Meeting the Needs of **ALL** Students and Staff during the Dual Pandemic

Dr. Christina N. Conolly, NCSP
Director of Psychological Services
Montgomery County Public Schools, MD
dedication10@gmail.com
Learning Objective:

Participants will learn about meeting psychological needs of students and supporting staff during COVID 19 and other crises from a systems level perspective, attending to issues of social justice, equity, and caring for the caregiver.
The work is still not complete....
Be Well 365 Supports for Students
Social-emotional Learning and Interventions

- Psychological triage and crisis intervention support for students
- Psychoeducational lessons for all students to normalize crisis reactions and provide information on available supports and how to access them
  - Provided crisis facts and dispelled rumors on the dual pandemic
- Screening and ongoing follow-up and monitoring to determine if additional supports are needed
- Individual crisis intervention
Be Well 365 Supports for Students
Social-emotional Learning and Interventions

Student Psychoeducational Lesson Example
Be Well 365 Supports for Students

Social-emotional Learning and Interventions

Guidelines for School-based Student Well-being Teams

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Student Well-Being Team (SWT) is a collaborative, comprehensive learning. Its primary role is to provide an all-day virtual learning experience for students to reduce barriers to learning, enhance social emotional learning, and support students who are:

- Demonstrating mental health concerns
- Not engaging in their online educational program

The SWT is a collaborative problem-solving team focused on unique student needs and family outreach. Student and Family Support and Engagement (SFSE) staff members, including PPWA, PCC, and Connect, are skilled at creative ways to engage families and are valuable resources when families are not in touch with school-based staff members.

SWT collaborates with families and engages in collaborative problem-solving and root causes to identify and remove barriers to improve student engagement. Targeted school-based and community resources can address these unique barriers.

In the first two weeks of school, SWTs will identify, contact, and check in with families of vulnerable and at-risk students.

Show Up!
Be present • Be prepared • Be engaged

Additional Guidelines and Supports

Child abuse and neglect reports are down significantly because schools have been closed due to COVID-19. However, the incidence of abuse and neglect have not decreased—it is just going unnoticed.

It is our job to be vigilant and report any suspected abuse or neglect.

Questions to Consider When Students Engage in a Concern

- Who, on the SWT, has attempted to contact the student and family? Have all known contacts been attempted and documented? Has the student’s trusted adult at school been contacted?
- Are there language needs or considerations?
- Are telephone numbers disconnected or emails being returned undelivered?
- Was student attendance and engagement a concern prior to COVID-19? Was there a history of mental health or safety concerns or were interventions appropriate?”
- Consider root causes of student’s lack of attendance and engagement.
- Plan interventions to address the root causes and plan to monitor impact of interventions and support.

Wellness Checks

There may be occasions when a wellness check will be necessary due to concerns about a student’s safety and well-being. The following guidelines should be considered.

- If the student appears to be imminent danger, ask the student to travel to a safe place in the home and call 911 so that the MCPD can conduct a wellness check.
- If the student is not in imminent danger, staff members can review safety protocols with the student in the event that they need to be contacted. Student should be provided with resources, including the Montgomery County Hotline, 301-753-2585, which is available 24/7.
- If the student is in a question but cannot be ascertained, school administration should consult with Student Wellness and Compliance (SWC), MCF and Systemswide Safety and Emergency Management.

Contact Information

Steve Neff, Steve.Neff@MCPSS.org, 240-447-4034
Stephanie R. Izard, Stephanie_R_Izard@MCPSS.org, 240-447-4711
Elizabeth A. Rhatbone, Elizabeth_A_Rhatbone@MCPSS.org, 240-620-1744

For more information, contact Student Family Support and Engagement
Be Well 365 Supports for Staff Members

• Creating Balance: Staff member wellness webpage
• Public awareness campaign on employee wellness initiatives, resources, and supports
• Modeling wellness and self-care by leadership (i.e., Walk the Talk)
• Workshops for staff members on health, wellness, self-care, medical plan offerings, and Employee Assistance Program resources
  o Record and segment workshops to create library of easily accessible and translated short videos on a variety of topics
Be Well 365 Supports for Families and the Community

- Parent Academy To Go (i.e., virtual Parent Academy)
  - Parent Academy toolkits that include talking points, Google slides, and video clip content to be used by staff members in virtual chats with families and the community
  - Mental Health Monday’s
- Waymaking video series, including the two-part conversation on mental health and race
  - https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/waymaking/specials/
New Initiatives Challenge Vulnerability
Opportunities for Growth

- Significant staff needs due to acute trauma due to the dual pandemic
- Staff members and families on different paths towards Equity and Social Justice
- Professional Learning needs
- Lack of time to fully develop initiatives based on changing district priorities due to the evolving pandemic
MCPS Fall 2020: Be Well 365
Reimagine, Reopen, Recover

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/reopening

Questions