

# Cohen Children's Northwell School Mental Health Partnership

**Vera Feuer, MD**

AVP, School Mental Health

Director, Pediatric Emergency Psychiatry and Behavioral Health Urgent Care  
Associate Professor, Zucker SOM at Hofstra/Northwell, Psychiatry, Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine

**Gina-Marie Bounds, MPA**

AVP, Pediatric Specialties

Admin Director Behavioral Health Centers

February 17, 2022



**Cohen Children's Medical Center**  
Northwell Health®

# Outline of Background Issues: Pre-Pandemic

1 in 5 children and adolescents with mental health diagnosis



Suicide is SECOND leading cause of death 10-24 year olds, more than all medical illness combined



Lack of timely access to reliable screening, assessment and treatment



Lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate care for disadvantaged populations



Gap between hospital based and ambulatory services

# Current State of Youth Mental Health

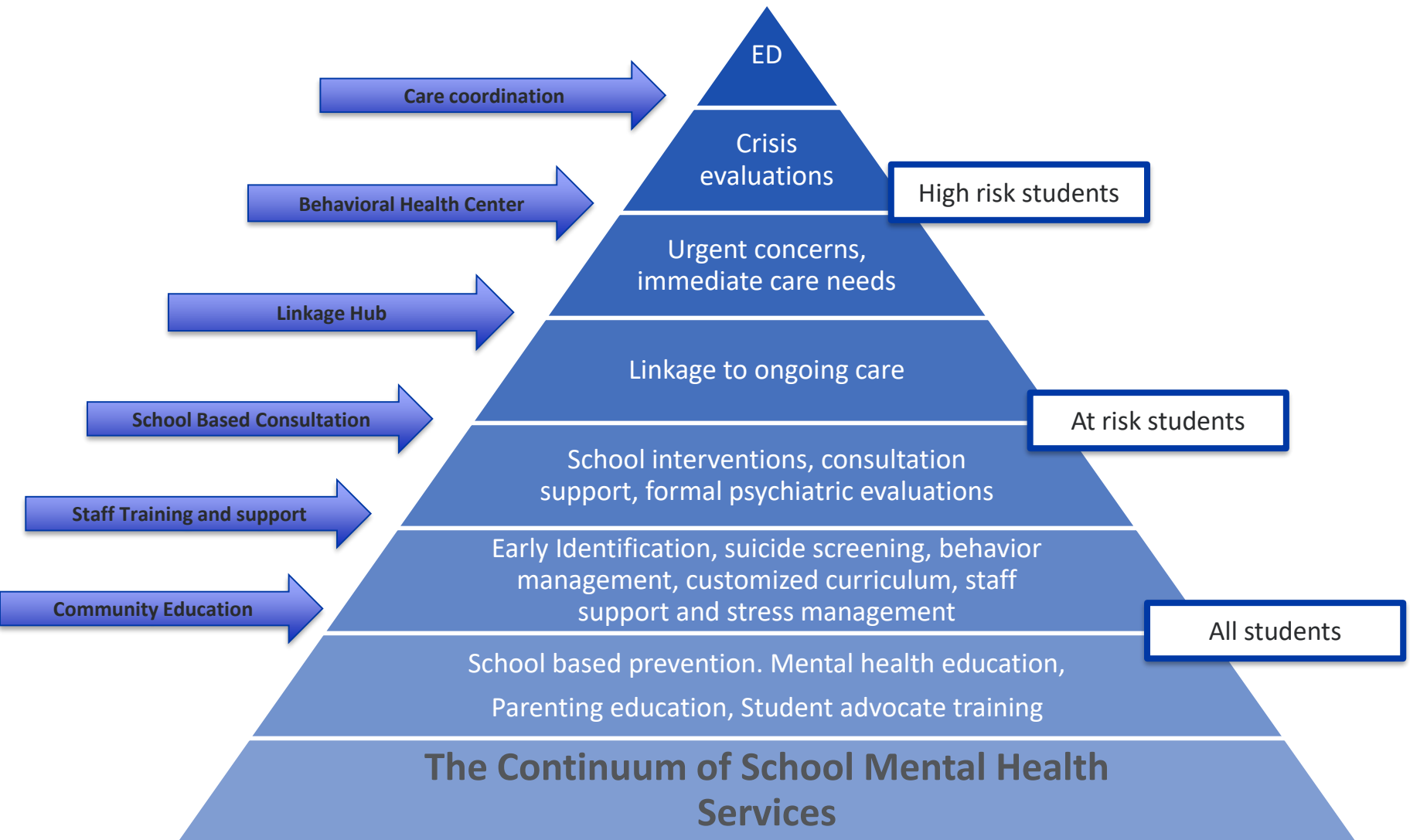
1 in 5 children and adolescents with mental health diagnosis  
→ **25% youth with depression, 20% with anxiety disorders**

