

The SOURCE Early Intervention Initiative

The SOURCE Early Intervention initiative works to build the mental health safety net for school-aged children and youth throughout the county. Partnership and collaboration with community entities such as Baugo Community Schools, the Comprehensive Counseling Collaborative of Elkhart County, Goshen Community Schools, Partnership for Children and Oaklawn have been vital to the success of these projects and will continue to be key in sustaining the work long-term.

Baugo Community Schools

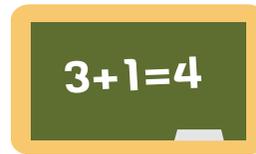
During the project's first semester, the school social worker met with 69 students district-wide to connect families with services, provide families with support, address mental and behavioral health concerns of students, improve peer-to-peer relationships, provide academic support, assist with attendance, and in-class behavioral concerns.



52% of the students served identified as male, 48% identified as female. Overall, 93% identified as White, 6% identified as African American & White, and 1% identified as African American.



19% of the students served were from the Elementary School, 32% from the Intermediate School, 22% from the Junior High School, and 27% from the High School.



Throughout the district, students who saw the school social worker had collectively missed 446 days prior to being referred for services.



Prior to the service referral, 3 students had been assigned in-school suspensions and 8 students had been assigned out-of-school suspensions.

Administrators and staff say the top benefits of the program are:

1. Our school social work services help reduce the burden on staff
2. Our school social work services help students address behavioral or mental health challenges
3. The school social worker works as a partner with staff to meet family and children's needs
4. The school social worker has good relationships with families
5. The school social worker is able to work effectively with all types of students



"She has access to and knowledge of many outside resources which a student/family may need, and she has the experience to reach out to and utilize those resources."

"When we need help, we know a qualified social worker can help us."

"It reduces the time teachers have to take to deal with student needs that are outside of our content area."

"The social worker was a huge support for me this year in helping 2 students with serious mental health issues."

IDEA Classroom at Goshen Community Schools

IDEA stands for "Integrating the Developmental, Emotional, and Academic needs of Students." In partnership with Oaklawn and Goshen Community Schools, the program serves 1st through 5th grades and is targeted toward students who haven't been successful in a mainstream classroom, even after a Functional Behavioral Assessment and Plan have been implemented.

Through support from The SOURCE expansion grant, 19 students have been served in this unique, individualized classroom.



Partnership For Children (PFC)

The SOURCE, through a partnership with the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, supports the PFC, a program that provides social skills training and behavioral support to ensure at-risk youth remain in and benefit from their community programs. PFC uses a wraparound themed model to provide formal and informal supports to youth and their families and PFC consultants connect partner agencies to community-based mental health supports. In 2018, The SOURCE partnered with the Boys & Girls Club to pilot the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) as a mental health screening. Of the 74 youth screened, 27 had scores that warranted a mental health referral and those with caregiver consent were referred to Partnership for Children for ongoing mental health services.

Current PFC Partners

Bashor Children's Home
Big Brothers, Big Sisters
Boys & Girls Club
Child and Parent Services (CAPS)
Center for Community Justice
Five Star Life
Lifeline Ministries
Oaklawn
Ryan's Place
The Post
YWCA

100% of PFC Partners Surveyed Listed the Following Benefits:

- Better able to address youth mental/behavioral health
- An increase in staff skills and knowledge related to youth mental/behavioral health
- The ability to better serve youth and families
- A better use of my organization's services
- New relationships helpful to my agency

"Being able to refer families to an agency that can help has been a great benefit and allows our staff to focus on programming and all children."

"Increased prevention capacity in our partners which we hope decreases the need for formal services in our system."

"Families have been grateful that there are resources for them to help guide them... when they do not know what else to do."

"Collaborative efforts allow community mental health services to be provided to those who might not normally access them."

What is the greatest benefit of PFC to your agency?

"All the mental health training- we had 0 before the partnership!"

"Advances our mission by diverting kids from the formal system."

"Actually seeing the recommendations help our kids get the assistance they may need."