



# Program Information

# Key Problem ?

Nationwide, the average school counselor ratio per student in our nation's lowest-income communities is 1-to-900, nearly three-times the federal guidelines. This decline in student support services is happening at a time when 4 out of 10 students suffer from an untreated behavioral health disorder. Limited school system resources for students requiring behavioral health services has a detrimental impact on student attendance, instructional time, disciplinary referrals and school climate.

# When/Where, 180 Days of Service ?

Every school day, the Transitional Coach Program collaborates with students, school administrators, and school staff to improve student attendance and reduce disciplinary referrals, resulting in increased instructional time.

# What is the Transitional Coach Program?

We believe that every child is uniquely gifted and full of potential. Our program is designed to help kids overcome challenges such as academic underachievement, bullying, negative peer influences, grief/loss, low self-esteem, and more. We do this through the use of group work facilitated by a Transitional Coach. Coaches develop, foster and sustain positive, professional and effective relationships with students, parents, staff and the entire school community at these school sites. Coaches aim to support and complement the overarching mission, goals and objectives of the school and District.

# What is a Transitional Coach (1)?

The Transitional Coaching Program matches trained experts (Transitional Coaches) with students meeting early warning indicators, many of which who have been exposed to pervasive violence and trauma. Coaches provide over 180 hours of student coaching sessions per each child enrolled in the student leadership initiative focused on improving student academic, social, and behavioral outcomes. Additionally, Coaches support district policies and practices that shift school discipline away from zero tolerance to interventions that focus on teaching and engagement.

# What is a Transitional Coach (2) ?

A Transitional Coach is a professional with education and training in a number of associated and related fields, including counseling and social work. One Coach is assigned to each school, unless the school decides more are needed. The Coach works closely with the school leadership team, staff and faculty, focusing on the “whole child,” through the implementation of an evidenced-based curriculum. We address topics such as respecting authority, setting and achieving goals, responding assertively rather than aggressively, substance use prevention, respecting the cultural background of oneself and others, valuing oneself and others, etc.

# What is a Transitional Coach (3)?

Transitional Coaches must meet the qualification standards for clinicians as defined by the state Medicaid Community Behavioral Health Services and Coverage Limitations Handbook. As per these guidelines, clinicians are either masters or bachelors level graduates in a related field of healing arts. Some of our coaches are licensed clinicians.

# What is a Transitional Coach (4)?

Transitional Coaches receive 40 hours of specialized training to orient them to our unique, evidenced-based model. Additionally, we have leadership teams dedicated to performing observations and fidelity checks against our evidenced-based model, as well as to ensure compliance and continuity.



# How Does a Transitional Coach Work in Your Child's School?

Typically, we run the program once or twice per week in a designated classroom space within your school. However, we can custom tailor our approach to fit the academic needs of students.

# How Many Students does a Transitional Coach work with?

A Transitional Coach will target the 5-10% of the student population that accounts for 80% of the behavioral disruption on campus.

# How can students participate in the program?

**How can students participate in the program?** Students are introduced to the program by the Coach on campus. If the student decides they would like to be a part of the program they are provided with a Program Registration Form (PRF), which is the consent form for participation. The PRF requires a guardian's signature.

**Why do we ask for the information noted on the Program Registration Form?** We need to be able to identify which managed care company a student belongs to in order to request program enrollment. Services are at NO cost to the family, the school, the student, and at NO impact on the family or student's insurance premium or plan.

# Why is the Program Registration Form Required?

Participation in the program is voluntary. Once we get the approval from the school principal, we begin the process of introducing ourselves and our program to students. Our Transitional Coaches speak to students and their peers about the benefits of the program. If the student is interested, the coach provides the student with a copy of our Program Registration Form which seeks explicit consent to participate in the program by the parent or guardian. It is also customary for our Transitional Coaches to build and foster productive relationships with school site leadership teams, faculty and staff, as well as to attend open house events and other school-based activities.

# Member Benefit?

Yes, the Transitional Coaching Program is supported by health insurance plans much like the grants that support countless children's services in your community. Services are considered a member benefit to the family's insurance coverage, not impacting a family's insurance services or coverage. Similar to when you visit a dentist for a free dental cleaning, our services are a member benefit for your current plan. Transitional Coaching Program is available to some students regardless of insurance coverage. We do not turn these otherwise eligible students away from our services.

# Why are student/family Medicaid Id's collected?

The program is a school-based student leadership initiatives funded and monitored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. As a result, Medicaid numbers are one of the few identifiers used to track program results and ensure a real person is being served once a parent has consented to the child's enrollment.

# Are your Transitional Coaches Providing Therapy ?

Transitional Coaches provide evidence-based interventions incorporating Motivational Interviewing, Cultural Responsivity, and Strengths-Based approaches that promote positive student behavior and academic outcomes. Transitional Coaches provide behavioral health interventions; not psychiatric or med-management services.