Suicide is **SECOND** leading cause of death 10-24 year olds, more than all medical illness combined  
→ **Early 2021, ER visits suicide attempts increased 51% in adolescent girls**

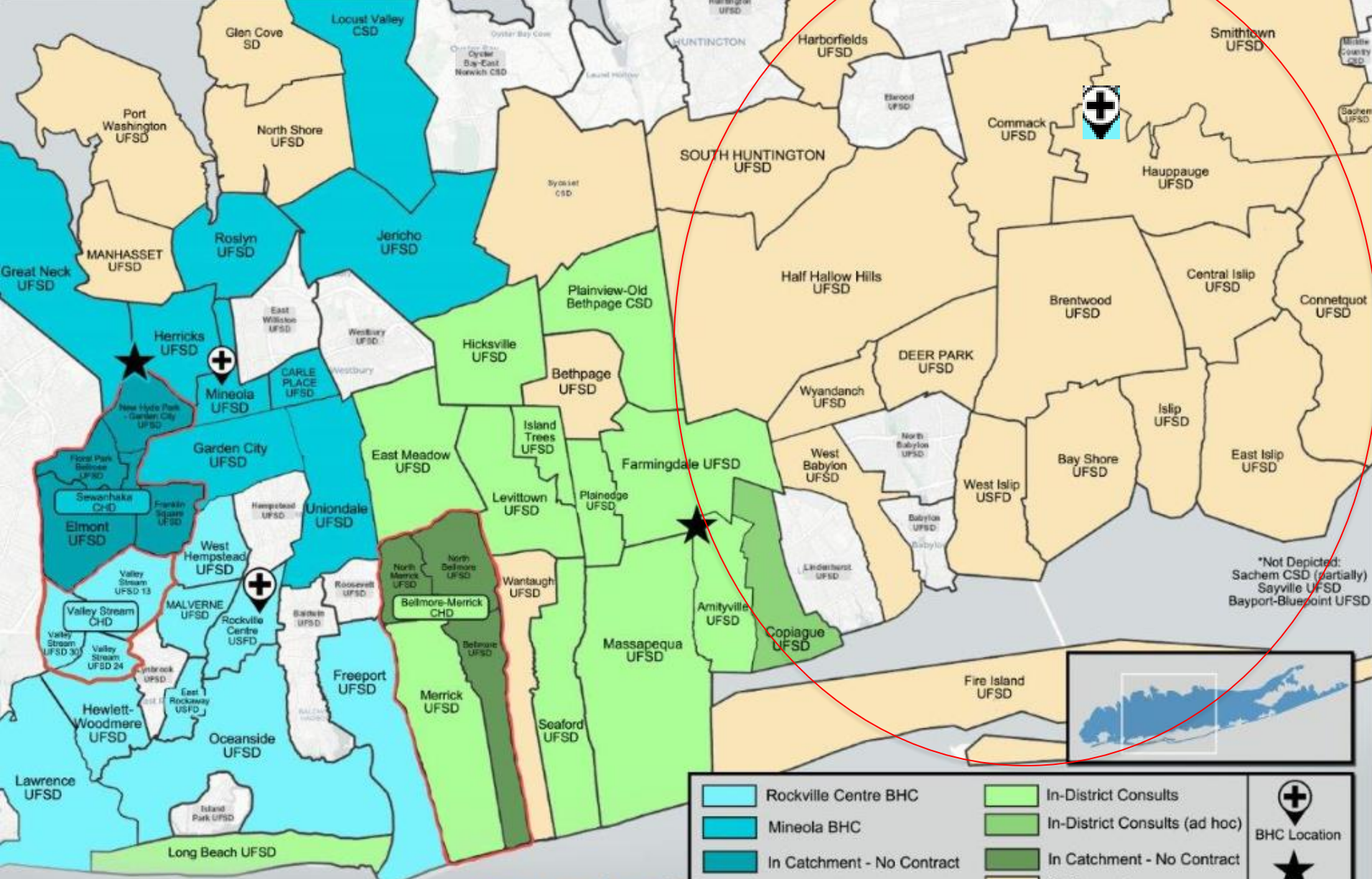
Lack of timely access to reliable screening, assessment and treatment  
→ **Timely access even more challenging, most only offer virtual options**

**Hospitalizations for eating disorders increased, one study suggest 120% increase**

**Late 2021, AAP, AACAP, CHA, declared a nation youth mental health crisis.  
The Surgeon General issued a Youth Mental Health Advisory.**



# School Mental Health Services 2021-22



\*Not Depicted:  
Sachem CSD (partially)  
Sayville UFSD  
Bayport-Bluepoint UFSD



