

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

Apr

951

5,300

120

17

44

80

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.

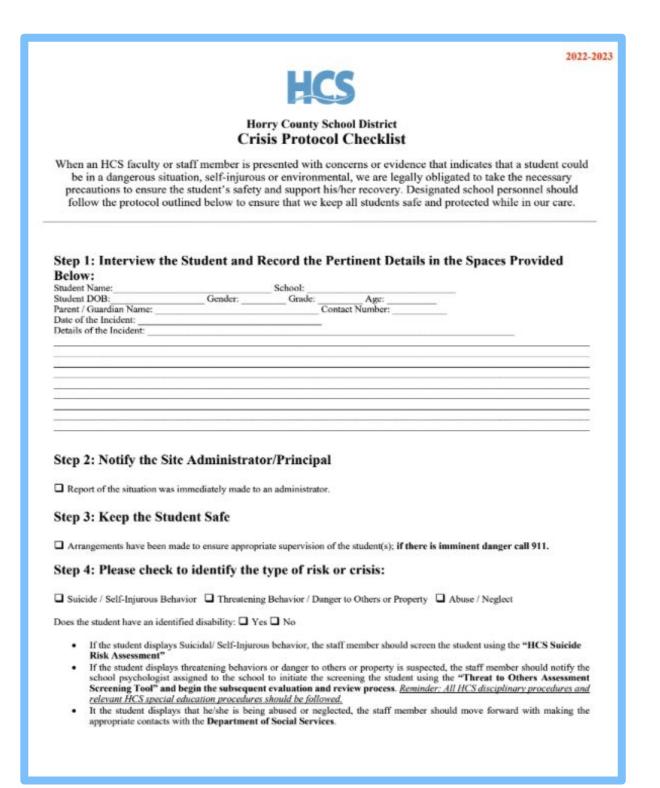
Protocol Includes Assessment Tools

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



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

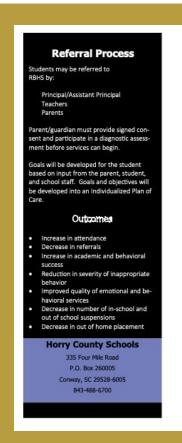
HCS Crisis Protocol includes collaborating with a variety of community partners to ensure students and families in need remain safe and supported.

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

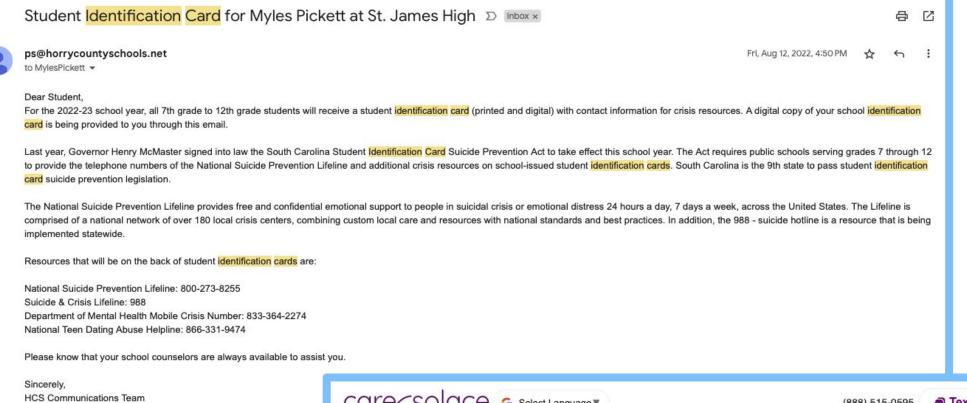
Whenever possible, HCS participates in community events, media platforms, and within committees and advisory bodies to inform the public about the services we offer to students.





Click here to download your document

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



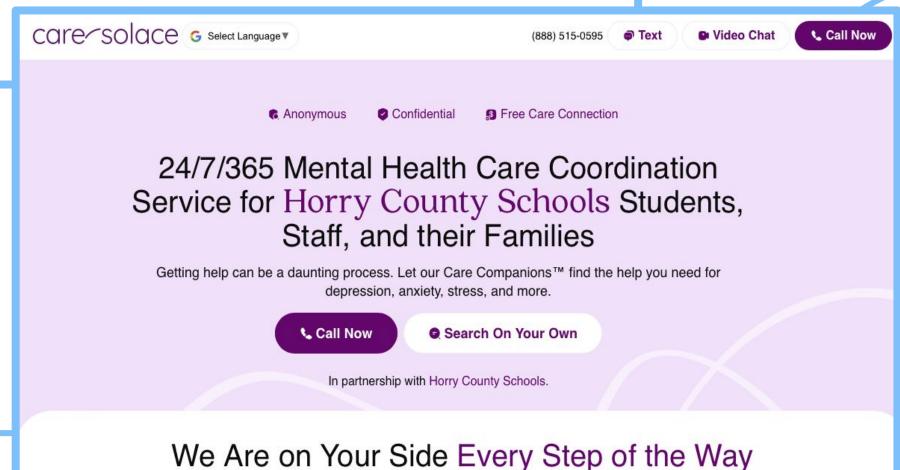


Grand Strand mental health advocates for young people talk social media, pandemic impacts

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



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



Additional Questions? Thank you for listening