

School-Based Mental Health: Improving students' lives

The new school year is fast approaching and the School-Based Mental Health and Support Services program at Berea Children's Home and Family Services is gearing up for an exciting year. Designed for a school setting, counselors and social workers provide behavioral health interventions on-site, where they can consult with teachers and other school professionals to help improve a student's ability to learn and thrive in an academic setting. Parental and family outreach helps keep the family connected to the child's academic environment.

For the 2009-2010 school year, the School-Based Mental Health program will serve 54 schools in seven school districts: Cleveland, East Cleveland, Garfield, Lakewood, Fairview Park, Parma and Berea. The agency's counselors and social workers partner with schools to provide services that complement the school climate and are the most beneficial for students. Services are provided to stu-

dents at no cost to the school district.

The program features innovative programming, custom-designed for each school and includes individual, group, parent and family services. Counseling, community psychiatric supportive treatment, case management, prevention and consultation services are all available. Psychiatric and psychological consultation services are available upon request.

For the coming year, the School-Based Services program has expanded their supportive services to include a "Personal Safety" educational program for children as well as adults who are mandated reporters of child abuse. The Personal Safety Program, which is grant-funded for two years through the Ohio Children's Trust Fund, strives to prevent the occurrence of child sexual abuse through increased awareness and education. School Services Prevention Specialists have developed an evidenced-based curriculum

about safety. Through fun, informative and age-appropriate presentations, the Personal Safety program helps teach children and adults about stranger safety, healthy relationships, personal boundaries, risk factors and warning signs of child abuse.

If you are interested in learning more about the School-Based Mental Health and Support Services or the Personal Safety program please visit our website at www.bchfs.org, email schoolservices@bchfs.org or call (440) 260-8405.

Counselors wanted – If you are interested in becoming a counselor for School-Based Mental Health and Support Services at Berea Children's Home and Family Services, please forward your resume to Kelly Stofko at Kelly.Stofko@bchfs.org. You may also mail your resume to Berea Children's Home and Family Services, Human Resources, Attn: Kelly Stofko, 202 East Bagley Road, Berea, OH 44017.

race, color, creed, sex, national

All programs and services are offered without regard to or ethnic origin.

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