	Rockville Centre BHC		In-District Consults		BHC Location
	Mineola BHC		In-District Consults (ad hoc)		
	In Catchment - No Contract		In Catchment - No Contract		Northwell MH/Children Hospital
	Central HS District Border		In Discussion		

# Results

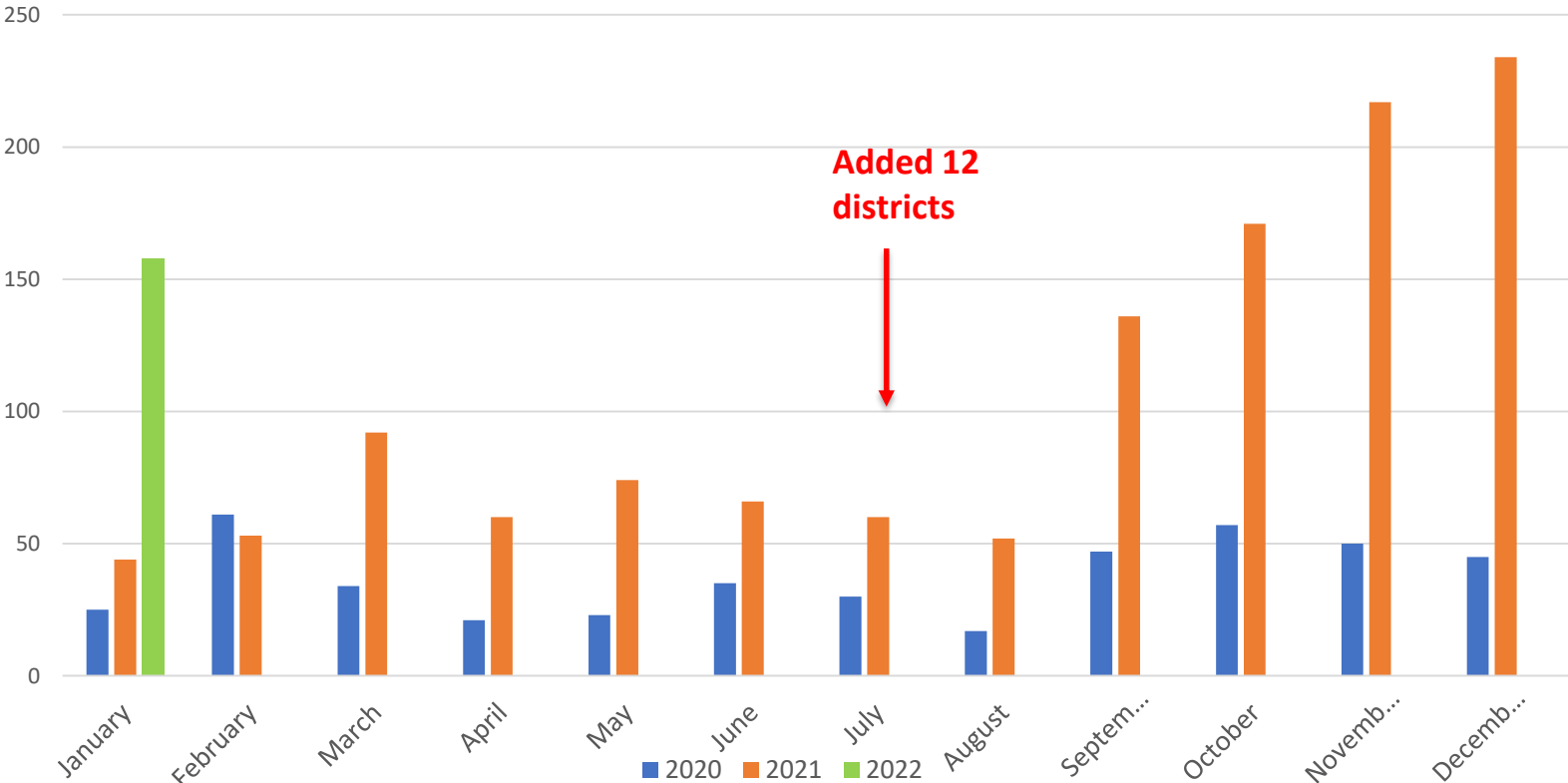


# Overall Volume

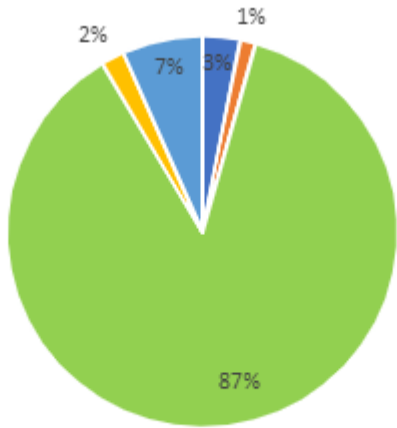
**1862 Visits**

**RVC: 1280 Visits , 65% Initial, 35% Follow Up  
49% School, 42% Self, 9% Peds/ER/Other**

**Mineola: 582 Visits, 74% Initial, 26% Follow Up  
63% School, 27% Self, 9% Peds/ER/Other**

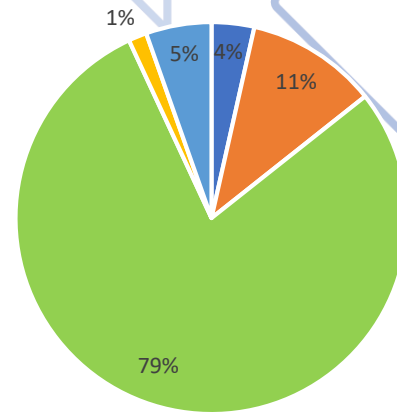


# RVC

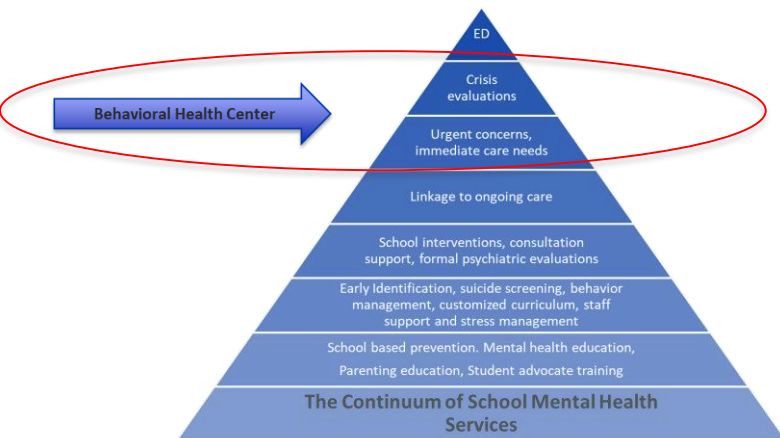


