

63RD CONFERENCE ON EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

Believing In Achieving

SHERATON FOUR SEASONS | KOURY CONVENTION CENTER | GREENSBORO, NC



Blending and Braiding Resources to Meet the Needs of School-Aged Children with Mental Illness





Presenters

- Teri Putnam MA, LPC, CCS, LCAS
School Behavior Liaison & PBIS Coordinator
tputnam@clevelandcountyschools.org
704-472-3896
- Sandy Hamrick MA,
Director of Student Services
smhamrick@clevelandcountyschools.org
704-476-4141



CCS Demographics

- Cleveland County Schools is the 25th largest school system in North Carolina with 15,940 students.
- 29 schools
 - 16 elementary
 - 2 intermediate
 - 4 middle
 - 4 high
 - 1 Early College HS
 - 1 special purpose public school
 - 1 alternative middle/high
- Students with Disabilities,
 - 2,263 students
 - 13.1% of system population
 - 1,483 male
 - 780 female
- Free and Reduced Lunch
 - 61.68 %



Behavior and Mental Health Support Framework

Burns

Susan Wright, MS, MSW, LCSW, NCC, ACSW,
Behavior and Mental Health Liaison
Mike Reynolds, Behavioral Interventionist
Assistant

Crest

Robyn Brackett, BA in Special Education
Behavior and Mental Health Liaison and NVCI
Shannon Shytle, Behavioral Interventionist
Assistant

**Teri Putnam, MA,
LPC, LCAS, CCS,
QMHP Lead**
Behavior and MH
Liaison and
PBIS

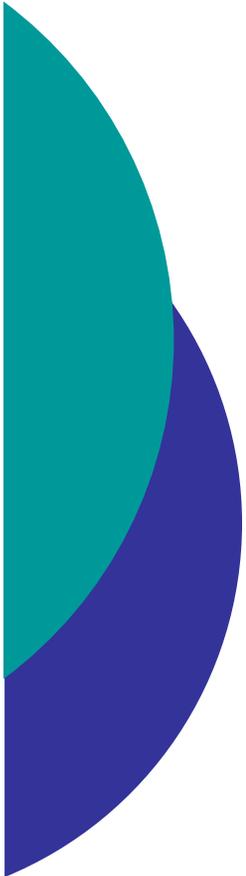
Kings Mountain

**Angela Jenks, MA in Counseling, Vocational
Counseling Certificate**
Behavior and Mental Health Liaison
Kareem Marshall, Behavioral Interventionist
Assistant

Shelby

Cathy Lazenby, LCSW, QMHP, Behavior and
Mental Health Liaison and PRC-29
Alicia Smith, Behavioral Interventionist
Assistant

Turning Point Academy: Ashley Moretz, MSW, LCSW, QMHP
Behavior and Mental Health Liaison



The Single Portal Process

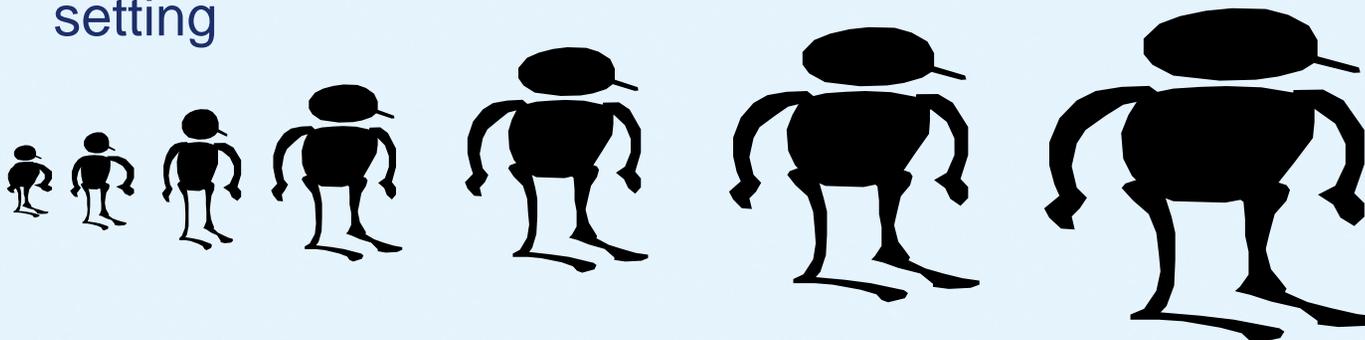
**Coordinating Services for
At-Risk Students**

