



PRESS RELEASE

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Pennsbury, St. Mary Medical Center, and Family Service Partner to Provide On-Site Mental Health Counseling for Students and Families

(FALLSINGTON, PA – February 6, 2018) Pennsbury has launched an on-site mental health counseling program on Mondays and Fridays for students and families at the high school level in conjunction with the District’s newly-formed Addiction and Mental Health Task Force. In a partnership with St. Mary Medical Center and Family Service Association of Bucks County, clinical counseling at Pennsbury High School East began this month through a grant from St. Mary Medical Center to Family Service. The District will continue to work with St. Mary and Family Service in order to build capacity and expand the service to middle and elementary students and families, as well.

“This is a key component to the added services that we are providing to our students as a result of our new Task Force,” said Sherri Morett, Director of Special Education, who is spearheading the program for the School District. “Students in crisis require specialized attention, and this partnership enables us to take clinical action as needed. We are truly grateful to our community partners for working with us to provide this new addition to our on-site counseling services.” The District also signed on with the Caron Foundation at the start of this school year to conduct on-site assessments for students who need help. Referrals made by the Caron representatives will result in the client base for the new mental health counseling.

Pennsbury announced the formation of the Addiction and Mental Health Task Force in August, 2017 during a press conference led by School Board President, Jacqueline Redner. Since then, the group has formed multiple subcommittees addressing a variety of issues and maximized Pennsbury stakeholder involvement with contributions by School Directors, administrators, local elected officials, special education supervisors, social workers, nurses, and many others. To date, two community forums have been staged for the public, with a focus on the theme, “Committed to Life.” The first forum occurred at Charles Boehm Middle School in October, and the second took place at William Penn Middle School in January.

At the urging of the School Board, Pennsbury is taking the lead in the fight against opioid addiction with a focus on mental health supports and suicide prevention, enhancements to existing drug and alcohol awareness programs, and the development of further collaborative efforts with local agencies.

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