■ Declined referral ■ Pending ■ Positive Linkage ■ Admitted ■ No Response/lost touch

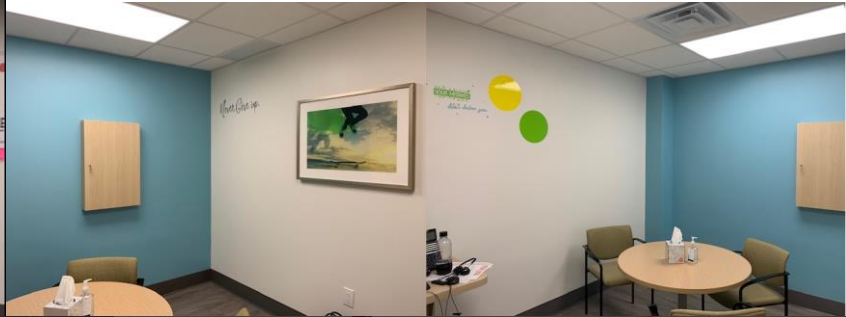
# Mineola



■ Declined referral ■ Pending ■ Positive Linkage ■ Admitted ■ No Response/lost touch



# The Behavioral Health Center



## Location

- 156 First Street in Mineola, NY 11501

## Hours of Operation

- Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri from 8am – 8pm
- Tues 9:30a-5:30p

## Contact Information

- Phone: 516-321-5770
- Fax: 516-321-5779
- Email: [minbh@northwell.edu](mailto:minbh@northwell.edu)

# GOALS OF BHC VISIT



Provide urgent access to psychiatric assessment and referral for patients in crisis



