



Superintendent's Mental Health Community Subcabinet

The Superintendent's Mental Health Community Subcabinet seeks to ensure all Howard County children have equitable access to mental health services and supports that meet their individual needs. The subcabinet will bring together community leaders to improve student well-being by:

- ✓ **Advocating for mental health services and health promotion for young people in Howard County.**
- ✓ **Expanding education and training opportunities for staff and community members.**
- ✓ **Identifying and increasing access to mental health resources for students, families and the community through a collaborative approach.**
- ✓ **Building a culture that supports positive well-being and proactively provides early identification of mental health needs.**

The community subcabinet is focused on the *HCPSS Strategic Call to Action* outcome "students' mental health and social-emotional learning are nurtured through skill development, collaborative dialogue and a restorative culture in our classrooms and communities and recognizes students may need support beyond the school house."

In alignment with the *HCPSS Strategic Call to Action*, the Mental Health Community Subcabinet will develop plans around the four overarching commitments:

VALUE – "All staff, students and stakeholders feel valued and are effective in their roles."

- Raising awareness among all stakeholders on how to identify mental health concerns, and what services exist to help youth struggling with those concerns.
- Reducing the stigma of mental health needs by integrating a continuum view of mental health, and practical steps to maintain, improve and boost positive mental health for all.
- Supporting and prioritizing professional learning for providers, teachers, counselors, families, students and additional staff.

ACHIEVE – "All staff and students have equitable access to learning opportunities and leadership development."

- Connecting students and their families to mental health services early in their Pre-K–12 careers and partnering with schools in improving student mental health.
- Integrating social and emotional learning and resiliency skills into education throughout a student's Pre-K–12 career.
- Establishing a continuum of care in which the family, school and community are engaged partners working together to improve student mental health with an integrated approach to treatment.

CONNECT – "Equity and relationships are at the foundation of all decisions and actions."

- Reviewing a landscape analysis needs assessment for resources.
- Supporting the alignment of the multiple lists of community resources.
- Aligning Howard County resources with student mental health needs.

EMPOWER – "All practices are responsive, accountable, efficient and student-centered."

- Positioning students as partners in improving their own mental health, letting student voice drive decision-making, and creating opportunities to train students.
- Focusing on providing quality mental health services to the county's most vulnerable families in culturally sensitive ways.
- Building a culture that supports positive well-being.

**For additional information, please contact
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