



Alliance-Wake Partnership for Student Mental Health

Presentation to the
NC House Select Committee on School Safety
April 23, 2018


Kids in Crisis Campaign

- 1 in 5 NC students has a mental health and/or substance use disorder
- Suicide was second leading cause of death (ages 10-24)
 - Youth suicides in NC have doubled in recent years
- Schools often don't know what to do or where to refer
 - Disconnect between schools and children leaving psychiatric treatment

Kids In Crisis Campaign

- Public-private partnership with WakeMed
- Designed to divert youth in crisis from the ED to more appropriate care settings

Call Alliance Behavioral Healthcare FIRST if your child is experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis
(800) 510-9132
24-HOUR, TOLL-FREE CRISIS LINE



Kids in Crisis
Mental Health • Substance Abuse

Alliance Behavioral Healthcare is the right place for children and teens who are in crisis and need help right away for a mental health or substance (drugs, alcohol) abuse problem.

How do I know my child needs immediate help?

- Behavior puts them at risk of hurting themselves or others
- Parent cannot calm the child or resolve their behavior/situation
- Thoughts of suicide/attempted suicide
- Extreme depression (sadness)
- Hearing voices or talking to themselves and not realizing it
- Intoxicated (from drugs and/or alcohol)


If your child or teen has any of these or other troubling symptoms call Alliance toll-free, any time of the day or night at **(800) 510-9132** or come to one of our Crisis and Assessment Centers. A licensed behavioral health clinician will help determine the right action to take.

Alliance Crisis and Assessment Centers
Open 24 hours a day

UNC Health Care at WakeBrook, (Wake Crisis and Assessment Services), 107 Sunnybrook Road, Raleigh
Durham Center Access, 309 Crutchfield Street, Durham

www.AllianceBHC.org

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Watch for the Warning Signs

Recognizing the warning signs early on that a child or teen may be developing a mental illness can allow them to get the help they need before a crisis arises:

- Increasingly withdrawn behavior
- Increased anger, irritability and hostility
- Major change in eating or sleeping patterns
- Marked decline in school performance
- Strange thoughts or beliefs or unusual behaviors
- Inability to cope with daily problems and activities

If you see these signs, consider seeking help.

When children and families do experience mental health crises, reach out to Alliance Behavioral Healthcare first – either by calling **(800) 510-9132** or by going to one of our Crisis and Assessment Centers. A person who is highly skilled in helping people who are experiencing a mental health crisis can provide help for your child.

www.AllianceBHC.org **Alliance**
BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE

School Based Care Coordination

- Identify and connect Wake County Public School students to behavioral health services
- Help access assessment and treatment services
- Initiate process for intellectual/developmental disability service eligibility
- Link students with medical care, when needed

School Based Care Coordination

- Direct referrals from schools
- Any student needing extra support (Tier III)
- 441 students served in school year 2016-17, up 340% from 2015
- Identify and address service needs and barriers to treatment

Crisis Programs

- Support students leaving crisis and highest level psychiatric residential services
 - At highest risk for suicide, aggression, self-harm
- Served 147 students in school year 2016-17
- Staff attended 323 Child and Family Team meetings for face-to-face service coordination

Crisis Intervention Team Training

- First responders specially trained to respond to and de-escalate mental health crises
- All 23 Wake School Resource Officers are CIT trained
- Alliance coordinates the CIT program with participation from the SBCC initiative
- Communities that incorporate CIT are more successful in resolving serious crisis situations and diverting people into treatment

Diversion Program

- 16-17 year olds committing low level offenses in Wake schools offered opportunity to avoid adult criminal charges by participating in community or treatment services
- Referred to program by SROs
- 93 students benefitted from the program last school year
- 80% diverted from adult charges, avoiding criminal record

Program Specializations

- Intellectual/Developmental Disability (I/DD) Care Coordinator
- Bi-Lingual Care Coordinator
- Substance Use Disorder Specialist
- Care Coordinator stationed at Longview School (separate school for students with behavioral difficulties)

Young Child Mental Health

- Focus on children ages 3-6
- Early identification of children entering kindergarten
- Supporting children with I/DD
- Collaborate with community partnerships, including trauma informed schools

Working with the Alliance Access and Information Center

- Streamlined scheduling of initial treatment appointments
- Participated in Kids in Crisis campaign
- Crisis line has availability of interpreters for non-English speakers
- Trained to immediately refer school threats to WCPSS Crisis Response Team

Award-Winning Program

- 2017 Program of Excellence for Partnerships to Improve Services from the NC Council of Community Programs
- “The...collaborative allows our community to provide aligned, coherent efforts that strengthen families and the school families of students facing unique struggles.”

Karen Hamilton

*Wake County Assistant Superintendent
for Special Education Services*

Award-Winning Program

