

Department of Pediatrics UR Medicine and Rochester Regional Health - Jeffrey Mark Kaczorowski

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Organization Profile

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Mission/Vision Mission: We do everything in our power to help every child reach their fullest potential.
Vision: Improving kid's lives

Receive County Funds? YES - REACH (Referral and Evaluation service for Abused Children) program contract with Monroe County

Div. of Corp. N/A? yes

Proposal Information

Project Name Enhanced Access to Behavioral Health and Medical Care for All Rochester City School District Students

Summary Mental health for children and youth in the U.S. is a crisis, one that has been worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic. As many as 40% of children in the US are currently suffering with depression or anxiety, double the rate pre-pandemic. In Monroe County, a 2022 parent poll indicated that 6 out of 10 youth in the City of Rochester are struggling with mental health issues. Working together with parent/family and community partners, our two major health systems, UR Medicine/Golisano Children's and Rochester Regional Health, will collaborate to 1) establish a school-based telehealth infrastructure providing telehealth services for behavioral health and medical care in all 46 Rochester City School District (RCSD) public schools, with a pilot for charter schools and 2) establish an additional 8 RCSD school-based mental health clinics (double the current number) over 4 years. In Years 2 through 4, we will leverage this infrastructure to partner with Jordan Health, independent pediatric practices, and community-based organizations to provide more students with care. Children and youth will be able to access mental health services, be screened for mental health concerns, receive counseling for trauma and care for behavioral health concerns that are complicated due to developmental disabilities. Our Steering Team will include parents, youth, and community members. We anticipate that over 1000 children will receive services Year 1, and that services will be available throughout RCSD for all students by Year 4. The project will be sustainable at the end of 4 years through billing for healthcare services.

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|----------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Workforce/Economic? | Health/Safety? | Infrastructure/Sustainability? |
| no | yes | no |

Description This project advances the Public Health and Public Safety Goal and specifically the "Prioritize Behavioral and Mental Health" Pillar of Success. There is "Operational collaboration and cross-sector support" across both hospital systems (RRH's and UR Medicine/GCH's primary care, developmental and behavioral health teams) as well as Jordan Health, family medicine and independent pediatric practices. Cross-sector collaboration between health, education (RCSD) and human services (CBOs) is strengthened by engagement with youth and parent/family partners. We will work closely with the Whole Child Initiative of ROC The Future Alliance in elevating the leadership and direction from parent/family partners from the beginning of the project, and CBO collaborators in Years 2 through 4. These may include Children's Institute, Mt. Hope Family Center, Villa of Hope, Center for Youth Services, CCSI and Common Ground Health. Aligning medical and behavioral healthcare delivery with their efforts brings even greater access and connection to needed resources. This project will also help fulfill the Bring Monroe Back Numerical Metric for Public Health and Public Safety of "Increase rate of Behavioral Health Services in Monroe County used by the Demographic" with a critical focus on equity in access for children and youth in RCSD.

b. No, this project would not be possible without ARPA funding. Grant funding typically supports a specific program or approach. This system-wide transformation across health, education, and human services involves all major providers of health services for children with a design and continuous improvement structure that incorporates ongoing youth/parent/family leadership to assure relevance and trust. The project will be sustainable after 2026 through established billing and revenue for telemedicine and mental health services. While reimbursement for telemedicine already exists, this innovative telehealth model requires building the infrastructure: TytoCare telemedicine units at each school, support and training for staff, established consent processes, workflows for scheduling and coordination, documentation and billing. As services are first made available they may not be used to the extent needed to sustain them through billing and reimbursement. Sustainability will be achieved through billing as this telehealth model is brought to scale across all RCSD schools and with the increasing numbers of participating healthcare practices/services. For the school-based mental health clinic component of this project, once established, these 8 clinics can sustain their service delivery through billing reimbursement with a small investment needed only for integrated support and consultation to school teams. These integrated school-based mental health clinics have been successfully sustained in other Monroe County school districts.

c. This project will increase accessibility to mental and developmental/behavioral health and medical services by allowing them to be accessed in schools. Telemedicine technology units at each school allow linkage for students to primary care and developmental/behavioral health teams with simultaneous connection to parents/family if desired. Consent from parents will be obtained through the schools. There will be no parent or student co-pay costs for these services. Transportation barriers to go into the doctor's office will be markedly reduced, as will the need for loss of time from school or work or added childcare costs. Options for in-person visits at a child's primary care practice can still be accessed. We are starting with Golisano Children's Hospital Pediatric Practice (UR Medicine) and Rochester Regional Health pediatric practices who together care for more than 50% of children in the City. In Years 2- 4 we will add Jordan Health and 3 independent pediatric practices serving significant numbers of RCSD children. We will work to ensure that children and families are seen by their practice, their "medical home," and doctor whenever possible. Telehealth access to behavioral health screening and supports will also include GCH Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics experts providing telehealth assessments and behavioral consultations for children with suspected or diagnosed intellectual or developmental disabilities. 19% of children in RCSD are classified as students receiving special education and some of these students have complex developmental disabilities that complicate diagnosis and behavioral health management.

