

Cochise County School Mental Health Consortium



Listen. Collaborate. Succeed!



CochisESA

Office of the Cochise County
School Superintendent

Dr. Jacqueline Clay

**Cochise County
Superintendent of Schools**

October 2022

Consortium's Goal Alignment with Behavioral Health Areas of Interest

- Provide/augment mental health services for schools in Cochise County
- Serve as a liaison for schools: establishing mental health partnerships between mental health/behavioral health organizations to enhance access to mental health services for students and educational staff
- Provide professional development to include Suicide prevention and Trauma Response
- Partner with the Cochise County Sheriff's Department for Crisis Response Services
- Provide Peer Support and Training for students and parents
- Ensure that our students (and their families) in the jail and detention center receive the mental health services needed while incarcerated and during re-entry into the school system

Augment Special
Education
Services to
Schools for
Students with
Disabilities at a
Discounted Rate

School Psychology Services

Speech Therapy Services

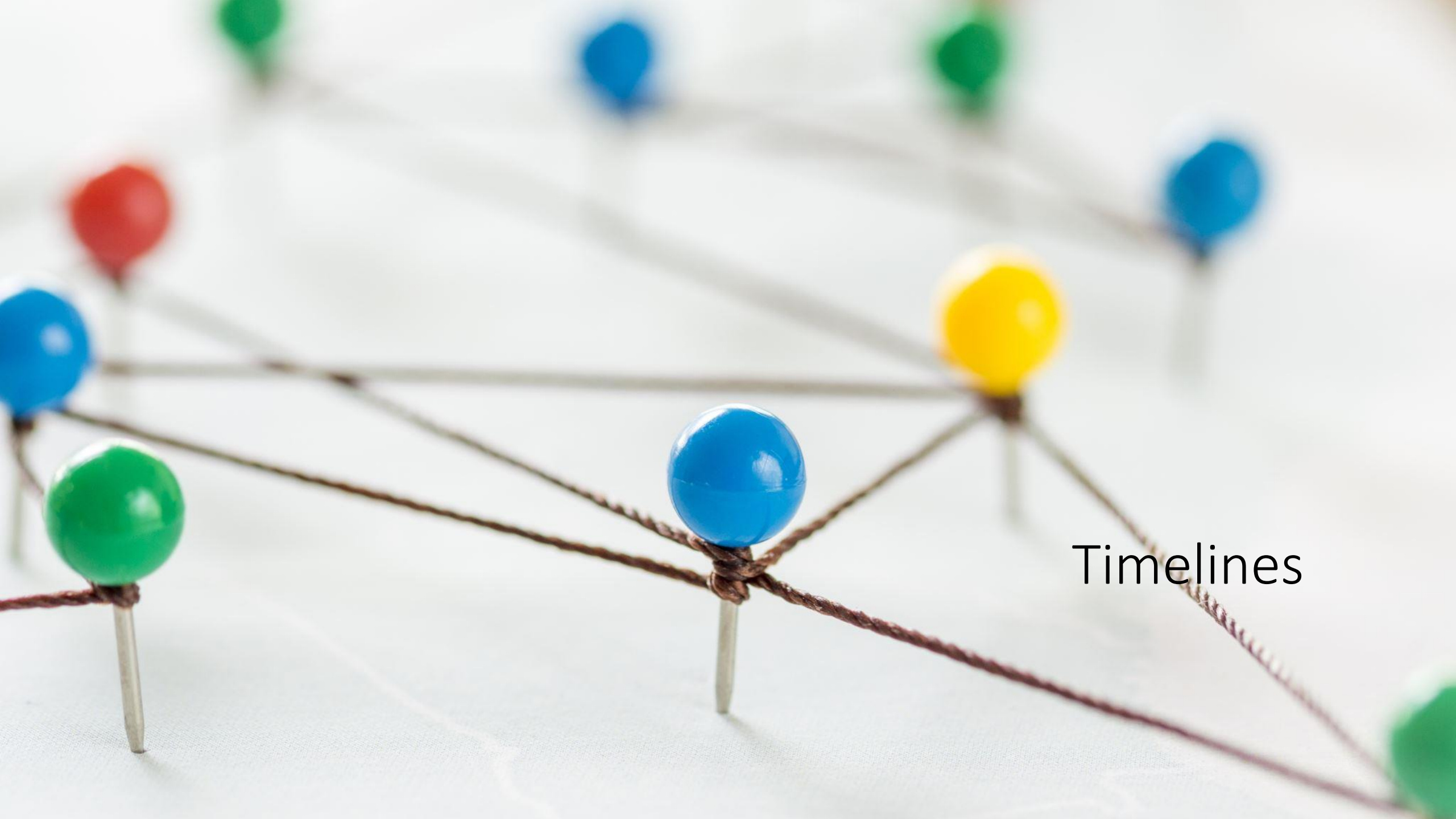
Physical Therapy services

Occupational Therapy

Lowens the Cost of Services

- Schools are charged extremely high prices by "for profit" organizations. A school district in Cochise County is paying \$800,000.00 a year, over \$80,000.00 per month for services.
- Most mental health professionals will not move into our rural areas which makes it difficult and expensive for schools to provide basic mental health services for their students and staff.

| *August 2020 - May 2021 | |
|---|---------------------|
| **Related Services Costs (Occupational, Speech & Physical Therapies) | |
| Occupational Therapy Services (FT OT .8 and FT COTA 1.0) | \$184,526.00 |
| Speech Therapy Services (SLP 3.4 and SLPA 3.0) | \$570,770.00 |
| Physical Therapy Services (PT .6) | \$87,184.00 |
| Total Related Services Cost | \$842,480.00 |
| Total Monthly Cost (10 months): | \$84,248.00 |



Timelines

Year 1

1. Hire Director

2. Build relationships with School Districts and build interest in services offered

3. Set up MOUs between Cochise County Mental Health Consortium and School/School Districts

