



Addressing Mental Health Concerns in Horry County Schools

A Uniform and Responsive Approach to
Tackling an Important Issue



District Resources to Address Mental Health Concerns in our Schools and Communities

HCS has put a combination of resources in place to address mental health concerns in our schools and within our school communities. These resources provide immediate and responsive services and are allocated based on school, student, and family needs.

Resources Include...



- School (Guidance) Counseling Services
- Rehabilitative and Behavioral Health Services (RBHS)
- Care Solace Care Coordination Service
- Uniform Crisis Protocol
- Community Collaboration



School (Guidance) Counselors

136 FTE's

Each school in HCS has school counselors, allocated appropriately based on student population. Middle and high schools are staffed at the 300:1 ratio, with elementary schools being staffed at the 500:1 ratio.

First Point of Contact

Typically, school counselors are the first point of contact when a student is identified as struggling with a mental health concern.

Provide a Variety of Services

Services include: brief counseling (individual and group), data analysis, IGP / goal setting conferences, academic and career counseling, crisis counseling and referral.

Rehabilitative and Behavioral Health Services (RBHS)

98 FTE's

Each school in HCS has access to RBHS, allocated appropriately based on school needs. Services are provided to our most at-risk students who need more intense intervention.

Current Caseloads

Caseloads vary from school to school throughout the year. The smallest is currently 13:1, while the largest is currently 30:1.

Provide a Variety of Services

RBHS services include: diagnostic assessments, individual and group counseling, family therapy, behavior intervention, referral and coordination with other stakeholders.

Care Solace Care Coordination Service

Available to all HCS Students

Real-time program that coordinates care for students or families who need services outside of the school. The school provides a “warm handoff” to Care Solace.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Care Solace coordinates all aspects of mental health and substance abuse treatment (counseling, psychiatry, residential treatment).

Service Coordination for Staff and Community

Care Solace can also provide coordination for HCS staff members. There is also a search and help function available for community members not affiliated with HCS.

Care Solace Impact Data

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Inbound interactions ?	92	294	971	833	874	722	993	1,175	1,496	951
Communications saved ?	552	2,058	5,427	4,676	4,695	4,093	5,233	6,690	8,524	5,300
Warm Handoffs® ?	3	71	146	110	109	84	139	154	212	120
Family-initiated cases ?	1	5	18	11	9	4	19	23	18	17
Total Unreachable	2	29	68	51	43	30	67	66	94	44
Total Declined Services	2	14	26	21	12	16	24	19	29	7
Total appointments into care ?	9	32	65	72	69	53	66	99	129	80
Anonymous searches ?	9	60	61	36	53	26	48	62	67	46

Uniform Crisis Protocol

Procedures Used Districtwide

HCS Crisis Protocol procedures are used by all school counselors, RBHS counselors, and school administrators.

Annual Updates and Staff Training

The HCS Crisis Protocol is reviewed and updated each year. Appropriate staff receive annual and ongoing training on updates and district expectations for use.

Protocol Includes Assessment Tools


In addition to a list of procedures for working with students in crisis there are also assessment tools and resources for HCS staff and guardians.

Uniform HCS Protocol Documents and Tools for Staff

Annually Trained Staff Includes:

- All School Administrators
- All School Counselors
- All RBHS Counselors
- All School Nurses
- All School Psychologists

2022-2023



**Horry County School District
Crisis Protocol Checklist**

When an HCS faculty or staff member is presented with concerns or evidence that indicates that a student could be in a dangerous situation, self-injurious or environmental, we are legally obligated to take the necessary precautions to ensure the student's safety and support his/her recovery. Designated school personnel should follow the protocol outlined below to ensure that we keep all students safe and protected while in our care.

Step 1: Interview the Student and Record the Pertinent Details in the Spaces Provided Below:

Student Name: _____ School: _____
 Student DOB: _____ Gender: _____ Grade: _____ Age: _____
 Parent / Guardian Name: _____ Contact Number: _____
 Date of the Incident: _____
 Details of the Incident: _____

Step 2: Notify the Site Administrator/Principal

Report of the situation was immediately made to an administrator.

Step 3: Keep the Student Safe

Arrangements have been made to ensure appropriate supervision of the student(s); **if there is imminent danger call 911.**

Step 4: Please check to identify the type of risk or crisis:

Suicide / Self-Injurious Behavior Threatening Behavior / Danger to Others or Property Abuse / Neglect

Does the student have an identified disability: Yes No

- If the student displays Suicidal/ Self-Injurious behavior, the staff member should screen the student using the "HCS Suicide Risk Assessment"
- If the student displays threatening behaviors or danger to others or property is suspected, the staff member should notify the school psychologist assigned to the school to initiate the screening the student using the "Threat to Others Assessment Screening Tool" and begin the subsequent evaluation and review process. *Reminder: All HCS disciplinary procedures and relevant HCS special education procedures should be followed.*
- If the student displays that he/she is being abused or neglected, the staff member should move forward with making the appropriate contacts with the Department of Social Services.

HCS Crisis Quick Reference Guide

Reasonable suspicion of abuse or neglect...

If you, or anyone in your building have a reasonable suspicion that a student is being abused or neglected you must call Horry County DSS at 1-888-227-3487, and the school's local law enforcement agency. Schools can contact Horry County Police at (843) 915-5350, or the city police, for those schools located within city limits.

