

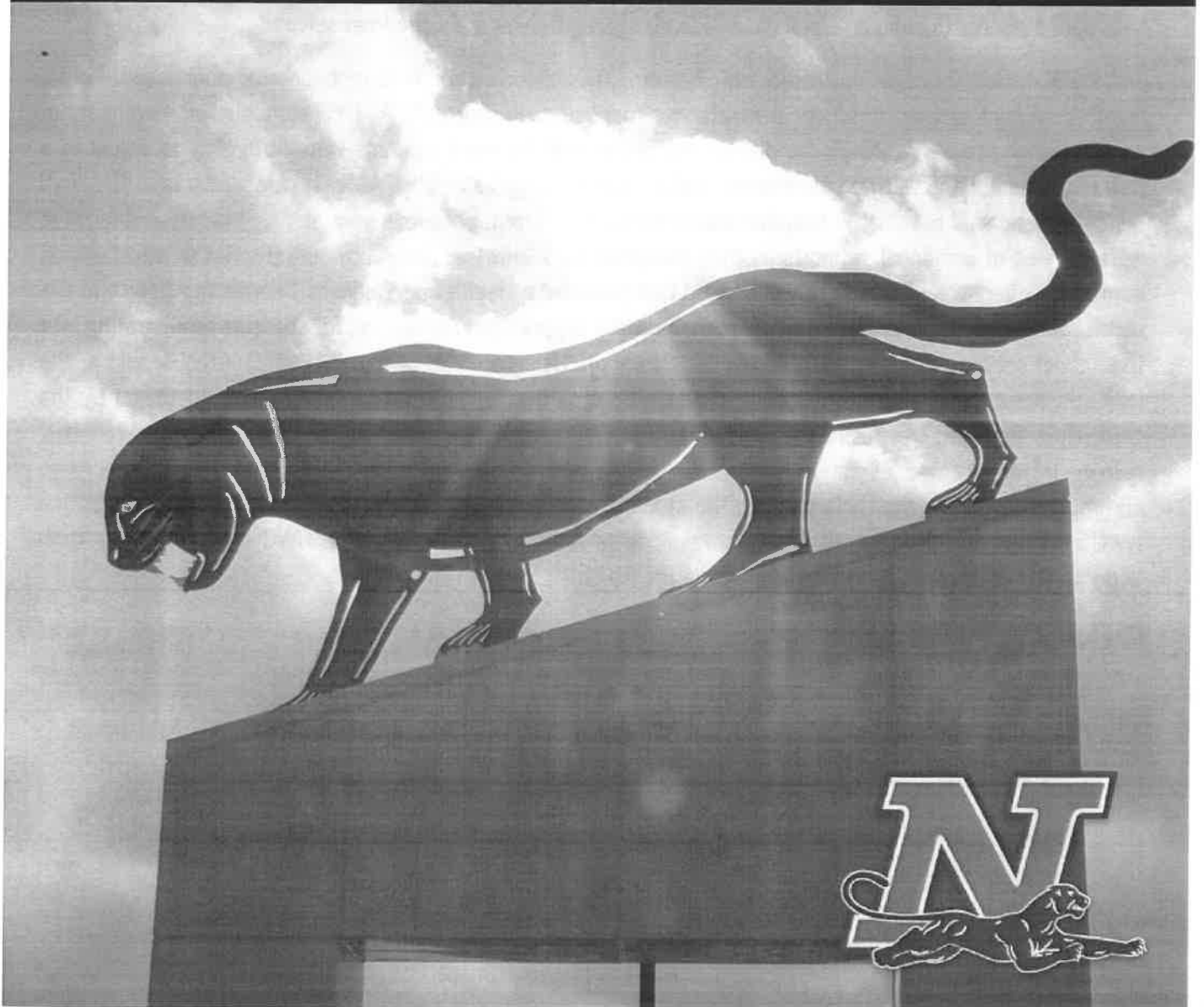


RED OAK
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

2021-22 HS Health & Wellness Proposal

NORTON CITY SCHOOLS

June 22, 2021



PROJECT PURPOSE – THE "WHY"

The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in monumental changes to education worldwide. According to UNESCO, **nearly 90% of the world's student and teacher population** have had their learning experiences disrupted by precautions and policies implemented to quell the spread of the disease. This health crisis has precipitated **unprecedented, sweeping, and dramatic changes in the lives of our children**, their families, and our educators.