For expansion of school-based mental health clinics, UR Medicine Child Psychiatry will develop 4 new school sites over 4 years. Sites will be determined in partnership with RCSD and will likely include World of Inquiry School #58 and Monroe Lower School and Monroe Upper School. Rochester Regional Health will develop 4 new school based mental health sites, likely to include School of the Arts, Wilson Foundation Academy, and Wilson Commencement Academy.

d) We will measure the number of children and youth who receive access to mental and behavioral health services, as well as telemedicine services for other health issues, throughout the project on a quarterly basis. We are exploring with RCSD whether we might also look at data regarding attendance and school performance, including reduction in disciplinary actions. We will also look at annual trends in emergency room visits for children and youth in RCSD. In Year 1 of the project we will engage with over 1000 students in RCSD. By the end of Year 4, telehealth services will be available in all 46 RCSD public schools, 3 pilot charter schools, and mental health clinic services will be in 8 new schools, adding to the in-person mental health services currently provided at 7 RCSD school-based health centers (total 1/3 of all schools). All children will have increased access to in-person or telemedicine behavioral health care within their own school. We expect that over 5000 students will use these services in Year 4. In addition, a non-measurable metric we hope to achieve is creating a "culture of health" in schools where behavior and mental health challenges are seen as critical part of health, without stigma, and with hope for treatment, improvement, and return to health. Lastly, our project will be guided with leadership from parents, families and youth on our Steering Team who will be paid for their ongoing involvement and expertise.

e. The infrastructure of telehealth and mental health clinical care achieved through this project will continue and be sustainable through medical billing. Access to health care will be significantly and enduringly improved for vulnerable children, youth and families in our community.

Company Strengths Rochester Regional Health (RRH) and UR Medicine/Golisano Children's Hospital (GCH) will collaborate together with Jordan Health and independent pediatric practices as one Department of Pediatrics working in partnership with RCSD and guided by Rochester youth, parents/families and community partners to achieve this work. RRH pediatric practices care for over 10,000 city of Rochester children; GCH Pediatric Practice cares for over 13,000 children and has a 20 year history of providing telemedicine services in RCSD and community settings. Jordan Health, our network of community-based health centers, cares for approximately 5000 RCSD children. All of our independent pediatric practices accept Medicaid and Child Health Plus and many provide healthcare for RCSD children. Together, these child health teams recognize the importance of an equity focus and the need to partner with others in education and human services to improve health. Their work together has earned Rochester a national reputation as the "Home of Community Pediatrics." UR Medicine/GCH and Rochester Regional collaborated together to create the national award winning Hoekelman Center that trains leaders in community health. This Center became the national model for community health education at the American Academy of Pediatrics and was led by Jeff Kaczorowski, MD, co-lead for this project. Dr. Kaczorowski has worked with more than 100 children's hospitals and departments of pediatrics in 40 states over 14 years on their community health improvement plans. LeKeyah Wilson, MD, co-lead, grew up in Rochester, attended Howard University and returned to Rochester for medical school and specialized training in Adolescent Medicine. She is Director of Rochester Regional's RCSD School-Based Health Centers. Drs. Wilson and Kaczorowski have worked closely for the last 3 years together on RCSD initiatives, including helping RCSD students return to school during Covid-19. Leveraging these leaders, healthcare teams and family/community partners provides a solid foundation for success.

Community Resources a. We will enhance access to behavioral health and transform healthcare delivery for RCSD students in partnership with Rochester youth, parents, and families, leveraging cross-sector collaboration with RCSD, CBOs/human services, and child health providers across all health systems and practices. CBO collaborations in Project Years 2 through 4 may include Children's Institute, Mt Hope Family Center, Villa of Hope, Center for Youth Services, CCSI and Common Ground Health. We do not anticipate any contracts in the first year of this project. Our work will include partnership with minority led organizations including: Jordan Health and ROC The Future Alliance/Whole Child Initiative, parent/family partner representatives from established minority-led advisory councils (e.g. PECAN, PLAC, Young Child Wellness Council, RTF Youth Leadership Coalition, etc); as well as independent pediatric practices largely owned by women or partnerships with a majority of women. However, these are not listed in the Monroe County Certified M/WBE List.

b. We have preserved one system of pediatrics in our community since 1926 despite competing hospital systems. Pediatric faculty and residents work at both RRH and UR Medicine. Jordan Health and our community pediatric practices have strong relationships with both hospital systems. LJ Shipley, MD convenes pediatric practices and specialists from across the community, including RRH, Jordan, UR Medicine, and independent primary care practices once per month to integrate our community efforts.

