



OHIO COUNTY

Madison Elementary School

In partnership with Northwood Health Systems

1 SCHOOL • GRADES PRE-K THROUGH 5 • 279 STUDENTS

MARCH 2013

Responding to Community Needs. Madison Elementary School on Wheeling Island had already partnered with Northwood Health Systems to provide mental health support to students and families. But many parents refused the services available due to the social stigma of mental health, and many parents did not want to pull their children out of school to attend appointments.

So when Ohio County Schools applied for an Expanded School Mental Health planning grant in 2010, the school leadership team began to meet on a regular basis to evaluate the need for services and develop a comprehensive plan.

Multiple Tiers of Service. With an implementation grant in 2012, Madison now has additional services, parent education programs, and space for a child therapy room at the school (*pictured*). The school uses Title 1 funds for a full-time school counselor and has made it a priority to schedule developmental guidance in each K-5 classroom for 30 minutes every week, including the *Second Step* curriculum and "Too Good for Drugs," purchased by the Ohio County Substance Abuse Prevention program. A "Kool Kids" middle school transition program is also offered for Madison's fifth graders.

Madison Elementary's "Center for Hope & Change" (before & after photos)



Impact on Students & Families. Having the services at school during the school day reduces the barriers for children to get needed services and minimizes the disruption to their education. First year outcomes include improved attendance, increased social skills, decreased aggression, and improved relationships. In addition, Madison Elementary was named a 2012 WV Title 1 Distinguished School - one of 12 out of 329 Title 1 schools in West Virginia.

2012-13 ESMH SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS FOR MADISON ELEMENTARY:

"For All" (Tier 1):

- 37 staff trained to become a Trauma-Informed School
- 30-35 Families attending Family Night Program
- Positive Behavior Support (250 students)

"For Some" (Tier 2):

- 24 students receive mentoring, after-school group counseling and other academic/behavior supports
- "Kool Kids" significantly impacting 5th grade attendance rate

"For a Few" (Tier 3):

- 22 students receive individual, group & family therapy through Northwood "Choices" program
- "Center for Hope & Change" offers supports after school and over the summer

"My advice to my colleagues would be to embrace a program like this. No school is without issues among their students. Every school, no matter what the background, could benefit from having this additional resource."

*Nikki Kacmarik, Principal
Madison Elementary*

SUCCESS STORY:

"Joey" is a kindergartner who at the beginning of the school year would crawl onto tops of tables and be generally disruptive. After a few months in the Expanded School Mental Health program he is learning skills to communicate without becoming violent or disruptive in the classroom. He is learning better ways to cope with issues in his personal life, and is a much more stable, happy boy.

Visit

www.schoolmentalhealthwv.org

Or click link below to

[DOWNLOAD MORE INFORMATION \(Ohio Co./Madison ESMH Power Point\)](#)



This publication was prepared by the West Virginia School Health Technical Assistance Center at Marshall University.

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Leadership for The West Virginia School Mental Health Initiative is a shared commitment of the West Virginia Department of Health & Human Resources, Bureau for Behavioral Health & Health Facilities; and the West Virginia Department of Education.