Coordinate care and improve linkage



Provide short term crisis care



Improve communication between schools, community providers and our team



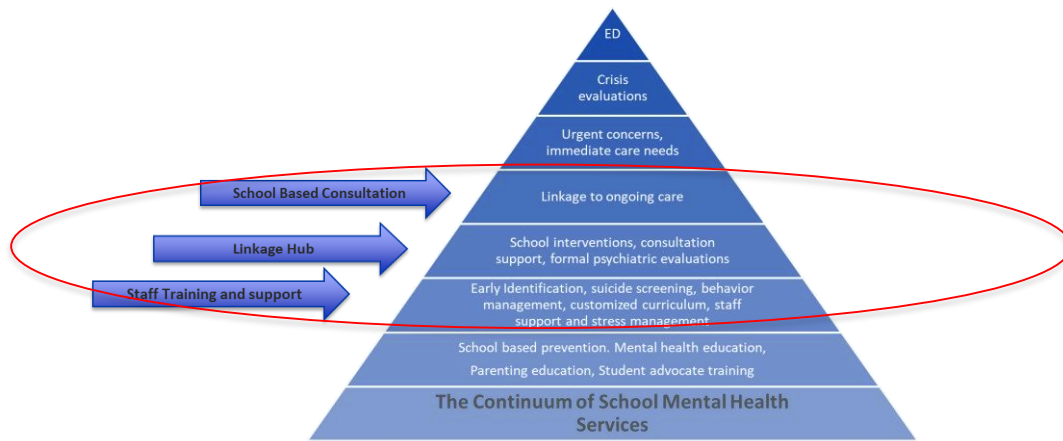
Educate and support families



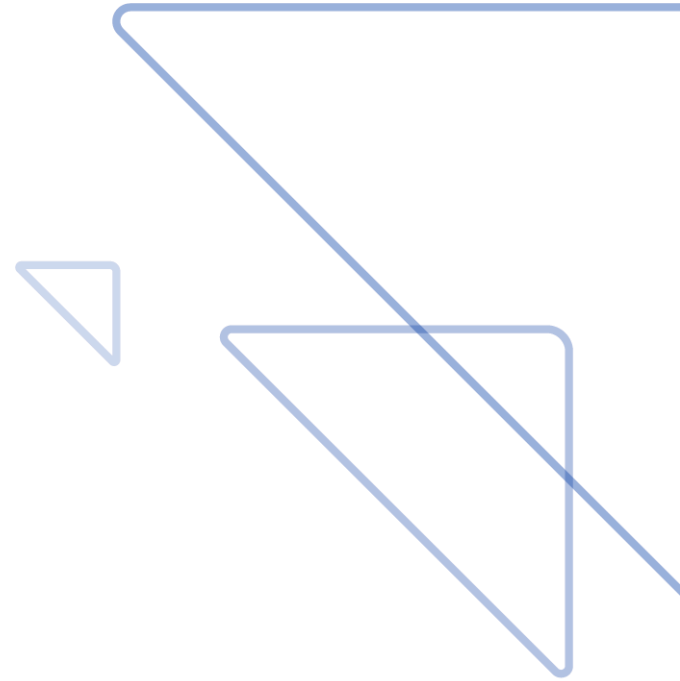
Help avoid hospital admissions and emergency room visits



Support school staff



# Collaboration



# Collaborative Activities

Biweekly Meetings with PPS staff

Advisory Board Meeting every 2 months with Superintendents and PPS directors

Consultation on the phone with BHC team as needed

Linkage support and referral resources

Community Education

Professional Development

Monthly Newsletters

Student Ambassador Programs

# In district evaluations Overview: Add-On

## Target Population

- Any partnership district student (preK-12<sup>th</sup>) regardless of age identified by school team as needing a formal evaluation yielding a report that school has direct access to.

## Clinical Interventions

- Psychiatric Evaluation with report
- Care Coordination/Linkage

## Clinical Workflow

- School staff completes online request, gets consents, collateral information and forms completed, schedules consultation or assessment
- Admin reviews and dispatches request to psychiatrist
- BHC team follows up on linkage needs

# Professional Development

## School Mental Health Services – Education Calendar

### Core Curriculum

August - October			November - January			February - April			May - June
8/31/21 Back to School Conference <small>Vera Feuer, MD Sharon Skariah, MD Victor Fomari, MD</small>	Managing Oppositional Behavior (Elementary) <small>George Wurzer, LCSW Jill Somjen-Klar, MD Note: Dan Hoffman</small>	10/28 Managing Oppositional Behavior (MS/HS) <small>Madeline McGee, PhD Allison Mock-Tabbet, PhD</small>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Superintendent Conference <small>Northwell team</small>	Suicide Risk Assessment & Mitigation <small>Eugene Grudnikoff, MD Vera Feuer, MD</small>	1/27/22 Self Harm/DBT Techniques II <small>Gina Molinet, LCSW</small>	2/10/22 ADHD/ODD <small>Julie Cyniac, MD</small>	3/21/22 Trauma Informed Care 11am-1pm <small>Leslie Bromberg, LCSW Kim Mulhern, LMHC</small>	4/7/22 Substance Use in School-Aged Students <small>Jaclene Jason, PsyD</small>	Identifying Autism and available resources <small>Jessica Richter, DO George Wurzer, LCSW</small>

### Electives

10/19/21 Unconscious Bias <small>Anu Anish, MPH Samantha Rosario</small>	12/7/21 Cultural Humility/ Allyship <small>Anu Anish, MPH Samantha Rosario</small>	1/20/22 School Threat Assessment <small>Vera Feuer, MD</small>	TBD Classroom Management <small>STRYDD Team</small>	3/8/22 Social Determinants of Health <small>Anu Anish, MPH Samantha Rosario</small>
--	--	--	---	---

