

SUPPORTING THE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS of West Virginia's Students

“ With approximately \$1.2 billion allocated to K-12 education through pandemic funding, ... (we) have the opportunity to utilize those dollars over the next 3 years to benefit West Virginia children. In 3 years, how are we going to look back and say we impacted children? We must use these dollars wisely and as efficiently as possible to assist each and every child.

– Superintendent Burch¹

THE PROBLEM

KIDS IN CRISIS

Do you know that in West Virginia:



Methamphetamine & opioid overdose deaths are the highest in U.S. (2018)²



29% of 4th graders are chronically absent (2019)⁴



Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of preventable deaths for teens (ages 10-17; 2019)³



10% of children do not live with either parent (2019)⁵



14% of babies born are exposed to drugs (2017)⁶

DIRE SHORTAGES⁷



122 Psychiatrists needed— 83% of need unmet⁸

200 Clinical, Counseling, & School Psychologists needed



270 Mental Health Counselors needed

630 Social Workers needed

Causes of Mental Health Provider Shortage

- » Opioid crisis
- » Lack of funding
- » Aging professionals
- » Growing demand
- » Low salaries
- » Low reimbursement rates

“ Every kid is **ONE CARING ADULT** away from being a success story.

– Josh Shipp, Author⁹

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS



Implement evidence-based practices, such as Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)



Address mental health provider shortage



Support tiered school-based prevention & crisis response intervention



Streamline career pathways for mental health providers



Align funding & infrastructure, especially in rural areas

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¹ Kroll, K. (2021, May 10). *West Virginia Schools Superintendent Clayton Burch Discusses Mental Health Response, Recovery After Pandemic*. The State Journal. Retrieved November 16, 2021 from https://www.wvnews.com/statejournal/news/west-virginia-schools-superintendent-clayton-burch-discusses-mental-health-response-recovery-after-pandemic/article_2be0dadd-edc6-522e-acf4-d61d6195985b.html

² The Economist Newspaper. (n.d.). *Amid the Opioid Crisis, a Different Drug Comes Roaring Back*. The Economist. Retrieved November 16, 2021 from <https://www.economist.com/united-states/2019/03/09/amid-the-opioid-crisis-a-different-drug-comes-roaring-back>

³ McJunkin, J. (2018, January 18). *Among WV Teens, Suicide Is 2nd Top Cause of Death, Usually by Firearm*. Charleston Gazette-Mail. Retrieved November 16, 2021 from https://www.wvgazette.com/opinion/op_ed_commentaries/jim-mcjunkin-among-wv-teens-suicide-is-nd-top-cause/article_c820c7db-2c05-5d63-8714-ced42a672cee.html

⁴ Kid Count Data Center. (2019a). *Fourth Graders Who Are Chronically Absent From School in West Virginia* [Data set]. The Annie E. Casey Foundation. Retrieved November 16, 2021 from <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/8816-fourth-graders-who-are-chronically-absent-from-school?loc=50&loct=2#detailed/2/50/false/1729,37,871,870,573,869,36,868,867,133/any/439,440>

⁵ Kid Count Data Center. (2019b). *Children Living With Neither Parent in West Virginia* [Data set]. The Annie E. Casey Foundation. Retrieved November 16, 2021 from <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/111-children-living-with-neither-parent?loc=50&loct=2#detailed/2/50/false/1729,37,871,870,573,869,36,868,867,133/any/439,440>

⁶ Holdren W. (2017, December 13). *14% of Babies Exposed to Drugs*. The Register-Herald. Retrieved November 16, 2021 from https://www.register-herald.com/news/of-babies-exposed-to-drugs/article_eb3cb535-17f0-5d07-945d-8f12a747f09e.html

⁷ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, National Center for Health Workforce Analysis. (2018). *State-Level Projections of Supply and Demand for Behavioral Health Occupations: 2016-2030*. Rockville, Maryland: Author

⁸ State Health Facts. (2020). *Mental Health Care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)* [Data set]. Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved November 16, 2021 from <https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/mental-health-care-health-professional-shortage-areas-hpsas/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>

⁹ Shipp, J.(n.d.). *The Power of One Caring Adult*. Retrieved November 16, 2021 from <https://joshshipp.com/one-caring-adult/>

