Southwest Behavior Jr./Sr. HS

Request for Information Response

Nevada Department of Education as Provided by

SB 515, Section 23

Social worker or other licensed mental health professional

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To:

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SECTION II
NARRATIVE

Southwest Behavior Jr. / Sr. High School

Southwest Behavior Junior/Senior High School is an alternative educational site that has serviced the ten middle schools and six high schools in the southwest area of CCSD since 2003. Students are temporarily or permanently expelled from their traditional campuses and sent to our behavior program for 6 to 18 weeks depending on their infraction. Last year we were 19% Caucasian, 28.3 % African American, 38% Hispanic (66.5% male and 33.5 female). Special Education students comprised of 17% and the ELL students were 11.2%. Our Free and Reduced Lunch program was well over 60% last year, giving us currently free breakfast and lunches for all students. The social-economic status of our parents generally is low causing instability and lack of resource. The majority of our students are referred due to emotional/social problems with approximately 50% of the infractions related to drugs or alcohol usage.

All of our students have exhibited at-risk, mal-adaptive behavior which is the cause for them attending our school. Although we have had a social worker intern assigned to our school for the past year and a half through the Empowerment Center, it is only once a week because it is not a paid position. Last year approximately 86 students (including students who were seen multiple times) were logged in and over 33 students so far this semester. But since it is just an intern position, we are constantly losing this valuable resource and students are not having the consistency and long-term follow through that they desperately need. 22% of our students return to our behavior program, because they were not given enough help and counseling the first time around.

Our school also has mentoring through the Determined Grandmothers, which meets with students once a week to help give support to our students. The social worker could help expand and assist on the much needed daily attention and follow through with the needs of our students. We also have the Truancy Diversion Program that tries to encourage students with attendance issues to come to school. Unfortunately, the Truancy program also does not do enough for the students who are potential dropouts and refusing to come to school.

Since we have had a successful track record on campus of using community resources to help our students with mental and emotional health issues, we could have each student meet at the intake session with the counselor. In turn, the counselor will be the liaison to the rest of the staff and schedule parent conferences whenever needed. The staff including the itinerant nurse meets

weekly to refer students needing the social worker's support and guidance. Those hours will be expanded from the current weekly 4 hours to 6 hours per day, 5 days a week.