

Grant Wood AEA Mental Health SUPPORTS



The Grant Wood AEA pilot initiatives address many of the reasons students are not receiving effective treatment:

- symptoms going unrecognized
- family is unable to connect with services
- school is left to provide interventions (often without needed expertise and resources)
- it is challenging for educators to support students outside the school
- it is challenging for community providers to support students in the school environment

Grant Wood AEA is Piloting Solutions to Help Districts and Students

Crisis Intervention Mental Health Counseling (J-FAST)

Grant Wood AEA is partnering with local mental health organizations to form a consortium for crisis intervention counseling services for school districts.

The Juvenile and Family Assistance and Stabilization program, called J-FAST, is a joint effort between Foundation 2, Horizons, Area Substance Abuse Council (ASAC), Abbe Center, Tanager Place, and St. Luke's Hospital. J-FAST works with Linn County families of youth (ages 5-17) at risk of hospitalization, committal, or residential placement.

When a call for assistance is made to J-FAST, counselors are dispatched to quickly intervene and help parents or schools in situations where youth are struggling with depression, violent behavior, substance abuse, self-harm and/or thoughts of suicide.

The team's focus is to stabilize school-based crisis situations and connect students with immediate services.

This support model has been used on a limited basis among a few Linn County metro districts and was funded through Linn County Decategorized funds. Grant Wood AEA has initiated memorandums of understanding that outline Grant Wood AEA as the fiscal agent and partner in bringing Foundation 2's J-Fast services to rural districts as well.

Site-Based Mental Health Counseling

Grant Wood AEA has helped fund partnerships between rural school districts and existing mental health counseling providers to ensure student counseling services are available in a school-based setting. This model was based on successful partnerships that have been in

existence for several years in metro areas. By creating consortiums in GWAEA's rural settings, the AEA has successfully improved student access to mental health counseling across its seven-county service area.

20%
"Twenty percent of children and youth have a clearly identified need for mental health service but only about one-third of these children receive any help at all."*

Interconnected System Framework (ISF) Sites

School districts use Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) or a similar program to proactively teach and reinforce positive behavior strategies. GWAEA has helped districts using PBIS to implement a structure and process to integrate efforts from the district, Grant Wood AEA, and community mental health partners through a model called Interconnected System Framework (ISF). This new framework allows district, AEA, and community partners to receive cross training to ensure all organizations learn about one another's systems. It also provides a structure that promotes student and family participation in interventions, when needed. To the extent possible, the team is able to holistically consider the needs of the child and accounts for home, school, and community data during its system-wide decision making processes.

*Source: <https://www.pbis.org/school/school-mental-health/interconnected-systems>

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2019-2020