### Mental Health & Wellness

9/14/21 Mindfulness Meditation <small>Meghan Downey, PsyD</small>	9/23/21 Mindfulness Meditation <small>Meghan Downey, PsyD</small>	Stress First Aid 101: Introduction <small>STRYDD Team</small>	Stress First Aid: Implementation <small>STRYDD Team</small>
---	---	--	--

## Northwell School Mental Health School PPS Meeting: Ask the Experts Series

**Cohen Children's Medical Center, South Oaks Hospital and Zucker Hillside Hospital have partnered to provide a workshop series for school staff on a variety of behavioral health topics.**

#### Transitions from the Emergency Room and the Inpatient Unit to School

Speakers: Dr. Vera Feuer, Allison Tabbet-Mock PhD  
Date: Wednesday, January 26, 8 AM  
[Join this session!](#)

#### Northwell Health Physician Partners LGBTQ Transgender Program at New Hyde Park

Speakers: Dr. David Rosenthal, DO, and Dr. Helena Roderick, PhD  
Date: Wednesday, February 16, 8 AM  
[Join this session](#)

#### Eating Disorders Day Program at CCMC

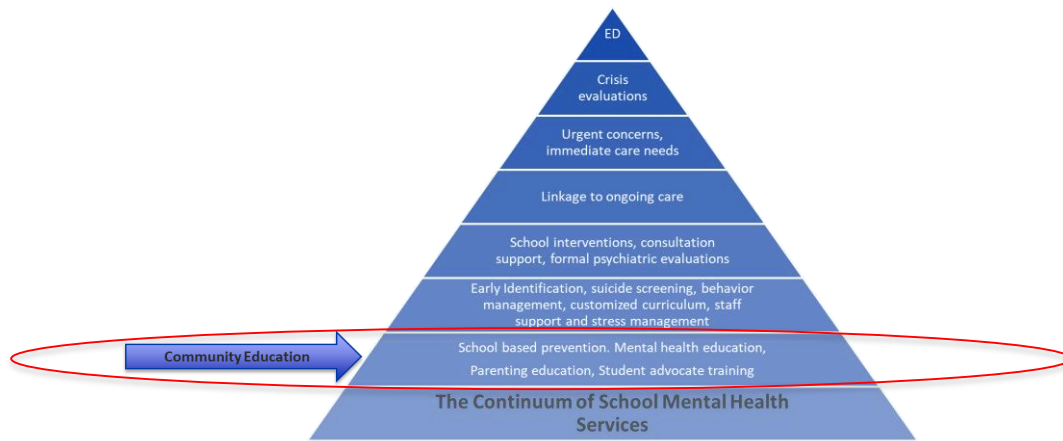
Speakers: Dr. Marianna Ashurova and Dr. Lauren Salvatore, PsyD  
Date: Wednesday, March 16, 8 AM  
[Join this session](#)

#### Substance Abuse Treatment Resources for Adolescents

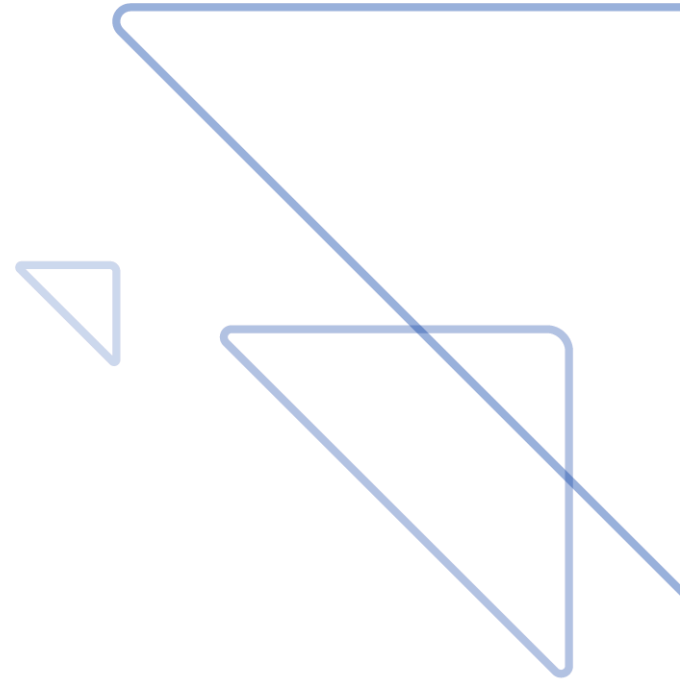
Speakers: Dr. Jaclene Jason and Heather Hugelmayr, LCSW  
Date: Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 8 am

#### Partial Hospital Program at South Oaks

Speakers: Dr Harsimran Brar and Leslie Bromberg LCSW  
Date: Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 8am



# Community Education



# Community Education

Cohen Children’s Medical Center, South Oaks Hospital and Zucker Hillside Hospital have partnered to provide a webinar series for parents on a variety of behavioral health topics

## Medical and Mental Health Impact of COVID on Kids

**Date & Time:** January 25, 2022 at 7 PM

[Click here](#) to register.

