

February 16, 2022

Dear Manhasset School Community,

As you may know, our District has focused on the social, emotional health of our students for several years. Over the years, we have launched several major initiatives to address the mental well-being of our students. Quality mental health support is especially urgent right now as we confront serious issues that impact our children's lives both in and out of school. Recently, the District determined to join the Cohen's Children's Northwell School Mental Health Partnership in the furtherance of this important work.

This Partnership will provide the District with valuable incremental resources to support the full continuum of school mental health services:

- With parent/guardian consent, families with students who are at high risk can access care coordination and the Behavioral Health Center in Mineola.
- With parent/guardian consent, families with at-risk students can access ongoing care referrals, consultation support and evaluations.
- Staff and community training and support is offered for the benefit of all students.

We have been made aware of questions in the community regarding the District's participation in the Northwell Health's School Mental Health Partnership. To help answer those questions Dr. Vera Feuer, Associate Vice President, of the School Mental Health Partnership will provide the Board of Education with an overview during their regular meeting tomorrow, February 17, at 7:30 p.m. in the Middle School Library (note the new location).

In addition, you will find the answers to some frequently asked questions below.

Warmly,

Dr. Gaurav Passi
Acting Superintendent of Schools

Allison Rushforth
Assistant Superintendent for Student Services

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What are benefits of having access to the Behavioral Health Center (BHC)?

With parent/guardian consent, this Partnership provides the following:

- Crisis response and consultative support for students and their families in partnership with the Northwell Behavioral Health Center (BHC).

- Timely access to care for students in crisis with the ability to avoid hospitals and emergency departments by instead accessing the BHC.

2. What care is provided (with parental consent) at the BHC?

With parental consent, the team provides clinical assessments with recommendations for the types of care that would most benefit the student. The BHC supports families to connect with care providers. The BHC also collaborates with community partners, including mental health clinics, group practices, private providers and subspecialty clinics to identify and connect families and students with the care they need. The team also provides short term crisis management and therapy while families and students await linkage with community providers. The BHC does not provide long term, ongoing care.

3. Can my child be sent to the BHC without my knowledge?

No. The care at the BHC is fully voluntary and confidential and requires the consent and participation of a parent/guardian for all minors.

4. Will the school get a report from the BHC?

No. The family has full confidentiality rights. It is the parent/guardian's choice to determine what information if any is shared with the District. Even if the parent/guardian chooses to sign a release for the BHC team and the school to communicate, the medical record generated during visits will only be shared with the family and not with the District.

5. Will the school have control over the care provider's activities?

No. Neither school administration nor school clinical staff has control or jurisdiction over the medical and therapeutic recommendations made by the BHC team.

6. Does medical documentation from the BHC become part of the student's school record?

Never. Medical records are not sent to the school and will only be shared with parent/guardian upon their request.

7. How much will this service cost the patient?

The BHC is a fee for service model, where insurance is billed. Depending on insurance coverage, the typical cost is a specialty outpatient co-pay.

8. What if a student doesn't have insurance?

As a result of this Partnership, all students will be seen regardless of their ability to pay. More importantly, the BHC care coordinators will assist the family in obtaining insurance for their child upon request.

9. How did the District purchase this service?

The District purchased this service through Nassau BOCES using funds from the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and American Rescue Plan (IDEA-ARP) grant.

10. Will the District enter a contract with Northwell Health?

No. The District does not have a separate contract with Northwell Health. This is a purchased service through Nassau BOCES.

11. What other District's are participating in this initiative?

The Behavioral Health Center at Mineola serves the following school Districts: Garden City, Great Neck, Herricks, Jericho, Locust Valley, Manhasset, Mineola, Roslyn, Sewanhaka, Uniondale.

The Behavioral Health Center at Rockville Centre serves the following school Districts: East Rockaway, Freeport, Hewlett-Woodmere, Lawrence, Oceanside, Rockville Centre, Valley Stream CHS, West Hempstead.