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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



NEW FUNDING ALLOWS MENTAL HEALTH SCREENINGS FOR STUDENTS AT GRANDVIEW C-4 SCHOOLS

KANSAS CITY, MO. - It's no secret that access to mental health services is a critical need to communities across the nation. In fact, according to JacksonGov.org, more than 30,000 Jackson County citizens of every age, race, religion and income are impacted by mental health challenges. For decades, Cornerstones of Care has been partnering with organizations, schools and the state of Missouri and Kansas to improve the safety and health of children and families in our community. But, recent funding awards by the Jackson County Children's Services Fund will allow greater access to critical mental health services for Jackson County families.

Launch of Mental Health Services in Five Grandview, MO Schools

Beginning May of 2018, Cornerstones of Care will partner with the Grandview School District to conduct voluntary school-based social and emotional health screenings to 3rd - 5th graders. Students identified to have an elevated mental health risk, along with their family, will receive ongoing support and resources to remain safe and healthy. This is a new program with no waitlist, meaning 100% of students and families who sign up will immediately receive services.

"Cornerstones of Care is eager to partner with Grandview School District to better meet the mental and behavioral healthcare needs of children, youth and families in the District. By leveraging our collective resources, we can provide more services and each entity can focus on what it does best. Every child in grades 3-5, whose parent consents, will receive a social emotional wellness screening. Care navigation is available to students and families who need it," said Stephen O'Neill, Cornerstone's Chief Program Officer.

During the 2016-2017 academic year, Grandview elementary schools received 45 hotline calls and 11 elementary students were referred for a suicide assessment*.

"Many of our students are dealing with situations that they struggle to process by themselves which creates a barrier to their education. We believe that this partnership, in addition to our district counselors and student assistance program, will assist us in meeting that need that continues to grow each day," said Dr. Kenny Rodriquez, Grandview C-4 Superintendent.

These services will reduce future mental health crises with stream-lined early interventions designed for children **and** their family.

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About Cornerstones of Care:

Cornerstones of Care has a long legacy of partnering with children and families to create safe and healthy communities. It serves more than 10,000 children and families through education, mental & behavioral health, foster care & adoption, youth & family support, and community trainings in Kansas, Missouri and beyond. For more information, visit cornerstonesofcare.org.

**Administered and reported by the Missouri Department of Mental Health in 2016*