**Entering Cleveland County
Schools**



Rationale for Single Portal Process

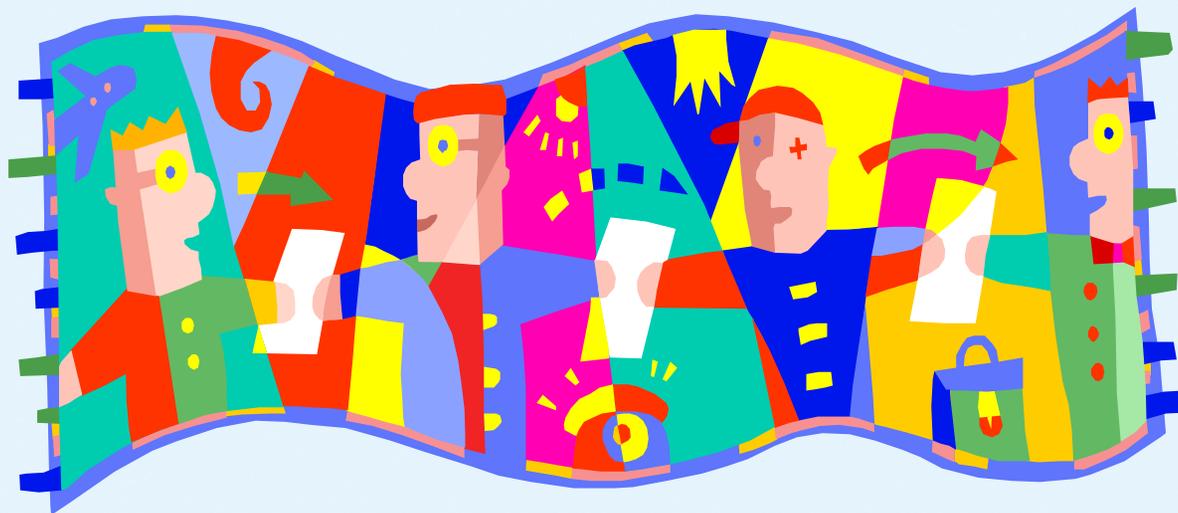
- Precipitated by recent changes in Mental Health which included a number of students stepping down from services –
 - Leaving Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF)
 - Stepping down from a group home or therapeutic foster home setting





Intent of the Single Portal Process

- Clearinghouse for gathering and disseminating information
- Completed prior to enrollment and first day of attendance





The Process

- Intake with Director of Administrative Services
- Dissemination of Information to the Schools
- Enrollment
- Services





Intake

- Guardianship**

**Are the parents still involved? If so, how do we contact them?

- Outside Agencies Involved

- Releases of Information

- Person Centered Plan



More Intake ...

- School Records/History
- DJJ Records (sexual offender or victim?)
- EC or 504?





Mental Health Concerns

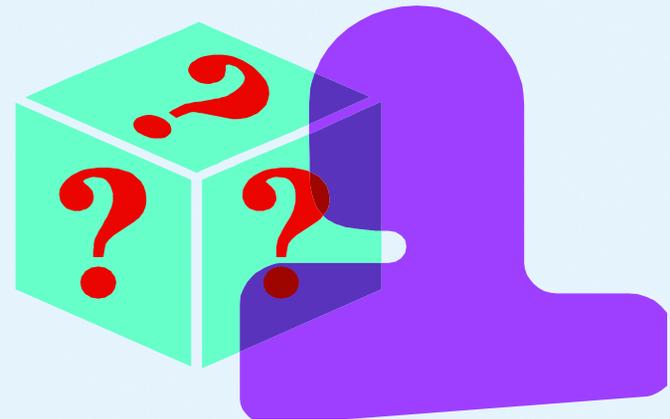
Person-Centered Plan

- Mental Health History
- Current Diagnosis
- Current Medications
- Current Mental Health Services
- Current Mental Health Providers



Section 504

- Current plan?
- Medical Diagnosis?
- Medications?
- Accommodations?

