

Bridging the Needs between Home, School & Community

The Collaboration of Mental Health and Social Work in the Schools

In the school setting, Mental Health and Social Work collaborate to address the needs of students and their families. Referrals are made to either and sometimes both service providers based on school and/or home concerns. Many times the social worker will become involved with the family first. Through conducting a needs assessment and parent interview the Social Worker determines how best to help the student and their family. Often times it will lead to a referral to mental health. Due to the depth of the problems that our families and students are living each day both these services are a necessity. Life is very intense and they need extra support to enhance their ability to learn.

Roles of School-Based Mental Health Counselors

- Consultant regarding behavioral and emotional concerns to teachers and administrators
- Provide individual and family psychotherapy sessions including in-home services
- Conduct diagnostic, clinical assessments
- Coordinate therapy services with psychiatric medical treatment with physician at mental health
- Access to additional programs and services at mental health including intensive in-home therapy (Family Preservation and Multi-Systemic Therapy)
- Assess and de-escalate crisis situations: assessing for suicide ideation, homicidal ideation, and child's level of safety while working with the family and school throughout the process
- Link to other community resources and agencies (school social worker)

Roles of School Social Worker

- Conduct home visits
- Conduct psycho-social assessments to determine the needs of the student/family
- Provide individual and group counseling
- Provide case management services
- Obtain basic needs (food, housing, and financial assistance)
- Access mental health service and/or health care
- Address truancy concerns
- Crisis prevention and intervention
- Provide support groups for students and parents