

# MYTH

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# FACT

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## DC SCHOOL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXPANSION

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The Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) /School Mental Health Program (SMHP) is being eliminated and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) will replace DBH clinicians.

DBH/SMHP Clinicians carry a maximum caseload of 12 students.

DBH/SMHP only responds to a crisis that impacts schools where DBH clinicians are placed.

CBO and DBH Clinicians do not provide treatment services for students with an IEP that is without social emotional/behavioral health goals outlined on the IEP.



The expansion of school-based behavioral health services includes the existing DBH/SMHP partnership within public and public charter schools across the District.

The minimum caseload is 15, however some clinicians' caseload may exceed 20 students.

The DBH/SMHP provides crisis response at the request of the school principal and the Local Education Agency.

CBO and DBH Clinicians do not provide services identified on an IEP or 504 plan.



DBH Clinicians are solely responsible for risk assessments.



The School Behavioral Health Coordinator (SBHC) should be the CBO or DBH Clinician.



The DBH Clinical Specialist is responsible for the completion of the School Strengthening Tool and Work Plan.



The School and/or DBH Clinician supply all referrals to the CBO clinician. The school social worker and DBH clinician are expected to engage before providing a referral to the CBO clinician.



Only LGSWs are required to receive supervision for the delivery of school-based behavioral health services.



School providers, CBOs and DBH clinicians share the responsibility of assessing the safety risk of students.

The CBO and DBH Clinicians have established roles under their partnerships. The SBHC is not a role for the CBO or DBH Clinician.

The completion of the School Strengthening Tool and Work Plan is the responsibility of the School Behavioral Health Coordinator and the CBO Clinician. The DBH Clinical Specialist will function as a support to execute the Work Plan.

Clinicians are expected to develop relationships with teachers, students, and families as well as the school community to raise awareness of services offered. Additionally, clinicians are mandated to follow the referral process established within the clinician's assigned school.

All CBO and DBH Clinicians receive supervision. The supervisor acts in accordance with the requirements of the DC Health Board of Professional Licensing. All licensed level clinicians are supervised, developed, mentored and supported as they deliver the multi-tiered behavioral health services within the District's comprehensive expansion of school based behavioral health services.