

Appendix A

Enhanced Services for Students and Families Served Through Skagit Discovery 2012-2013 School Year

A Collaborative Agreement between Northwest Educational Service District 189 and Catholic Community Services WW/NW

The Skagit Discovery program, an educational program of Northwest Educational Service District 189 (NWESD), and Catholic Community Services WW/NW (CCSWW/NW), a mental health agency providing services to children, have established a cooperative agreement to implement the program described in this proposal.

This program is directed toward the development of increased collaboration between the mental health and educational systems for the direct benefit of special needs children and their families. Services to be provided through this program will utilize a team approach involving the above participants and offer a range of both educational and mental health services on site at the Skagit Discovery program located in Sedro-Woolley, WA. In addition to direct services provided on site, coordinated case management, home-based services, and parent education will be available. In addition, due to the conjoined sponsorship of this program, a wide range of other services offered through the mental health partner to this agreement will also be available to Skagit Discovery program students. It is the intent that services through this agreement will be available to all students in the Skagit Discovery program, with the exception of psychiatry and medication management for non-Medicaid eligible children.

I. Importance of Collaborative Services for High-Need Children

We are increasingly aware of the importance of close collaboration between educational programs and other human service systems. This is particularly true for children experiencing emotional and behavioral disorders.

Seriously emotionally disturbed and behaviorally disturbed children have needs across service systems. Seldom do they have problems in just one intervention area. As was noted in the 1999 U.S. Surgeon General's Report, "the multiple problems associated with serious emotional disturbance in children and adolescents is best addressed with a systems approach in which multiple service sectors work in an organized and collaborative way."¹

This need has also been recognized by the educational system of Washington State. In its final report, the Task Force of Behavioral Disabilities, convened by the Washington

¹ Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General. Washington D.C., U.S. Public Health Service, Washington, D.C., 1999.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services, noted that to meet the needs of children and families, “an infrastructure must be established to coordinate existing services through a trans-disciplinary ‘comprehensive system of care,’ cutting across boundaries of funding, professions, disciplines, and roles, and relying on extensive collaboration from families, education, social, human and health services.”²

This agreement is an effort to address the issue of increased collaboration between education, mental health, and other social service systems.

II. Children Served through the Skagit Discovery program

The Skagit Discovery program currently has an enrollment of approximately 32 17 children. From an earlier review of student records, 50% of those children served in the Skagit Discovery program were concurrently involved in public mental health programs. It has been noted that a significant portion, in excess of 70%, come from low income or Title XIX eligible families. Thus, many of these children are appropriate for mental health services through the public mental health system.

III. Traditional mental health services provided to children enrolled in the Skagit Discovery program

CCSWW/NW has provided direct mental health care to children served within the Skagit Discovery program for many years. It will be the goal of this agreement to continue and enhance the provision of mental health services to this group of children through an increased level of coordination, and an increased intensity of on-site (at Skagit Discovery program) service provision.

IV. Agreement Goals and Objectives

It is the goal of this agreement to establish integrated mental health services at the Skagit Discovery program that will provide more effectively integrated and comprehensive service to children and families through increased collaboration between CCSWW/NW and the Skagit Discovery program.

The following objectives have been established for this agreement:

- Provide comprehensive and effective evaluations and assessments of children at Skagit Discovery in conjunction with Skagit Discovery staff as related to mental health and social service needs;
- Implement a team approach providing a range of therapeutic activities and services within the Skagit Discovery program for children requiring them;
- Offer case management services to students and their families served through the Skagit Discovery program;

² T. Bergeson, OSPI Task Force on Behavioral Disabilities, Final Report, Olympia, WA 1999

- Ensure effective linkages, referrals, and services through a range of other mental health programs operated by the mental health partner to this agreement;
- Bring a wide range of other human services to bear upon the needs of these children and their families through an effective system of referrals;
- Increase collaboration between CCSWW/NW around meeting the integrated service needs of these children.

V. Implementation

This agreement will implement a jointly funded and integrated program at the Skagit Discovery program. Counseling, case management, referral services, and parent education will be available through the mental health partner to this effort.

This program will be coordinated by a master's level children's mental health professional, who will be stationed full time at the Skagit Discovery program. Duties for this position will include:

- Design treatment plans in consultation with parents, teachers, community mental health, and other service providers. Assist staff in implementing the plans;
- Provide direct individual and group counseling services as needed;
- Provide classroom-based instruction on topics such as anger management, social skills, human sexuality, etc.;
- Assist staff in conducting a functional assessment of students' baseline social/emotional functioning;
- Assist teachers in developing and implementing specific behavior management plans pursuant to the IEP and functional analysis;
- Coordinate and monitor transition/mainstreaming plans for students in consultation with Skagit Discovery staff, parents, and school district personnel;
- Provide emergency counseling for students in crisis as needed. Assist staff in the management and resolution of student crises.

This agreement will also provide case management services through CCSWW/NW.

First, CCSWW/NW will provide a .4 FTE case manager specifically assigned to the Skagit Discovery program to work with the mental health coordinator (social worker/counselor). This staff position will function as part of the Integrated Service Team and be available to serve any child enrolled in the Skagit Discovery program.

Second, CCSWW/NW will provide case management services for children in the program who are concurrently enrolled in the mental health system. This case manager will work under the general supervision of the mental health coordinator while on site.

Third, CCSWW/NW will provide assurance by executing this agreement with NWESD that employees and volunteers of CCSWW/NW who will have regularly scheduled unsupervised access to children shall have a record check through the Washington State Patrol Criminal Identification System in compliance with RCW 43.43.830 through 43.43.834, 10.97.030, 10.97.050, and through the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The record check shall include a fingerprint check using a complete Washington State Criminal Identification fingerprint card. If the applicant has had a record check within the previous two years, CCSWW/NW may waive the requirement.

Major duties of the Case Manager position could include:

- Assisting with evaluation and assessments;
- Providing direct individual and family counseling and support;
- Investigating the availability of and securing resources for children and families;
- Providing transportation to critical appointments;
- Conducting home visits in support of the therapeutic plan;
- Providing consultation with and coordination of services in conjunction with other educational and mental health staff;
- Assist classroom staff in implementing behavior management plans.

Parents at the Skagit Discovery program will be assisted to engage with parent education programs now available and offered through the mental health system in the Sedro-Woolley community.

It is anticipated that many of the children seen in the Skagit Discovery program will require services and support from other mental health programs offered by the public mental health providers within the region. For example, children may require the support of tribal mental health specialists stationed in other locations within the county. Specialized parent training and ADHD services will be available through CCSWW/NW. Children in the CHAP program will receive services from CHAP therapists and case managers who will closely coordinate their efforts with other therapeutic activities conducted at the Skagit Discovery program site. These serve as examples of types of programs operated by the community mental health partner to this program that will be available and closely coordinated with the core mental health team.