

For more information contact:

School Mental Health Counselor

Access to services and contact information:

Richland County

Emergency Services and Intakes (8:30am-5:00pm M-F):.....(803) 898-4777
2715 Colonial Drive, Columbia, SC 29203
After-hours/Weekends:.....(803) 898-8888
Information Line:.....(803) 898-4800

Fairfield County

Fairfield County Mental Health Center (24-hour on-call coverage).....(803) 635-4689
1073 US Hwy 321 Bypass South, Winnsboro, SC 29180
(outside Winnsboro).....(800) 922-6302

Additional Resources

Client Advocate:.....(803) 898-4809
DMH Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Services (voice).....(864) 241-1040



**MISSION OF CHILD, ADOLESCENT, AND FAMILY SERVICES AT
COLUMBIA AREA MENTAL HEALTH CENTER**

The mission of Child, Adolescent, and Family Services is to provide an array of services to the community to promote social, emotional, educational and mental health in children and adolescents. It is our belief that children are best served when they can be maintained at home with their families, live in a community setting that promotes their success, attend and are successful in school, and are provided with the tools to become mentally healthy, competent members of society. It is our goal to provide services that reflect an understanding that cultural competence is not just an issue of race and ethnicity, but rather and interaction among race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, education, and sexual orientation.



School Mental Health Services

Columbia Area Mental Health Center

A partnership between Columbia Area
Mental Health Center and the school
districts of Richland, Lexington/Richland
and Fairfield Counties.



Promoting healthy student
development so that every child can
reach his or her potential.

Overview



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The Child, Adolescent and Family Services unit of Columbia Area Mental Health Center provides school mental health counselors to many elementary, middle and high schools in Richland School Districts One and Two, Lexington/Richland School District Five, and Fairfield County School District. The goal is to provide healthy student development, violence prevention, and positive mental health. While mental health counselors will primarily be available to students at their school, they may meet with students in the community or the mental health center.

What services are available?

Counselors will provide services tailored to the needs of individual students and their families. Services may include:

- Individual Counseling
- Family Counseling
- Crisis Management
- Psychiatric Medical Care
- Educational Consultation
- Group Counseling
- Coordinating services with school personnel or other agencies
- Assisting with referrals to other services, as needed
- Wraparound Services



Are services private and confidential?

Counseling services will be provided in a confidential setting at the school where the privacy of the student and their family will be respected. Parental permission is required for the mental health counselor to work with students. The only exception is if there is crisis situation and the legal guardian is unable to be immediately contacted. The legal guardian will be notified as soon as possible.

How and when should a student be referred?

Students who display behaviors that disrupt relationships with other people, affect their school performance, or cause the student personal distress may benefit from mental health counseling. Contact the counselor listed on the back of this brochure to link a student to services. Reasons for referral may include:

- anxiety, difficulty in appropriately expressing their feelings
- depression, sadness, changes in mood or moodiness, withdrawal
- expressing feelings or making statement regarding harming themselves or others
- appearing confused or fearful of other people
- difficulty sleeping
- eating disorders
- problems due to traumatic experiences/significant events such as deaths, parental separation or divorce, or abandonment by a family member
- verbal or physical aggression toward other people, bullying
- poor relationships with other people
- poor impulse control—difficulty paying attention, hyperactivity
- sudden changes in behavior or grades
- poor academic performance not related to learning disorders
- being suspended or expelled from school, truancy
- difficulty obeying authority figures or school rules
- difficulties with change in school placement
- family problems or other problems that the student, parent, or school staff may indicate a need for counseling



How often and how long?

The frequency and length of treatment depends on the needs of the student and their family or support system. The key to success is involvement of all parties (i.e., the student, parents, school staff, etc.) and the ability to work together to address all the needs of the student.

Is there a fee?

While there are fees for most services, Columbia Area Mental Health Center accepts private medical insurance and Medicaid. For families without insurance coverage, charges are based on the household income and size. **Services are provided regardless of ability to pay.**