

Capital Area Human Services District

Winter 2011

School-Based Therapy Program Active in Suicide Prevention

In over 25 public schools across our seven parish district, CAHSD's school-based social workers take suicide risk extremely seriously. Their therapy program provides teachers and students with methods to identify and respond to students who are at risk of suicide as well as self-destructive behaviors. Therapists work with schools to reduce the risk of student suicide by implementing a suicide prevention gate-keeping program and creating a comprehensive crisis plan.

In the past three years, our therapists have presented the suicide prevention program to a total of 4,479 individuals. Additionally, during the past year, CAHSD's Child Adolescent Response Team has presented a suicide prevention/crisis program to 277 school administrators.

Suicide prevention gate keeping prepares those with regular contact with students to recognize behavioral patterns and other warning signs that indicate that a student may be at risk of suicide and ensures that the student at risk receives the necessary services. To respond to a student crisis, our social workers work with school staff to develop a crisis plan. The plan includes procedures for addressing students who attempt suicide as well as for those who are contemplating it. School-based therapists also provide guidance for teachers in identifying and responding to potential suicidal or violent behavior in students, and how to respond when actual violence takes place.

CAHSD Partners with North Lake Resource Center (NLRC) to Offer Local Wheelchair Clinic



For the convenience of local consumers of services for developmental disabilities, CAHSD is partnering with NLRC to offer a wheelchair clinic to provide expert evaluation to assess needs for custom seating, positioning, and mobility. This monthly clinic will conveniently be held at CAHSD's largest clinic in Baton Rouge, allowing local clients to forego having to travel to Hammond, Louisiana for this service.

A licensed Occupational Therapist or Physical Therapist assists a Durable Medical Equipment (DME) provider in an evaluation to determine the best medical equipment to meet the unique mobility and positioning needs of each individual. The clinic is lead by a licensed occupational therapist.

In order to qualify for the Wheelchair Clinic, individuals must meet the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) eligibility requirements. For further information or to schedule an appointment, please call the North Lake Resource Center at (985) 543-4113.

Our mission is to facilitate person-centered recovery by empowering people with chronic behavioral health and developmental disability challenges to strengthen relationships, establish independence, and enhance their ability to improve their physical health and emotional wellbeing.

CAHSD Supports Local Law Enforcement with National Take Back Initiative

CAHSD supported the State Police, the EBR Sheriff's Office, and the BR Police Department in their participation in the National Take Back Initiative by providing educational materials about prevention of prescription drug abuse and information on local treatment services for substance abuse. Unwanted or expired prescription medications were collected for safe disposal at designated sites around Baton Rouge on October 29th. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, an estimated 188.5 tons of medications were collected throughout the country this year.

Studies have found that the majority of teens who abuse prescription drugs get them for free from family and friends, including from household medicine cabinets. The number of deaths from overdoses from pain pills in America has more than tripled in the last decade. Dr. Kasofsky, CAHSD Executive Director, notes, "Drug abuse/addiction, criminal acts, accidental poisonings, and overdoses put added strain on our families, community and law enforcement personnel. We must do everything we can to limit illegitimate access to, and expand treatment for, abuse of these drugs."

For More Information:

Amy Traylor

Capital Area Human
Services District

4615 Government Street, Bldg. 2

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

225.922.2700

www.cahsd.org



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