Children's mental health providers in psychology and psychiatry also collaborate across systems. Recently leadership from RRH and UR Medicine Child Psychiatry and Psychology collaborated on a proposal with RCSD to NYS OMH. During the pandemic, providers from across pediatrics and children's mental health met weekly with CBOs to coordinate care and services. Despite falling immunization rates in other US cities, our community preserved childhood immunization rates and access to preventive care and was cited in national medical journals. We coordinated our pediatric teams to help RCSD reopen during the pandemic. Pediatricians from GCH, RRH and Jordan reviewed all RCSD protocols for return to school and met with RCSD administrative leadership, Board, Unions, and parents and youth to help reopen schools.

c. 1) We currently have \$750,000 in local Medicaid FLPPS funding from UR Medicine to pilot RCSD school-based telehealth with the GCH Pediatric Practice, funding 10 telemedicine TytoCare units for RCSD, and adding 1.5 FTEs of behavioral health providers to the practice over 3 years. 2) We are providing a total of 9.8 FTEs of personnel from our hospital systems over 4 years as In Kind support to this project-- see downloaded attachments "In Kind Support Table" and "Budget Justification" 3) RCSD leaders, including Erin Graupman, RN, MBA Coordinator of Student Health Services, are providing their partnership in kind without financial support from this project. 4) Current funded GCH Telehealth Administrators and Technicians will provide support in kind & Dr LJ Shipley, GCH Director of Population and Behavioral Health will provide support in-kind. 5) We are leveraging funding from billing in the new mental health clinical sites to support most of the effort of the health professionals working there.

Audience a. Children attending the Rochester City School District are among the poorest students in any City in the U.S. 84% of RCSD students are economically disadvantaged as determined by eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch. 53% of students are Black, 33% Hispanic, 9% White, and 3% Asian. In Monroe County, a 2022 parent poll indicated that 6 out of 10 children and teenagers in the City of Rochester are struggling with mental health issues, higher than the rest of the county. This community of children and youth face challenges related to inequity, structural racism, violence, and other adverse childhood experiences as a historically underrepresented, minority population that is vulnerable and generally underserved.

b. The proposed project will not have any associated costs, fees, financial requests or other obligations for students and families at RCSD. For telehealth and mental health clinical site visits, insurance will be billed, but there will not be any co-pay. For families without insurance, there will be no charge for any visit and we will help the family to obtain health insurance and connect them with a primary care practice, if desired. With regard to time commitment, a telehealth or mental health clinical visit could potentially take time away from a student's learning in class, but the student would be likely to miss far more school due to illness or waiting for access to traditional healthcare without these services.

| <i>Cost 1st Year</i> | <i>Cost All Years</i> | <i>Residents 1st Year</i> | <i>Residents All Years</i> | <i>FT Employees</i> | <i>PT Employees</i> |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| \$1,424,236.00 | \$6,126,291.00 | 1,100 | 12,000 | 12 | 13 |

Volunteers

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Staffing A full description of staffing, titles, credentials and qualifications is provided in the Budget Justification document uploaded to this application. The staffing for this project brings together pediatric and behavioral health clinical and administrative expertise from UR Medicine/Golisano Children's Hospital, Rochester Regional Health, and Rochester City School District's Student Health Services and Social-Emotional Learning and Supports teams into an integrated and sustainable initiative co-led by Drs. Kaczorowski and Wilson and full-time Project Director/Program Manager Christina Barnwell. Dr. Kaczorowski has started, led, and managed two organizations, The Children's Agenda and the national American Academy of Pediatrics Community Pediatrics Training Initiative, and Dr. Wilson currently oversees all of the Rochester Regional Health school-based health and community services caring for children and youth. Christina Barnwell, Project Director, has extensive experience in leading cross-systems collaborations as the former Director of Social Services for the Salvation Army. Both she and Dr. Wilson have deep roots in the Rochester community. In addition to the strengths of the project leads and director, there is a significant amount of in-kind contribution from both healthcare systems, partnership with RCSD, and adequate staffing to support the project. Importantly, the intentional engagement of parent/family partners and youth, along with CBO partners and experts in urban school systems design, will enrich the depth, relevance, and community trust that are required for this program to succeed.