Schedule:

The program will operate with the teacher's schedule.

Outcome Measures

A Child and Adolescent Strengths and Needs Assessment (CANS) will be administered at the time of admission and every 6 months thereafter to determine progress. Success will be measured by comparing the CANS scores.

Entire Agreement

This Memorandum of Understanding constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes all agreements, oral or written, between the parties on the subject matter contained herein.

The initial term of this Agreement shall begin on the effective date of _____ and end on _____ and shall renew automatically from year to year thereafter; unless either party requests a change or termination of the agreement.

AHS and the GSCS rely upon the other party to devote sufficient time and resources as is reasonably necessary to fulfill the spirit and purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Dr. Matt Akin
Superintendent
Gulf Shores City Schools

Date

Julie B. Bellcase, MBA
Chief of Staff
AltaPointe Health, Inc.

Date

Anne Chipman, LMFT
Assistant Children's Clinical Director-Baldwin County
AltaPointe Health, Inc.

Date

Olivia Nettles, LPC, NCC
Clinical Director for Children's Services
AltaPointe Health, Inc.

Date