

School Based Mental Health Services Memorandum of Agreement Arisa Health and Gentry School District

Overview:

The Gentry School District recognizes the need for education, early intervention, and prevention in regards to student mental/emotional health issues. The following is a memorandum of agreement between Gentry School District (SD) and Arisa Health, Inc. (ARISA), in regard to mental health services to be provided in Gentry District. The terms of this agreement shall begin and be effective for the 2023-2024 school year. Review of the agreement will take place prior to the commencement of the 2024-2025 school year.

Arisa Health, Inc.:

Arisa Health, Inc. is a non-profit behavioral health organization formed in 2020 providing comprehensive behavioral health services to the residents of 41 counties in Arkansas. Under the governance of its Board of Directors, Arisa maintains four Community Mental Health Center affiliates. The affiliates are: Counseling Associates, Inc., based in Conway; Mid-South Health Systems, Inc., based in Jonesboro; Professional Counseling Associates, Inc., based in North Little Rock; and Ozark Guidance Center, Inc., based in Springdale. The joining of these four organizations is the result of a recognized need for a new kind of organization that allows for greater intra-agency collaboration, sharing of resources and an enhanced ability to provide high quality behavioral health services to some of Arkansas' most vulnerable populations. Arisa employs 229 school-based providers located in over 250 schools throughout 48 school districts. Arisa collectively has a wealth of knowledge and expertise serving students in a school setting by rendering services to approximately 10,000 students within the school setting each year.

Responsibilities of Gentry School District

- SD will provide reasonable access to the school facilities for the ARISA mental health providers in a space adequate for mental health services with clients and parents or legal guardian, allowing total confidentiality, assigned by the building Principal. The mental health provider will follow applicable SD policies regarding access and codes of conduct.
- SD will provide internet connection sufficient for ARISA mental health providers to conduct documentation on a daily basis.
- SD will notify ARISA of any necessary change in space provided for ARISA mental health providers in a timely manner and will provide an alternate space if necessary.
- SD will identify to ARISA a primary contact with whom all communication between ARISA and SD will occur and with whom ARISA and SD shall attempt to resolve any disputes or issues.
- SD will reasonably cooperate with ARISA in the provision of mental health services to students of SD.

Responsibilities of ARISA

- ARISA will employ the licensed mental health providers who work in the SD.

- ARISA will provide malpractice insurance for the licensed mental health providers working in SD.
- ARISA will provide professional oversight for the licensure, credentialing, continuing education and professional certification of the licensed mental health provider working in SD.
- ARISA will provide the following services as medically needed at the discretion of the mental health provider: Individual Therapy, Group Therapy, Family Therapy, Psychoeducation, Crisis Psychotherapy, Behavioral Assistance, and other services provided by Mental Health Professionals and Qualified Behavioral Health Providers. All goals and objectives will be determined by student needs, staff availability and mental health provider's expertise/knowledge. Mental health providers will utilize medical necessity criteria for appropriateness of mental health services when assessing potential students for services.
- Medicaid, private insurance and direct pay will be billed by ARISA consistently with third party payers, regulatory and ARISA fee agreement and payment policies. ARISA will also explore any other assistance programs available for qualifying families.
- ARISA will provide case coordination services to include but not limited to the following: Management of PCP referrals, consultation, advocacy, and collaboration with community providers and resources based on student and family needs.
- ARISA agrees to provide indirect services such as faculty in-service trainings, referrals, parent education, student team staffing, staff meetings, classroom consultation/observation, and support groups for students, etc. as needed or reasonably requested by SD staff.
- ARISA mental health providers will participate in Individual Education Plan, English as a Second Language, Special Education, 504 or parent teacher conferences upon reasonable request. ARISA will assist in assuring continuation of quality mental health services to students as they transition to their next grade level or another school in the district.
- ARISA mental health providers will follow the reasonable and known expectations of the school principal, school counselor, and/or parents regarding when students may be pulled from class to receive services.
- Subject to any restrictions regarding privacy, ARISA will maintain and provide statistics, demographic data, survey results or reports annually to the SD in matters relating to school based mental health. ARISA can provide this information at other times in the year upon request of the SD.
- During the summer months, ARISA staff will help to ensure that therapeutic gains are maintained by offering services at school, clinic, or home locations and/or through use of structured therapeutic programs. Transportation may be provided based on need.
- ARISA mental health providers are mandated reporters by law and as such will report all suspected forms of child maltreatment.
- ARISA will increase intensity of school based services, as may be authorized by the client's payor source, when the student is becoming at risk for an out of school placement due to behavioral health needs.
- ARISA Therapeutic Day Treatment (TDT) program will develop a transition plan collaboratively with the SD when clients are returning to the school. This transition plan can be adjusted if needed by communicating any concerns to the TDT Program Coordinator.

General Provisions:

- Any modifications to this agreement must be mutually agreed upon and shall be made in writing. Any waiver of any provisions to this agreement must be in writing and signed by the party giving the waiver.
- SD maintains the right to refuse to permit any mental health provider to work in SD if the district determines it is not in the best interest of the district, its students or families.
- Both parties will abide by the privacy provisions of HIPAA and FERPA and the other provisions of any applicable laws.
- SD and ARISA agree to use each of their good faith efforts to resolve any disputes or issues between SD and ARISA. If those efforts do not resolve the dispute or issue, then SD and ARISA agree to mediate the dispute or issue. If mediation becomes necessary between the SD and ARISA, the ARISA Vice President of Clinical Services will be the primary contact for resolving issues.
- ARISA and the SD will work collaboratively to outline and regularly review the referral process. ARISA will provide minimum of monthly updates to building principals and counselors in the form of a “Resource and Referral” meeting. This will allow for all parties to be updated at one time in a collaborative manner.

Signatures:

Gentry School District:

Superintendent

Date

Arisa Health, Inc.:



6/2/23

Vice President of Clinical Services

Date



6/2/23

Vice President of Clinical Services, NW Region

Date