

Introducing the 2023-24 MHD Coaches!

The MHD Coaching Program aims to enhance the capacity and retention of school-based mental health professionals in our Region.



Aaron Backhaus, School Counselor

Geneva City School District

Years of Experience: 19

Coaching is important because it provides support to grow the profession.

One fun fact about me is I enjoy cooking and listening to music.



Julie Bianchi, School Social Worker

Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES

Years of Experience: 25

I am a coach because I want to support our newer Social Workers so that they have someone they can come to share concerns/questions with a safe and non judgemental colleague.

Coaching is important because it gives our newer Social Workers a colleague who has been in the field for many years to ask questions, bounce ideas off of and to have a safe, non-judgemental relationship with a seasoned Social Worker.

One fun fact about me is that I have taken a girls trip every year with my 9 best friends since childhood.



Stephanie Betts, Seneca County Consortium Community Schools Director

Seneca Falls Central School District

Years of Experience: 20

Coaching is important because it can provide valuable support and resources to mental health professionals who are often faced with navigating complex or challenging scenarios. In our rural areas, it is imperative to have strategic connections to resources, whether they be personnel or tangible assets. Coaching provides the opportunity for professionals to engage in mutual learning in order to promote successful outcomes for all that we provide support to.

One fun fact about me is that I love the outdoors and spend my free time enjoying the lake with my family.



Amber Denman, Elementary School Social Worker

South Seneca Central School District

Years of Experience: 6

I am a coach because I want to make sure individuals that are in their first year of employment have an outlet to someone in a similar role to share experiences and gain new ideas or just be there to listen and provide support as needed.

One fun fact about me is during the summer, I am a Camp Director!



Esin Lewey, Clinical School-Based Therapist

Family Counseling Service of the Finger Lakes

Years of Experience: 5

Coaching is important because it provides a valuable experience and space for professional and personal development.

One fun fact about me is that my background is in architecture!



Hennessey Lustica, PhD, LMHC, ACS

Community Schools Mental Health Director & Assistant Professor

Seneca Falls Central School District/University of Rochester

Years of Experience: 20

I am a coach because I love working with new clinicians to offer support, supervision, and share common experiences that ultimately help kids and families!

One fun fact about me is I love hot yoga!



Meg McGee, Instructor/Educational & Behavioral Consultant

University of Rochester Warner School of Education & Human Development/ URMC
Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics

Years of Experience: 30

I am a coach because providers can benefit from the modeling and receipt of compassionate engagement, from the objective perception of an informed professional and just feeling the support of another person who understands the work.

One fun fact about me is I am a crew mom.



Sandra Ordan, Director of Innovation & Grant Services
Newark Central School District

Years of Experience:

Coaching is important because it's a sacred time to be present, vulnerable, and supported. As leaders and clinicians, that time is very rare.

I am a coach because I believe that everyone deserves time to be listened to and supported. If I can be there and truly listen/support our clinicians, I know that we will all benefit from the work together.

One fun fact about me is I was a competitive tennis player in high school and I am FINALLY getting back into playing with my 12-year old son!



Tane Robinson, Trauma Informed School's Coordinator & Intermediate School Dean of Students

Pal-Mac Central School District

Years of Experience: 22

I am a coach because it is exciting to help other clinicians continue to grow professionally and personally. Effective professional coaching continues to help build capacity with clinicians throughout our region.

One fun fact about me is that I was born in New Zealand.



Kimberly Stewart, Community and Family Outreach Coordinator

Pal-Mac Central School District

Years of Experience: 20

I am a coach because I wish there was someone to coach me when I was a new school psychologist. It would have been helpful to have a coach who was in a similar field instead of assigned to a mentor in a different field. I want to offer a safe and supportive space for new providers to feel comfortable discussing questions, concerns and work on their goals.

One fun fact about me is I have 4 children and 4 stepchildren.



Margi Taber, MHD Mental Health Coordinator

Peaceful Schools

Years of Experience: 32

Coaching is important because I appreciate working with others as they transform and connect or reconnect with their passion to live life on purpose. This year, let's not compete but co-create with each other and bring our best selves to whatever we take on. Dream * Believe * Inspire together; not alone.

One fun fact about me is I don't like boxing myself in any label or situation in life as we never know what opportunities are right around the next corner.