



Cicero District 99
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*District 99, Riveredge Hospital to co-host mental health roundtable
More than 60 area educators, support staff attending*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cicero — Sept. 3, 2019 — In Cicero District 99, addressing the concerns of student mental health is a top priority. But, the District's Multi-Tier Systems of Support (MTSS) Department realizes that advocating for students' mental well-being should not be confined to the walls of just one school district — it's a discussion that should be had with district leaders and community entities across the area.

That's why District 99 has partnered with Riveredge Hospital to co-host the first roundtable discussion about the issue, School-Based Mental Health, Thursday, Sept. 5, from noon-4 p.m. at Abraham Lincoln Elementary School (3545 S. 61st Ave.).

The program has attracted attention from more than 60 district leaders, teachers and mental health professionals, with attendees coming from Chicago Public Schools, Golf School District 67, J. Sterling Morton High School District 201, Pillars Community Health, Oak Park Elementary School District 97, Maywood/Melrose Park/Broadview School District 89 and the LaGrange Area Department of Special Education (LADSE), among others.

Julie Krueger, District 99's MTSS coordinator, said she and MTSS Director, Dr. Jack Rein, wanted to host the program after finding a lack of a similar programming in the area for educators.

"We started looking at Illinois and the Midwest, and saw that there is nothing in this vicinity that has done anything like this," she said. "We wanted to bring all of the schools, the communities and hospitals together to show what everyone is doing and how they are sharing their practices."

Rein says the roundtable's goal is to bring awareness to mental health and crisis prevention within the school districts.

"We want to see what other schools are doing to best support their students in need," Rein said.

Amanda Norris, Riveredge Hospital's school liaison, noted "We're encouraging participants to evaluate partnerships and build stronger connections with appropriate school-based and community-based services with the goal of addressing children's mental health and suicide prevention."

Rebecca Doran, MSN, RN, NCSN, PEL/school nurse, principal consultant to the Regulatory Support & Wellness Division with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), will discuss her work with public schools, shining light on suicide prevention programs. Participants will learn the community agency perspective from a panel discussion, explore restorative practices, review current mental health practices and kick-start school/community partnerships.

Riveredge Hospital, a comprehensive behavioral health facility located in west suburban Forest Park, is co-sponsoring this inaugural event.

About Cicero District 99

Cicero District 99 is a 16-school public elementary school district in Cicero, Ill., a near-west suburb of Chicago which is home to more than 82,000 residents. A predominantly Hispanic and working-class community, District 99 educates more than 13,000 students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade — 95 percent of whom come from low-income households and qualify for either free or reduced-price lunch.