Working in partnership with Boston Public Schools (BPS), The Boston School-Based Behavioral Health Collaborative (The Collaborative) is a collective of state, city, and community-based organizations committed to promoting the behavioral health, well-being, and academic success of students.

The BSBBHC is dedicated to ensuring equitable access to high quality, culturally competent school-based behavioral health services and resources for all students in Boston Public Schools (BPS). This is accomplished through best practices in therapeutic service delivery, prevention programming, advocacy, training, systems integration, family engagement, and collaboration.

On the first Monday of each month, representatives from the 20+ community organizations convene to discuss current needs in behavioral health, to establish best practices, and to plan professional development opportunities.

In the 20-21 school year, thanks to a partnership with Mightier by Neuromotion Labs, BPS was able to create a position to support and further the important work of the Collaborative.

This annual report aims to share the work that was accomplished through this new position and by the Collaborative as a whole, with special consideration for the many challenges that were faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
The Standards of Practice, revised in 2019 by Collaborative members, were developed to support a vision for equitable access to high quality, culturally relevant behavioral health support, which necessitates a high quality partnership between community behavioral/mental health agencies and school communities. These standards are intended to inform both educators (e.g., BPS school leaders, teachers, and support staff) as well as outside agency staff (e.g., clinicians, program directors, and clinical supervisors) about the roles, responsibilities, and relationships which foster high-quality, culturally relevant behavioral health supports at both the district level and school level.

In order to support more equitable access to high quality behavioral/mental health service for all students, the Standards of Practice address the following areas:

- Culturally Responsive Practices
- District-Level Partnership Guidance
- School-Level Partnership Guidance
- Service Delivery Across Tiers
- Documentation
- Communication
- Assessment
- Transitions
- Emergency Crisis Protocols

View the full Standards of Practice document HERE
Based on data collected in the PartnerBPS portal for the 20-21 school year:

85+

**SCHOOLS**

At least 85 out of 125 BPS schools have one or more community behavioral/mental health partner.

23+

**AGENCIES**

Over 23 different behavioral health agencies offer behavioral health programming to BPS students in school-based, outpatient, and inpatient settings.

10+

**SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS**

A wide variety of school-based behavioral health programs are offered to BPS students by community partners.

Photo by Tamanna Rumee on Unsplash
An important way that the Collaborative supports high-quality behavioral health service provision is through the offering of annual trainings in diverse skill and knowledge areas.

Traditionally, the Collaborative members work together to organize the Annual January Conference, which is a day-long, in-person professional development and networking opportunity open to all BPS and community partner clinicians on the last day of Winter Break. At this conference, clinicians are able to select training sessions that address their specific skill or knowledge level and area of need. In addition, time is reserved for inter-agency networking in order to promote more effective collaboration and communication.

This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, an in-person conference was not feasible. Instead, the Collaborative took the opportunity to have a shorter, virtual Trinity Conference in which student voice was highlighted and clinicians were provided with tips and resources for tele-health.

To supplement the shorter virtual conference, the Collaborative then offered a virtual monthly training series. Each monthly training lasted two hours and included both information and practice opportunities. Topics covered in these monthly sessions included: Supporting Students At Risk for Suicide, Using Sport And Play As A Virtual Mental Health Intervention, The Nurtured Heart Approach, and Restorative Justice.
Thanks to a generous, multi-year funding commitment from Mightier by Neuromotion Labs, BPS was able to create a part-time position to support the important work of the Collaborative in the following ways:

**MAINTAIN STANDARDS**
Facilitate monthly Collaborative meetings and check-in to ensure all behavioral health service-providers are upholding established standards of practice.

**ORGANIZE TRAININGS**
Organize and support the annual January conference and a new monthly training series, through which all Boston-based clinicians could access professional development on a diverse set of topics.

**SUPPORT NETWORKING**
Support opportunities for inter-agency networking by building in explicit time during trainings and facilitating resource-sharing through Collaborative-wide communications (e.g., emails, newsletters).

**COORDINATE SERVICES**
Support partners in reporting program-level data and use this information to coordinate and ensure equity of behavioral health service delivery across the district.
CURRENT PARTNERS

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health
The Home for Little Wanderers
Boston Children’s Hospital Neighborhood Partnerships (BCHNP)
Boston University
William James College
Doc Wayne Youth Services
Trinity Boston Connects
Children’s Services of Roxbury
Alliance for Inclusion & Prevention
Wediko Children’s Services
South End Community Health Center
BRYT
Boston Public Health Commission
Suffolk County Children’s Advocacy Center
Italian Home for Children (BAMHA)
Boston Emergency Services Team (BEST)
Samaritans, Inc.
Walker Community Counseling
Key Steps, Inc.
South Bay Community Services
Youth Connect / Epic
Arbour Hospital
Arbour Counseling Services, Jamaica Plain

ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE.
TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH.

--Helen Keller

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