

Behavioral Health Investments and School Behavioral Health

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THE CHALLENGE

North Carolina has been ranked

#42

Out of 50 states in youth mental health service access.

Youth suicide is the

2nd

leading cause of death for youth ages 10-18 in NC.

On average, over

50

Children sleep in emergency departments and DSS offices each week due to unmet behavioral health needs.

IN NC HIGH SCHOOLS:



1 IN 5 CONSIDERED SUICIDE



1 IN 10 ATTEMPTED SUICIDE



1 IN 3 CHRONICALLY ABSENT



72% NOT ABLE TO ACCESS NEEDED MENTAL HEALTH CARE

A DUAL OPPORTUNITY

Improved child mental health improves academic outcomes

Utilizing mental health services in a school setting can lead to significant improvements in high school student GPA

North Carolina LEAs that implemented district-wide mental health initiatives saw a 91% decrease in suspensions.

Lower depression scale scores are associated with higher grades, even after controlling for attendance and homework completion

By working in schools, we can amplify our impact on youth behavioral health

Positive school climate positively impacts chronic absenteeism, dropouts, and poor academic performance

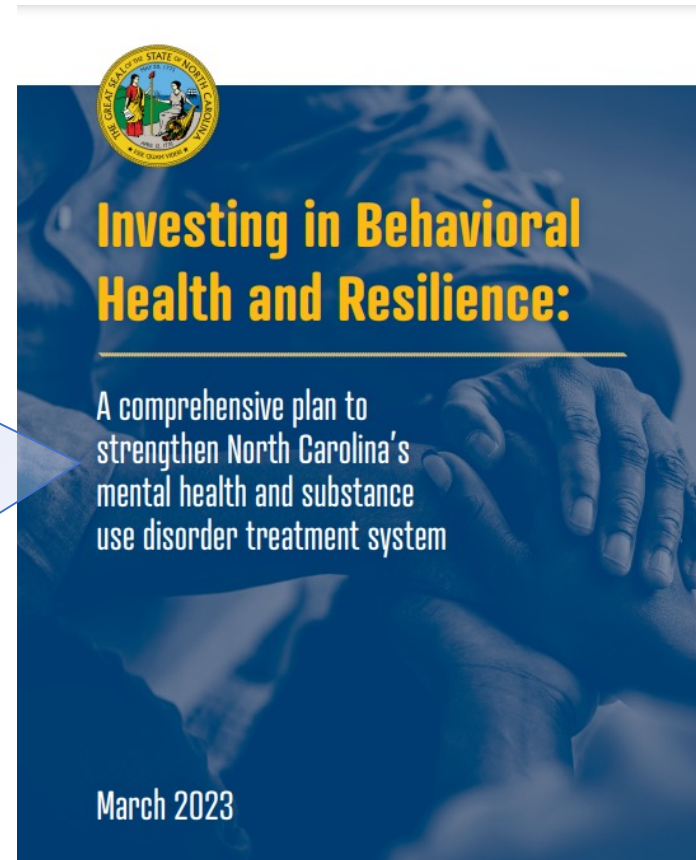
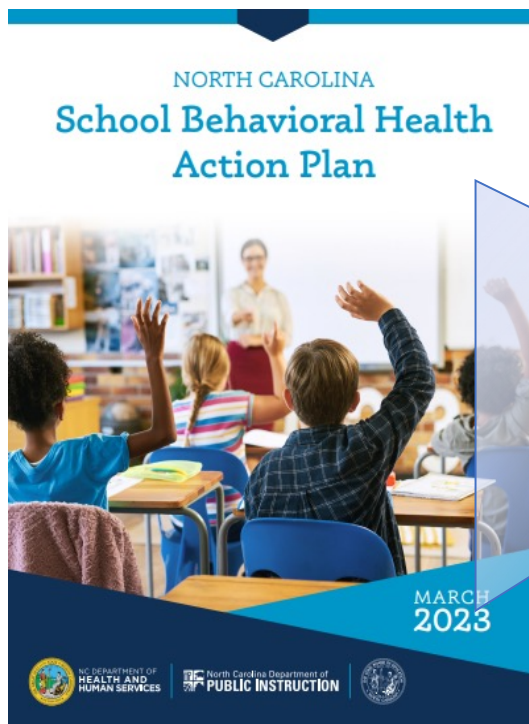
Youth are 6x more likely to complete therapy when it is offered in school settings

School-based services increase access to mental health services especially for students from low-resource areas and families

