

## FOREST AREA SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

We offer a continuum of services for students in need of counseling and support. All services are free of charge to the student and family.

**Child Study** -- The district has a pre-referral process which includes a Child Study Team, CST, in grades K-12. The Child Study Team, CST consisting of the School Counselor, Principal, and Title teachers and child specific staff work in collaboration with the Secondary/Elementary SAP teams to screen and support students in a pre-referral process. This model has been highly effective in determining which students are in need of a comprehensive multidisciplinary evaluation and which students can meet classroom expectations with regular education interventions. Title I, Child Study Team, CST, guidance, teachers, administration, school principals, and staff utilize data for child find purposes.

**Student Assistance Team** -- As is required by law, we have an active Student Assistance Team at the secondary level and the district has chosen to provide services at the elementary level as well. Our team of specially trained staff assesses student referrals and in tandem with the parent selects a course of action that is appropriate for each referral.

**Certified School Nurses** -- While our school nurses do not provide mental health services, they are an important part of our process. They maintain records on student health and are often a source of referrals to the Student Assistance Team or to the upper levels of the continuum. They also work with the CRNP who provides medication management to students who receive services here at school.

**School Counselor** -- We have an accredited school counselor certified in grades K-12 who works with students to support them through academic and personal needs. She generally works with students on a short-term basis, assesses their needs for referral often in conjunction with the Student Assistance Program staff. The School Counselor also coordinates small groups for students to address self-esteem, leadership skills, conflict resolution and other social skills that many students seem to struggle with at one time or another.

**School Social Worker** -- The School Social Worker is a licensed social worker who generally works one on one with students and families to provide longer term counseling to address behavioral needs in school. This service is frequently included in Individualized Educational Plans to ensure that student needs are met.

**SAP Liaison** -- Student with needs that are not actually diagnosed with a mental health need or those who are waiting for more intensive services, who have demonstrated that they would benefit from some interventions may meet with the SAP Liaison.

**Outpatient Counseling Services** -- Both of our school buildings are licensed as outpatient clinics for the Beacon Light division of Journey Health, a local service provider. A Master's Level clinician meets with students on a bi-weekly basis and provides mental health counseling. The Counselor keeps in touch with parents and follows HIPPA regulations. No information is shared with school staff without parent/student permission. This is our most intensive level of service available on school grounds. Parents may be requested to provide insurance information for insurance billing, but when that is not available or does not cover the costs and the child is deemed to need the service, Forest County Human Services has been responsible for the costs.

**Medication Management** -- Journey Health also provides a CRNP, supervised by a psychiatrist at intervals necessary for medication management for students who have prescription medications to help support mental health needs.