4. Recruit Psychologist, Speech Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapists, and Physical Therapist to contract for year 2

5. Using current enrollment of children with special needs at each participating school district, evaluate and develop schedule of services

6. Collaborate with Cochise College and the JTED Superintendent to promote mental health professions in the fields needed for the consortium

7. Build/foster relationships with Behavioral Health Agencies in Cochise County and work as a liaison in collaboration with the Cochise County Sheriff's Dept

8. Set up and participate in training for Trauma Response Team provided by El Rio Health

9. Survey and evaluate for additional trainings needed by schools, parents, peer groups, etc. and create a training plan

Year 2

1. Contract with Psychologist, Speech Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Physical

2. Hire technicians to assist the Psychologist, Speech Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, and Physical Therapist

3. Schedule services with participating schools

4. Continue scheduling and promoting trainings through El Rio Health to take place throughout the year

5. Evaluate and refine services of the Crisis Response Team

6. Build peer and caregiver support groups/programs throughout the county with collaboration of the

7. Continue working with Cochise College and the JTED programs to promote technician programs.

8. Reinvest revenue earned from services provided to create sustainability for the Mental Health Consortium



Letters of Support/Letter of Commitment

Letters of Support

- Arizona at Work
- Benson School District
- Berean Academy
- Bisbee School District
- Bowie School District
- Ft Huachuca Accommodation School District
- Sierra Vista Unified School District
- Wilcox Unified School District

Letters of Commitment

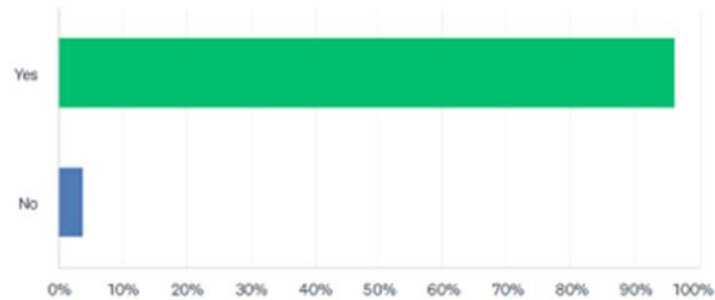
- Cochise County Sheriff's Department
- Nami (Verbal)
- El Rio Health: Southern Arizona Area Health Education Center

A stylized sun graphic on the left side of the slide. It features a solid orange circle at the bottom, with several curved orange lines of varying lengths extending upwards and to the right, suggesting rays. The background is a gradient from orange at the top to white at the bottom, with a large white semi-circle on the right side.