Concerns of Abuse or Neglect by HCS Employees...

If you, or anyone in your building have a reasonable suspicion that a student is being abused or neglected by an HCS employee, you must call Horry County DSS at 1-888-227-3487, and the school's local law enforcement agency. Schools can contact Horry County Police at (843) 915-5350, or notify the appropriate city police. School administration must then notify parents, and HCS Chief Officer of Human Resources.

Student Scoring as a "High Risk" to Self...

When the HCS Crisis Protocol "Threat to Self" Screener is administered, and a student scores high, you should contact the guardians and provide resources for immediate assistance. Additionally, you must also call the school's local law enforcement agency. Schools can contact Horry County Police at (843) 915-5350, or notify the appropriate city police.

"High Risk" Students not Receiving Services...

When students have been found to be at high risk for self harm, and resources and suggestions for care have been shared with guardians, but have not been pursued or secured in a reasonable time, you should contact Horry County DSS at 1-888-227-3487, and the school's local law enforcement agency. Schools can contact Horry County Police at (843) 915-5350, or notify the appropriate city police.

Counseling / Family Resources...

Families can be connected to counseling resources outside of our schools by completing a "Warm Handoff" to our partners at Care Solace. Families can also access Care Solace independently from the HCS Website < Families < Info for Parents < Mental Health Services.

Community Collaboration and Partnerships

Protocol Includes Community

HCS Crisis Protocol includes collaborating with a variety of community partners to ensure students and families in need remain safe and supported.

Collaboration with a Variety of Partners

When students are in crisis, HCS collaborates with medical professionals, DSS, local law enforcement, outside counselors, and outpatient and inpatient facilities.

Participation in Community and Media Events

Whenever possible, HCS participates in community events, media platforms, and within committees and advisory bodies to inform the public about the services we offer to students.

Other HCS Measures to Address the Mental Health Crisis...

Referral Process

Students may be referred to RBHS by:

- Principal/Assistant Principal
- Teachers
- Parents

Parent/guardian must provide signed consent and participate in a diagnostic assessment before services can begin.

Goals will be developed for the student based on input from the parent, student, and school staff. Goals and objectives will be developed into an Individualized Plan of Care.

Outcomes

- Increase in attendance
- Decrease in referrals
- Increase in academic and behavioral success
- Reduction in severity of inappropriate behavior
- Improved quality of emotional and behavioral services
- Decrease in number of in-school and out of school suspensions
- Decrease in out of home placement

Horry County Schools
335 Four Mile Road
P.O. Box 260005
Conway, SC 29528-6005
843-488-6700

Horry County Schools RBHS Program

Services are available in all Horry County Schools.

School Staff Consist of:

- Level Coordinator
- Behavioral Interventionist

RBHS Coordinators

Shanda Strickland: 843-488-6715
sstrickland@horrycountyschools.net

Lauren Cestare: 843-488-6560
lcestare@horrycountyschools.net

Director of Counseling
Teresa Pickett 843-488-6882
tpickett@horrycountyschools.net

Horry County Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, immigrant status, English-speaking status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal or S.C. law in its programs or activities. For questions regarding the nondiscrimination policies call 843-488-6700, or write Horry County Schools, 335 Four Mile Rd., Conway, SC 29528.

RBHS

Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Services

HCS
Horry County Schools

Student **Identification Card** for Myles Pickett at St. James High Inbox x

ps@horrycountyschools.net
to MylesPickett

Fri, Aug 12, 2022, 4:50 PM

Dear Student,

For the 2022-23 school year, all 7th grade to 12th grade students will receive a student **identification card** (printed and digital) with contact information for crisis resources. A digital copy of your school **identification card** is being provided to you through this email.

Last year, Governor Henry McMaster signed into law the South Carolina Student **Identification Card** Suicide Prevention Act to take effect this school year. The Act requires public schools serving grades 7 through 12 to provide the telephone numbers of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and additional crisis resources on school-issued student **identification cards**. South Carolina is the 9th state to pass student **identification card** suicide prevention legislation.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of over 180 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices. In addition, the 988 - suicide hotline is a resource that is being implemented statewide.

Resources that will be on the back of student **identification cards** are:

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-8255
- Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: 988
- Department of Mental Health Mobile Crisis Number: 833-364-2274
- National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline: 866-331-9474

Please know that your school counselors are always available to assist you.

Sincerely,
HCS Communications Team

[Click here to download your document](#)



Grand Strand mental health advocates for young people talk social media, pandemic impacts

by Courtney Rowles | Mon, April 3rd 2023, 11:45 AM EDT

3
VIEW ALL PHOTOS

Connor Ingalls and guests gather for ABC15 roundtable to discuss mental health among young people (Credit: Connor Ingalls/WPDE)

care solace Select Language (888) 515-0595 Text Video Chat Call Now

Anonymous Confidential Free Care Connection

24/7/365 Mental Health Care Coordination Service for Horry County Schools Students, Staff, and their Families

Getting help can be a daunting process. Let our Care Companions™ find the help you need for depression, anxiety, stress, and more.

Call Now Search On Your Own

In partnership with Horry County Schools.

We Are on Your Side Every Step of the Way



Additional Questions?

Thank you for listening