Fifteen months into the pandemic, the **disruptions caused by COVID-19 are clearly taking their toll on the mental health of our students**. The downturn in the economy has led to a nearly 50% increase in students who are experiencing **food insecurity, domestic abuse, or the loss or serious illness of a loved one** due to COVID-19. Students who have **missed significant instruction time** due to hospitalization, incarceration, or challenges associated with remote learning are **overwhelmed by the prospect of trying to catch up** and the potential stigma associated with the reasons for their absence. Although supporting students through trauma is not a new challenge for schools, the **scale and magnitude of its impact have been far greater** this year, and the collective nature of the particular traumas they are experiencing today means that educators are **trying to help their students to cope and heal while also struggling to heal and cope themselves**.

Since 2014, Red Oak has partnered with Norton City Schools to provide embedded school-based mental health treatment services to students who have a mental health diagnosis. As NHS students returned to an in-person learning model in 2020, the district recognized that **far more students were struggling to adjust to a new normal** and cope with the uncertainty and disruption Covid-19 caused. At least nine students at the High School experienced psychiatric hospitalizations during the current academic year alone. Students and families were in need of additional supports as they transition back into the classroom and attempt to stabilize and reintegrate effectively. **To meet this need, Red Oak provided a Health and Wellness Coordinator (HWC) in the district fifteen hours/week, who served as the primary support and connection for students reintegrating into the school setting post hospitalization or incarceration**. Using a blend of in-person and virtual sessions, the HWC provided group and individual level interventions to **these and other at-risk students** identified by the counseling team and administration. In addition, the HWC served as a **liaison for Norton High School families**, helping to **identify and eliminate barriers to their student's academic engagement**, and linking them to community resources that help position the student and family for success. Over the past five months, the HWC caseload has risen to 38 students, resulting in a request to increase the HWC footprint at the High School from 15 hours to 24 hours per week in the 2021-22 School Year.

OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Integrate a **Health and Wellness Coordinator (HWC) at Norton High School twenty-four hours per week** for the 2021-22 school year.
- ✓ Provide focused support and **wraparound services for students reintegrating to school post-hospitalization or incarceration** - or other district-identified at-risk students.
- ✓ **Serve as a liaison for Norton High School families, linking them to community resources** and helping to **identify and eliminate barriers** to students' academic success.

SCOPE

Red Oak's .6 FTE Health & Wellness Coordinator (HWC) will provide 24 hours/week of intervention, coordination and consultation services for Norton students, staff and families. Engagement will focus on providing support to identified at-risk students, including those who are reintegrating into the building post hospitalization or incarceration, and serving as a family liaison to address barriers to student engagement.

DIRECT INVESTMENT (\$37,125)**

Red Oak Health & Wellness Coordinator - Salary & Benefits (.6 FTE - 24 hours/week)	\$33,750
Administrative/Overhead Costs (Includes training and clinical and administrative supervision)	\$3,375
TOTAL INVESTMENT	\$37,125

**In addition to the above investment from the district, Red Oak's HWC will provide 2 days/week of embedded mental health treatment services for students (valued at \$24,750) in Norton City Schools at no cost to the district bringing her to a 1.0 FTE.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Red Oak will be responsible for invoicing Norton City Schools administration on a monthly basis. Norton High School Counseling staff will be asked to complete an evaluation at the end of the program, and a summary of evaluation results will be provided to Norton City School Administration.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS



PROJECT DIRECTOR
Ann Robson
Director of Clinical Services



PROJECT LEAD
Allison Fried
Health & Wellness Coordinator



PROJECT SUPPORT
Jaclyn Flossie
Manager of Support Services

APPROVAL SIGNATURES

Dana Addis
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