"You can have the best teacher in the world with award-winning skills and the best content that academia has to offer, but they simply cannot and **will not be able to make that content land until mental health is addressed**" -Sarah Broome, School Medicaid Expert



OUR VISION



TOGETHER WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED

School Electronic Health Records (EHR) System



Built NC's first statewide school EHR system

Available to all PSUs at no cost since September 2023

Mental Health First Aid



Trained 700 school staff and youth-serving partners across the state

Certified 84 new Mental Health First Aid instructors

School Linkages to Community Resource Networks



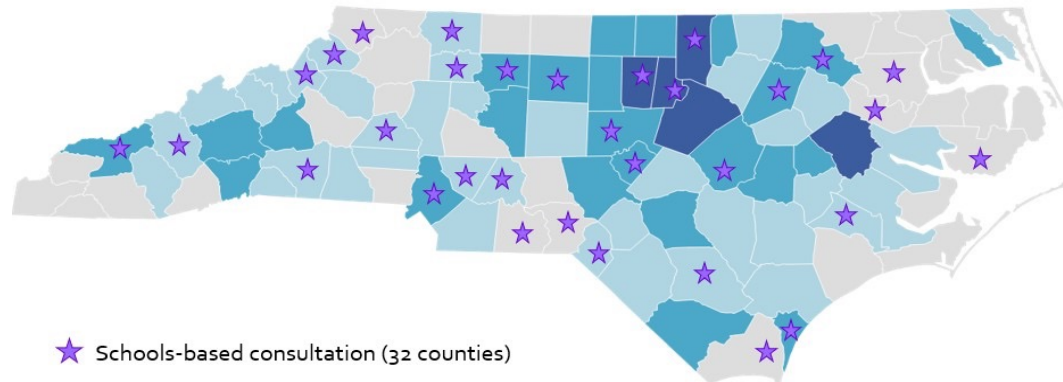
Built capacity in seven LEAs to create bridges between schools and the behavioral health supports in their communities

Developed and secured \$14.8 million in federal funding to execute a four-year plan to strengthen Systems of Care

SUPPORTING THE WORKFORCE

NC-PAL

Expanded support into schools, leveraging clinical behavioral health expertise to build capacity of school staff across 32 LEAs



“[NC-PAL offered the] best “professional development” I have ever been a part of in my 18 years.”
- *Elementary School Principal, Western NC*

THE INVESTMENT

PROVISION	FY24	FY25
Reimbursement Rates for Behavioral Health	\$165M	\$220M
Crisis System	\$54M	\$77M
Justice System	\$29M	\$70M
Behavioral Health Workforce	\$44M	\$71M
Child and Family Well-Being	\$20M	\$60M



Our Vision- Planned Behavioral Health Investments for Children and Families

ADVANCING CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING

Goal: Ensure that children with behavioral health needs receive suitable, essential, child-centered, trauma-informed, and high-quality services, enabling as many children as possible to either remain in or return to a home setting.



AREAS OF INVESTMENT

Community-based services that help children stay in and return to their homes	\$13.5 M
Therapeutic Programs in Family-Type Setting	\$12.9 M
Emergency Placements for Children at Risk of Boarding or Inappropriate Placement	\$18.8 M
Intensive out of Home Treatment Settings	\$25 M

A VISION FOR SCHOOL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Increase availability of behavioral health services in schools, with a particular focus on schools in rural and under-resourced communities

Expand access of school-age children to evidence-based behavioral health services in their communities

Provide support to families and schools to help children with behavioral health needs thrive

Priority	Funding
Total Funding for Community-based services that help children stay in/return to their homes	\$13.5 M



