

United Way

SUCCESS **B**Y **6**TM



The Education Matters Initiative

ISSUE

- Funding and support for children's and youth social and emotional health
- Improvements in mental health services for youth in the juvenile justice system
- Expansion and support for Communities in Schools

PRIORITY

YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE LUBBOCK AREA WILL HAVE THE SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SKILLS NECESSARY FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

CURRENT STATUS

- 20% of youth in public schools have some kind of social-emotional problems.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Only 18% of children who were eligible for public mental health services received them from the state last year.
- Budget requests submitted by Health and Human Services Commission and the Department of State Health Services will not allow the agencies to provide services to more children than they are currently serving.
- Each year there are approximately 876 children who have a diagnosis of schizophrenia, bipolar, or major depression who are not linked with ongoing care once their crisis is stabilized.
- Texas Juvenile Probation Commission reports in 2006, 41% of its youth had mental health problems. Texas Youth Commission reports that in 2007, 38% of its committed youth has serious mental health problems.
- South Plains Communities in Schools serves over 4,500 students and reports an 86% improvement in behavior with targeted students in the program.

AT THE LUBBOCK COUNTY
J U V E N I L E
DETENTION CENTER,

**294 YOUTH ARE
ANXIOUS/DEPRESSED**

**184 HAVE
EXPERIMENTED
WITH DRUGS AND/OR ALCOHOL**

**188 HAVE HAD
SUICIDAL IDEATIONS**

*ACCORDING TO THE LUBBOCK
COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION
CENTER'S ASSESSMENT TOOL.*

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Best practices in children’s mental health is to provide services using “systems of care” model that coordinates delivery of services from multiple agencies.
- Coordination of services by Community Resource Coordination Groups and flexible funding are key components of the “system of care” approach.
- To promote optimal outcomes, it is important that mental health issues are properly identified, diagnosed and addressed early, even at the pre-school level.
- Despite research that shows appropriate aftercare services reduces recidivism rates and saves the public money, there is not state funding for local Community Resource Coordination Groups which oversee care after incarceration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support proposals from the Texas Children’s Mental Health Forum
 - Coordinate an Inter-agency Strategic Plan on Children’s Mental Health
 - Support increased funding for Children’s Mental Health Services
 - Improve Mental Health Services for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System
- Support continued and expanded funding for Communities in Schools programming.