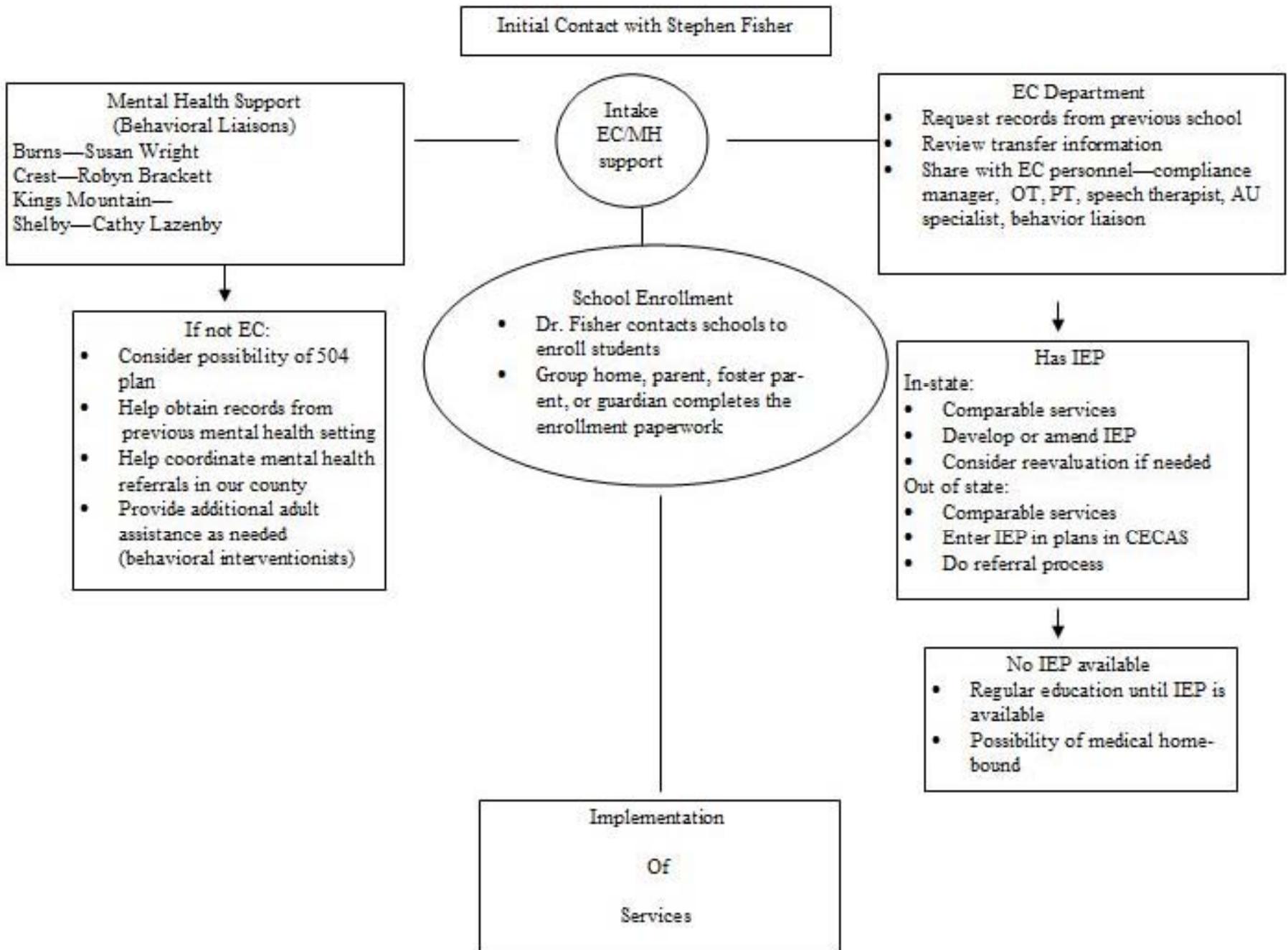


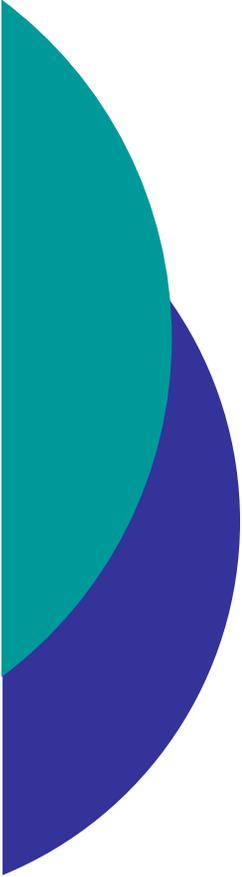


Exceptional Children

- Current IEP?
- Current Eligibility?
- Current Services/accommodations?
- Surrogate Parent needed?
Who has custody?
- Related and Support Services?