## Unconscious Bias and its Impact on Youth

**Date & Time:** February 15, 2022 at 7 PM

[Click here](#) to register.

## Addressing Stress and Trauma in Families

**Date & Time:** March 22, 2022 at 7 PM

[Click here](#) to register.

## Substance Use in Children and Adolescents

**Date & Time:** April 26, 2022 at 7 PM

[Click here](#) to register.

## ERASE the STIGMA – A Family Event

**Date & Time:** May 24, 2022 at 7 PM

[Click here](#) to register.

## Mental Health in LGBTQ Youth

**Date & Time:** June 28, 2022 at 7 PM

[Click here](#) to register.

•Community Education curated for districts based on discussions with staff, administration and PTA/SEPTA

•Includes topics beyond mental health

•Taps into pediatric and mental health expertise across Northwell

•Managed by CCMC Community Outreach

•Library of recordings on YouTube

•Feedback from parents on utility and quality

Request topics through your school or PTA

## Questions? Please email:

[CCMCommunityOutreach@northwell.edu](mailto:CCMCommunityOutreach@northwell.edu)

### FAQs:

#### Is registration required to join the webinars?

Yes. Registration is required for each webinar.

#### Where is the link to join the webinars?

The link to join the webinar will be sent to you by Zoom after you register for each webinar.

# Newsletter

Sent monthly every second Monday

Professional and community version

Community education sessions

Library of previous session recordings

Upcoming professional development

Other helpful resources



# Cohen Strong



10 High schools



47 Student Leaders



10 Amazing Projects



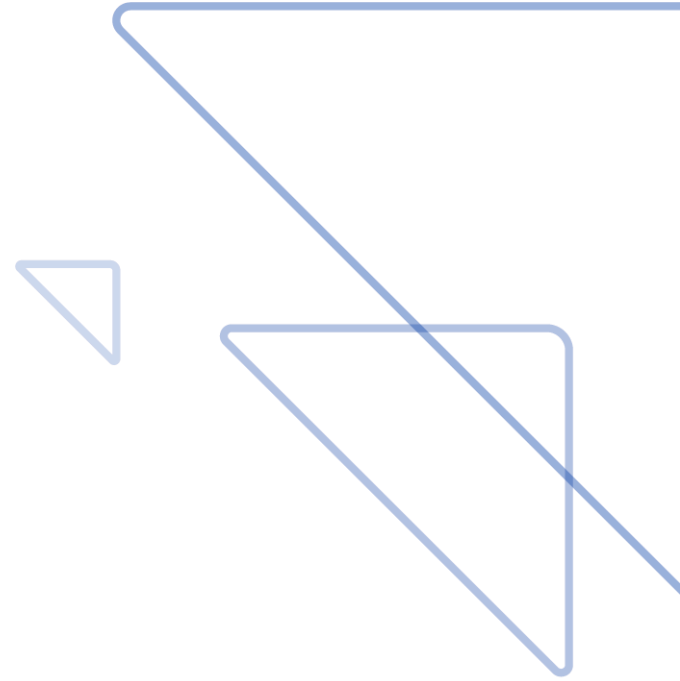
LONG ISLAND  
Crisis Center  
It's OK to ask for help.



 Cohen Children's Medical Center  
Northwell Health\*

Made for this™

# Questions



# FAQs – Consent and Privacy

Can my child be sent to the Northwell Behavioral Health Center (BHC) without my knowledge?

- No, the care happening at the Behavioral Health Center is fully voluntary and confidential and requires the consent of a parent/guardian for all minors.

Will the school automatically get a report from the visit?

- NO. While school districts get exclusive access to the BHC, the family has full confidentiality rights. In addition to participating in care being voluntary, parents can also decide whether they want the BHC staff to communicate with the school or not. Furthermore, even if they sign a release for the teams to collaborate, the medical record generated during visits, will only be shared with the family and not directly with the district.

Will the school have control over the therapist's activities?

- No, neither school administration nor school clinical staff has control or jurisdiction over the medical and therapeutic recommendations made by the Northwell team.

## FAQs – Privacy and Liability

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

- Never. Even when we have written consent to share information with the school, only relevant information is shared.
- Medical records are not sent to the school and will only be shared with parents upon their request.

Is the district liable for any adverse outcomes after child is seen at the Northwell BHC?

- No, the school district is not liable for any care given at Northwell.

