The Comprehensive Plan to Expand Early Childhood and School-Based Behavioral Health Services developed by the former Interagency Behavioral Health Working Group established a coordinating council to guide implementation of the plan. The Coordinating Council on School Mental Health includes members of the former Interagency Behavioral Health Working Group and the former Task Force on School Mental Health. Additionally, the Coordinating Council on School Mental Health is comprised of school leaders, educators, community providers, parents, youth, school behavioral health experts, government agencies, city council chairmen and advocates. Dr. Tanya A. Royster and Mr. Michael Musante serve as the Co-Chairs with Ms. Sakina Thompson serving as the facilitator. The Coordinating Council on School Mental Health convened its first meeting on 4/9/18. Given the heavy lift to prepare for the Yr 1 implementation of the comprehensive expansion of school mental health services in the District, the coordinating council members agreed to meet every 2 weeks for 4 months. The meeting notes, slide decks, and documents from the Coordinating Council are posted on the DBH website.

With the exception of the week of the July 4th due to the holiday and one other occurrence in the service of committee work, the Coordinating Council has met every 2 weeks. The Coordinating Council is on track with the rhythm of what was established for the committees to conduct work and provide report out and updates to the Council for discussion and decisions. Over 50 schools have been identified to begin the expanded services for the upcoming school year as determined by need through behavioral indicators.

The committees that have been active during this summer are: School and Provider Readiness; Family and Youth; and Implementation.

The tasks that the Coordinating Council and committees have completed or currently are working on to date include:

* Finalizing the methodology for determining the top 25% of highest need schools
* Revising the initial resource mapping regarding providers and partnerships currently in the top 25% of highest need schools to inform the process around matching providers; gleaning how each school is deploying the three tiers of services; asking schools about what their needs are; and trying to begin the process of helping schools to develop and increase their ability to provide robust prevention, early intervention, and treatment services.
* The Council continues to track DBH’s Request for Application (RFA) and Request for Proposal (RFP) activities related to the use of the Mayor’s funding investment to support the Yr 1 implementation of the comprehensive school mental health program expansion.
* The education sector has received letters from the DME and Chancellor regarding the expansion
* The DBH Director’s letter to parents and guardians has been translated into the required 6 languages for language access and will soon be distributed initially by the education sector and then by DBH and community stakeholders.
* A cross-agency communications workgroup will soon convene to facilitate awareness and health literacy regarding understanding the available expanded services.
* In preparation for the Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to be selected for award of the grants to support providing in the schools prevention and early intervention services, which are currently without a billing code and thus non-billable, a launch Kick-off event is being planned by the School and Provider Readiness Committee for CBOs and the top 25% highest need DC Public Charter Schools; and for CBOs and the top 25% highest need DC Public Schools.
* The Implementation Committee is preparing for a 3hr work session on 8/13/18 to focus on final review of needs assessment tools to present and recommend to the Coordinating Council at the next meeting scheduled for 8/27/18.
* The Family and Youth Committee is working on recommended family and youth engagement strategies and best practices and recommendations for practical information to bolster the utility of DBH’s healthymindsdc website.