The Single Portal Process





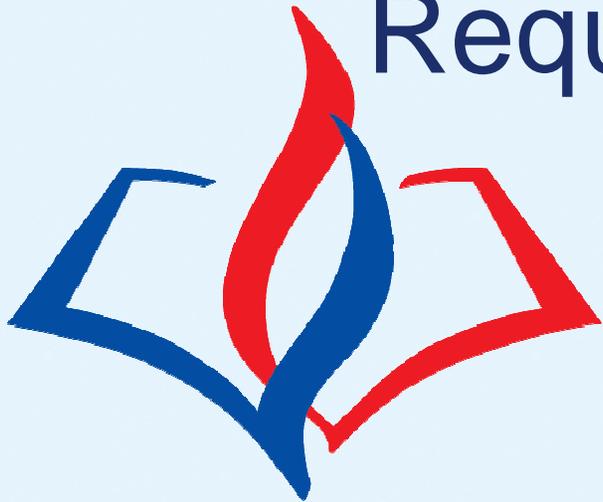
Any Questions About The Single Portal Process?





Outpatient Mental Health Providers

Request for Proposal (RFP) Process



Strategically Moving to the Top 10



Outpatient Providers

- Alexander Youth Network
 - Laura Rudisill
- Piedmont Family Services
 - Preferred Health Choice

Cleveland County Schools

- Counselors
- Social Workers
- Behavior and Mental Health Liaisons/ Interventionist



Mental Health Providers in School Zones

- See Bubble Sheet in Handouts
- Cleveland County Schools conducts background checks on all Outside Mental Health Therapist providing therapy services on school grounds.



- Required Paperwork for staff to complete to refer a student for On-Campus Outpatient Therapy

**Refer to the
“Request for Outpatient Therapy”
Form in Handouts**



Counseling Services

MOA pg.3

- **Initiation of Counseling Services**

Who may recommend a student for outpatient therapy?

Recommendations will be given to
School Counselors



Initiation of Counseling Services

- School Counselors will contact the child's parent/guardian
 - CCS Release of Information
 - Request for Outpatient Therapy
 - School Counselor and Parent contact Provider to schedule an appointment for a Comprehensive Clinical Assessment (CCA)
 - Provider Release of Information
- The Provider will conduct a CCA with the student within 10 school days of receiving the referral.



Implementation of Counseling Services

MOA p. 4

- Results from the Provider's CCS indicate the child needs outpatient therapy
- The Provider will contact the School Counselor to obtain a copy of the student's schedule.
- The Provider will begin providing school-based therapy with the student. Counseling sessions will be based on the individual student's needs.



Implementation of Counseling Services

MOA pg. 4

- Parent participation in the therapeutic process will be encouraged.
- Within the parameters of confidentiality
 - The therapist will participate, coordinate and communicate with appropriate school personnel to provide strategies for student success .
 - Attend or provide information to assist planning for SSMT, PST, Section 504 and IEP meetings.



Implementation of Counseling Services

MOA pg. 4

- The provider agrees to relinquish services if medical necessity or recommendations from collaborative teaming is made.
 - The transition of services will be coordinated through the Behavior/Mental Health Liaisons



Physical Space for Therapy

MOA pg. 2

- Each school will provide appropriate space for therapy.
- Each school will provide access for the following:
 - Telephone
 - Copier
 - Fax
 - Internet



Therapist Expectations

MOA pg. 2

- School-based therapists will sign-in at the front office upon arrival and departure.
- In the event a therapist cannot keep a scheduled appointment, the therapist will contact the school contact and the child's parent.
- Therapists will wear an identification badge from their agency.



Therapist Expectations

- Therapists will abide by relevant School Board Policies.
- Therapists will familiarize themselves with school crisis plans and procedures including:
 - Fire drills
 - lock down
 - tornadoes
- Therapists will familiarize themselves with special conditions of the student



**Teamwork:
School Counselors, Social
Workers and Behavior
Liaisons**



QUESTIONS?