# FAQs – Cost

## How much will this cost the school district?

- School Districts fund 85% of the center, at a 3 tier pricing.
- Nassau BOCES is providing this partnership to the districts as one of the services that districts can purchase.
- For Manhasset, the monthly average cost is \$6,886.
- The District is funding all of the associated costs through a grant; the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – American Rescue Plan (IDEA-ARP).
- The cost covers exclusive access, as well as other elements of our partnership, including professional development, community education and staff supports.

## How much will this cost the patient?

- Families' have costs if they utilize the Behavioral Health Center.
- The BHC is a fee for service model where patient insurance is billed.
- Depending on insurance coverage, the typical cost is a specialty outpatient co-pay, can be higher for high deductible plans.

## What if a student doesn't have insurance?

- Due to the partnership, all students will be seen regardless of their ability to pay. More importantly, our care coordinators will assist the family in obtaining insurance for their child.

# FAQs – Care Provided

## What is the care provided?

- Following clinical assessments, our team determines the type of care that would most benefit the student and supports families to connect with the care recommended.
- The team also provides short term crisis medication management when needed and in consultation with parents/guardians and upon their consent, and therapy while families await linkage with community providers.
- The BHC does not provide long term, ongoing care.
- The BHC does not administer any medications, does not have the ability to do bloodwork, physical exam or provide any other medical care (including vaccines).

## Where do you connect families to care?

- We collaborate with community partners, including mental health clinics, group practices, private providers and subspecialty clinics to identify and connect families with the care they need.

## FAQs – Other Benefits

### What are benefits to the school?

- Crisis response
- Consultative support
- Collaboration
- Professional development
- Staff support

### What are benefits to the community?

- Timely access to care
- Ability to avoid hospitals and emergency departments
- Community Education
- Resources

# Appendices:

- Brochure of Services
- Cost Model



## Behavioral Health Center (fee for service)

- **Crisis/triage support to schools during hours**
  - Child Psychiatrist supports school staff, administrators and parents and triages crisis situations
  - Collaborates with linkage hub if EMS dispatch needed, ensures communication with ED
- **Crisis Child Psychiatry Evaluation**
  - Diagnostic and risk focused comprehensive assessment completed same or next day
  - Provides treatment recommendations
  - Assessment in EMR
  - Coordination of care with other involved providers
- **Crisis medication management**
  - Child psychiatrist manages immediate treatment needs, initiates medications or collaborates with existing providers
- **Short term crisis therapy**
  - LMHC utilizes evidence-based tools to address immediate treatment needs

## Linkage Hub (included)

- **24/7 support for school staff**
  - Nonbusiness hours weekend support is available 24/7 using facility main phone lines- referencing district for prioritized assistance
- **EMS/ED/Hospital**
  - Collaborate with BHC and school
  - Dispatch discrete ambulance services as needed
  - Ensures after hours communication with ED Behavioral Health Teams
- **Care coordination**
  - Review of requests and health insurance
  - Obtaining appointments in collaboration with family
  - Confirming linkage
- **Appointments**
  - Formal request by the district via intake form
  - Recommended by psychiatrist after crisis or routine evaluation

## School Based Consultation Add-On Service

- **Evaluations**
  - Psychiatric evaluation in district (in person or virtually) with student and parent participation
  - Yields formal report
- **School team or clinician consultation**
  - Case discussion and consultation with child psychiatrist for clinical guidance
  - No formal report

## Staff Training and Community Education (included)

- **Staff Training**
  - Professional Development
  - Topics developed with school leadership
- **Parent Education**
  - Parent University
  - Collaboration with SEPTAs, PTAs
- **Student Education**
  - CCMC Health Education Topics
  - Cohen Strong; Peer to peer supports to combat cyberbullying in schools

### Leadership and additional Benefits

- **PPS- BHC Team**
  - Consortium school PPS team members' and BHC clinicians' biweekly meetings to discuss updates, issues, education and support needs
- **Advisory Committee**
  - Superintendents, PPS Directors and Northwell leadership bimonthly meetings to report out on performance of program
  - Curriculum and outcome development
- **Grant opportunities**
  - NIH, PCORI, SAMSHA
- **Access To Northwell Health Services**

# School Based Mental Health Service Fee Schedule 2022-2023

School District Size*			
Enrollment	< 2,000	2,000-7,000	> 7,000
Cost/District	\$68,250	\$81,900	\$94,500

\*Enrolled students as per Nassau County BOCES enrollment data K-12

## Psychiatric Evaluation Services Add-On \$975 per Evaluation

*Description: Formal psychiatric evaluation (in-district/virtual) with written report*

Evaluation Bundle Options	Cost
10 Evaluations	\$ 9300
20 Evaluations	\$17600

# Thank You

