

Services Currently Offered by School-Based or School-Linked Community Partners in Allegany County Public Schools (ACPS):

Tier III Services

- ACPS can complete referrals for outpatient counseling and intensive outpatient therapy programs for elementary-aged children
- YMCA offers programs for pregnant and teen moms
- Baltimore Crisis Response Inc. (BCRI) can assist, if called to schools, in deescalating student behavior once a student has been referred to BCRI services.
- Allegany County Health Department (ACHD) provides individual mental health and substance use disorder services within all public schools.

Tier II Services

- The district collaborates with outside providers when necessary and offers check-in and check-out support with mentors.
- Allegany County Department of Social Services would be involved in any reports of child abuse or neglect and may also be invited to the meetings addressing the academic needs of students should the family be involved with Social Services programming.
- The Allegany County Local Behavioral Health authority also funds 3 different grants to DSS to help provide services to youth.
- Client Therapeutic Outings (CTO) provides crisis therapeutic services to youth in Allegany County who have been referred and who need additional therapeutic interventions.
- Mental Health Stabilization Services (MHSS) provides community-based, 24-hour-a-day intensive in-home services to respond to crisis issues and foster/kinship homes where DSS has placed children, or for children who continue to reside with their families as a result of family team meeting interventions.
- Integrative Therapeutic Family Services (ITFS) provides services to help prevent placement disruption and movement to more restrictive levels of care.
- ACHD counselors attend IEP meetings and Pupil Support Meetings if the public school system believes there to be a behavioral issue related to academic achievement.

Tier I Services

- Allegany College of Maryland (ACM) provides mindfulness presentations through the presentation of assemblies during school and at after school programs

Identified Needs in Allegany County Public Schools (ACPS)

- There is a higher level of need related to increased reports of elementary level physical and verbal violence taking place during school instructional time
- There has been a recent increase in middle and high school verbal, and some physical, aggression

- Substance Use Disorder Early Intervention Services (Level 0.5 Services)

Maryland CHRC asked whether specific services were provided in each jurisdiction. Below is the analysis of these services:

- Adolescent Clubhouse: **not currently available in Allegany County**
- ED/Hospital Diversion Initiatives: **not currently available in Allegany County**
- Teen Diversion Program: **not currently available in Allegany County**
- Youth Mental Health Stabilization Services: **yes, currently available in Allegany County**
- Transitional Age Program: **not currently available in Allegany County**

In completing a Needs Assessment, the Hub and ACPS worked to gather student and family input utilizing a Student/Family Survey. The results are included below:

527 total survey responses (500 students; 27 parents/guardians)

Behavioral Health Concerns Identified as Most Significant (common themes)

- Students' awareness of resources/Access to more resources
- Vaping (and how this has impacted other aspects of daily life including bathroom usage)
- Bullying/Intimidation/Harassment & the mental health issues that stem from that
- Substance Use
- Mental Health Concerns (Autism, ADHD, Depression, Anxiety)
- Behavioral concerns/aggression in the classrooms
- Student fatigue (feeling as though there are too many responsibilities, not enough downtime)
- Self-Harm

Behavioral Health Strategies Identified as Working Well (common themes)

- DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education)
- The Wellness Club
- Health Class curriculum
- Guidance Counselors
- Vape Detectors
- Limitations on Restroom Use (in relation to Vape concerns)
- Guest Speakers/Presentations pertaining to substance use

Recommendations for Improving Behavioral Health Education and Services (common themes)

- Adequately address behavioral/mental health concerns quickly/Hold students accountable for behaviors
- Prioritize student safety (metal detectors, routine drug searches using k9 units)
- Implement after-school programming during the summer months as well as the school months; provide transportation.
- Support Groups/Counseling/Therapy services

- Training for teachers
- Parent resources
- Additional lessons on behavioral health for students and teaching de-stressing techniques
- More information for school staff on special needs kids (like nonverbal autistic children)
- Teaching students how to handle stress/anxiety
- Improved quality of food served to positively impact physical health and mental health
- Continue DARE into High School
- Offer breaks/downtime for students throughout the day
- Enforcing school rules (vaping/bullying)

Strategies to Better Engage and Meaningfully Involve Families in Student Behavioral Health (common themes)

- More open communication between administration and families
- Hold after school events for parents and children to attend together
- Resources about mental health; teaching parents and teachers what to look for in behavioral health concerns
- More resources for special needs students
- More communication about what resources is available
- Teacher training in specific diagnoses and how to support those students
- More support surrounding IEPs
- Use Upward Bound as a resource