

Date: July 1, 2019
CYF Memo: #01-19/20
To: CYF SchoolLink Providers
From: Yael Koenig, CYF Deputy Director
Re: **SchoolLink Threshold Guidelines**

SchoolLink to Behavioral Health Services (SchoolLink) is a partnership between the County of San Diego with community-based organizations and local school districts to provide County-funded behavioral health services. This memo details the background and process for implementing SchoolLink thresholds at SchoolLink sites in FY 2019/20.

What is SchoolLink: <https://theacademy.sdsu.edu/bheta-schoolink>

- Dating back to late 1990's, the Health and Human Services Agency-Behavioral Health Services (County) partnered with school districts and community-based organizations to offer outpatient specialty mental health and later substance use disorder (SUD) treatment on school campuses that serve Medi-Cal and unfunded students.
- In Fiscal Year 2018/2019, SchoolLink was launched to implement standardized practices and increase collaboration between schools and providers for both mental health and SUD treatment programs.

Outcome Monitoring:

- In 2017, specialized Cerner Community Behavioral Health (CCBH) School Data Reports were created for mental health services delivered on school campuses.
- The School Data Reports allow SchoolLink providers and the County to evaluate the number of clients served by providers at designated and non-designated schools.
- The data indicates that although over 400 schools are designated SchoolLink sites, the majority have 3 or less students receiving SchoolLink services. At 168 school sites, the program served only one student. This data, combined with school and provider input, informed the need to set minimum client thresholds to warrant the deployment of clinicians through SchoolLink.
- The implementation of SchoolLink thresholds is intended to be a collaborative process between schools/districts, SchoolLink providers and the County.
- Ultimately, the goal of setting thresholds is to ensure resources are optimally deployed so that students receive the services they need in a timely and efficient manner.

SchoolLink Threshold Guide:

As we work collectively to optimize SchoolLink services, initial thresholds have been identified for FY 2019/2020. FY 2019/2020 is expected to be a transition year, recognizing that not all sites will immediately meet the thresholds. Achieving the thresholds will require commitment and collaboration between SchoolLink providers and their designated schools. The thresholds were developed based on a 36-week school year.

- Minimum commitment by SchoolLink Provider for Mental Health and SUD:
 - Clinician shall be deployed to each designated school at least weekly
 - Clinician shall be on campus for a minimum of four hours per visit
 - Clinician shall have the capacity to serve 5 clients per visit
 - On average, each client shall receive 10+ services on the school campus
 - On average, each client shall receive 10+ weeks of services
 - Provider shall review the threshold data quarterly for each designated school and communicate progress with their school partners

- Minimum commitment by School:
 - Identify a consistent designated place for clinician(s) on each of their assigned day(s) and time(s)
 - Make sufficient referrals that lead to a minimum of 5 active clients served by SchoolLink provider
 - Make sufficient referrals that lead to a minimum of 10 annual clients served by SchoolLink provider

- Medi-Cal and unfunded students who have mental health and/or SUD treatment needs who attend a school that does not offer SchoolLink services, may still access services throughout the community-based county funded providers. The Access and Crisis Line number (888-724-7240) can provide referrals to applicable resources.

We appreciate all of the SchoolLink feedback generated from the provider discussion at the May 9, 2019 Program Manager' meeting on the SchoolLink forms and thresholds. The SchoolLink training and standardized forms are being updated to reflect the suggested changes and will be available online by July 15, 2019. Please keep an eye out for the July SchoolLink Spotlight which will highlight the changes for FY 2019/20.

If you have questions, please contact your Contracting Officer Representative (COR).

CC: County of San Diego Performance Improvement Team
County of San Diego Quality Management
County Office of Education
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