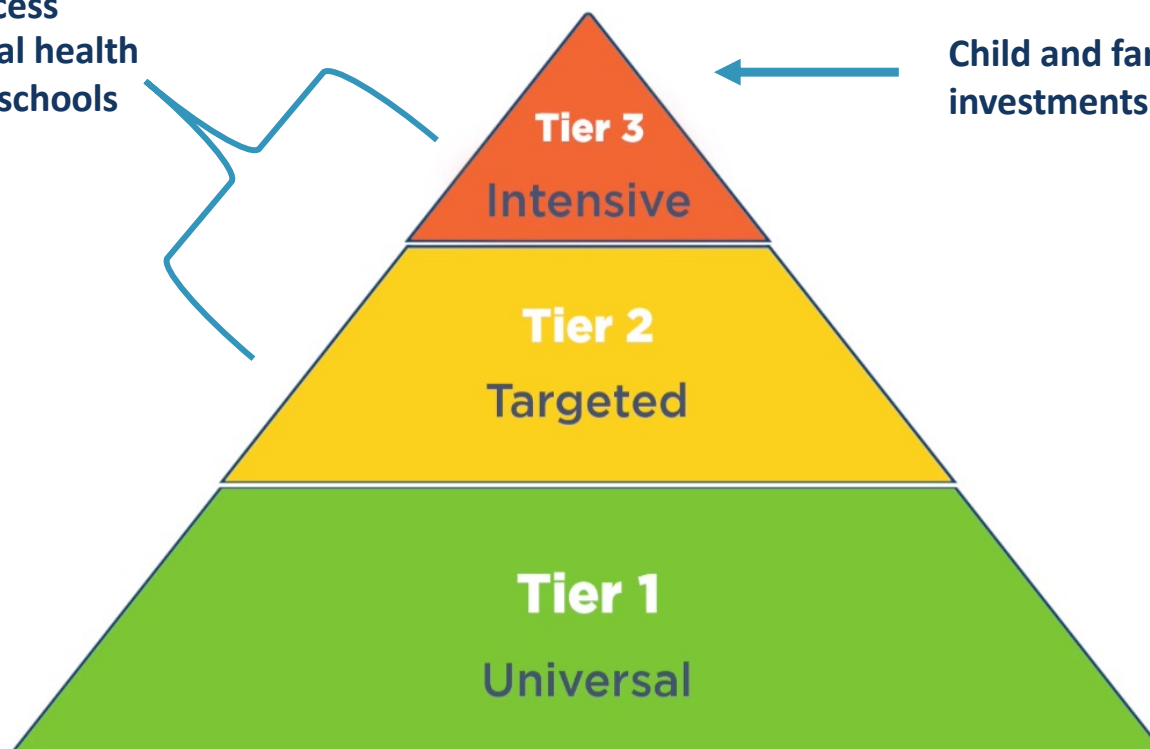
Strategy	Funding
Increase access to behavioral health services in schools	\$7 M

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS

Increase access to behavioral health services in schools



Child and family well-being investments



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: HIGH FIDELITY WRAPAROUND SERVICES

What is High Fidelity Wrap Around (HFW)

HFW assists youth and family in achieving the changes they want for their lives. The interactive, team-based approach helps families reach their desired outcomes and develop skills and natural support for the future.

What is the Structure

A local HFW team will include a coach, up to 4 wraparound facilitators, and 3 support partners

How It Works

HFW is an evidence-based, intensive care coordination approach that can improve child behavior and help kids stay in less restrictive settings.

Work Done To Date

In 2023 we added HFW to an **additional 30 counties**. That means we now have **coverage in 73 counties**, and we are in the process of adding more!



MORES MOBILE CRISIS

- Team-based mobile crisis response for children and adolescents experiencing escalating emotional and behavioral needs
- Crisis Intervention Teams help stabilize children and adolescents in community settings by providing follow-up care for 2-4 weeks
- Operating in 7 NC counties, with more to come
- MORES providers are building relationships with school counselors and administrators and in turn the schools are starting to contact MCM and request MORES services when they have a student in crisis.

Other states have seen a 25% reduction in ED visits among program participants.



Mobile Outreach,
Response,
Engagement and
Stabilization (MORES)

*Enhanced crisis response
for children,
adolescents and families*

NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Mental Health,
Developmental Disabilities and
Substance Use Services

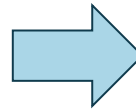
The graphic features a dark blue background with a teal header and footer. At the top, three small portrait photos of a young girl, a man, and a young boy are shown. Below them, the title "Mobile Outreach, Response, Engagement and Stabilization (MORES)" is written in white. A quote in white cursive script follows: "Enhanced crisis response for children, adolescents and families". Below the quote is a stylized graphic of two hands shaking, one in teal and one in orange. At the bottom, the NC Department of Health and Human Services logo and name are displayed in white.

THE NEXT STEP

We're already moving the needle

We're investing services that support schools and students with identified behavioral health needs

We're supporting school success for vulnerable students by building the capacity of our behavioral health system to meet their needs



We need to do more

While we've made some progress, school instructional support staff remain a critical need for further investment

We need to ensure we have the funding to sustain and expand upon the progress we've made

To address the broader behavioral health crisis we see across the state, we need to invest in evidence-based prevention



**We can work
together to give
all children the
opportunity to
develop to their
full potential and
thrive**