Mental Health Survey Results/Testimonials from the Field

Q8 During the pandemic do you think that students in your school/school district have struggled more with emotions?

Answered: 52 Skipped: 0

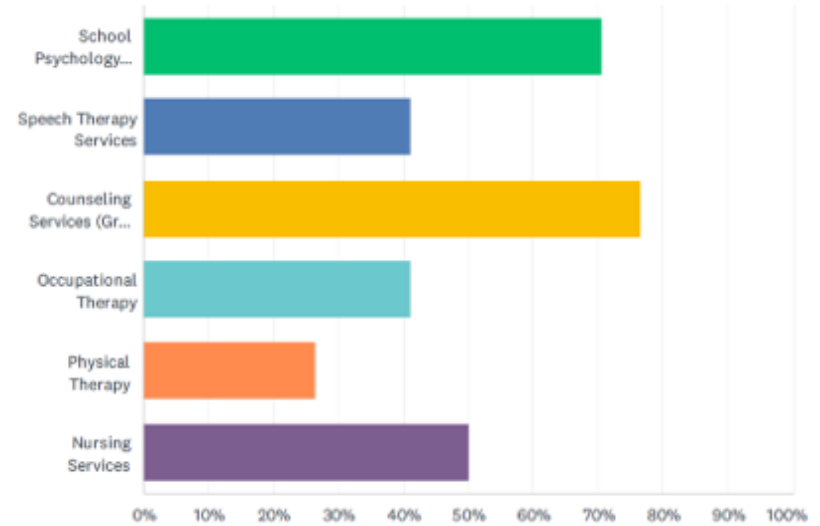


97% - Yes

4% - No

Q16 Is your school or school district currently experiencing a shortage in any of the following services? If yes, please select those services experiencing shortages.

Answered: 34 Skipped: 18



School Psychology - 70%

Speech Therapy – 40%

Counseling 97%

Occupational Therapy – 41%

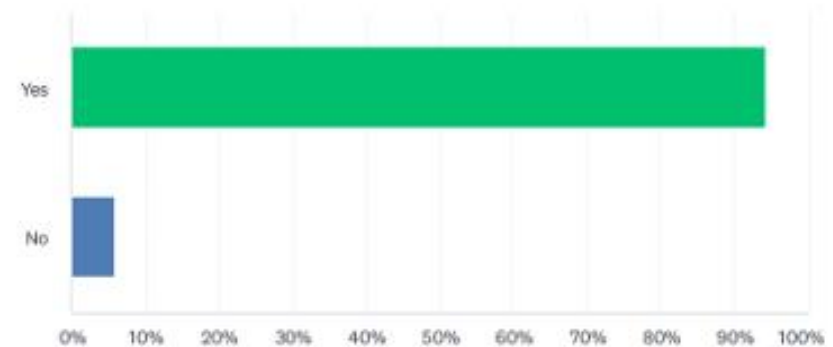
Physical Therapy – 25%

Nursing – 55%

- “I believe that schools should have access to professionals trained in Crisis Management, Childhood Trauma Response, and other Social-Emotional care and support skill sets.”
- “These professionals should be available to contact by phone or email for questions and triaging, as well as available in person for incidents/situations that have been identified as needing an in-person response.”
- “The opportunity for district educational staff to cross-train in these skill sets over time to reduce the reliance on external expertise in triaging and initiating responses to needs of this type.”

Q9 Do you feel students in your school/school district need more understanding about mental health?

Answered: 52 Skipped: 0



Yes – 93%

No – 7%

Testimonials from Mental Health Professionals in the Field

- “Many professionals are tired of the impersonal treatment by big companies. They charge districts twice as much as they pay the service providers. They are very impersonal and don’t really care about their employees in these small districts.”
 - Example: A psychologist is paid **\$65.00** dollars per hour; the organization charges the school **\$145.00** an hour
- Mental health professionals are excited about the consortium and interested in joining

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Questions?