



The Helena Public Schools educate, engage, and empower each student to maximize his or her individual potential with the knowledge, skills and character essential to being a responsible citizen and life-long learner.

Board of Trustees – Teaching and Learning Committee

Wednesday, March 1st, 2023 – 12:00 PM

This meeting will occur at the Lincoln Center (1325 Poplar St., Helena, MT. 59601) and via Microsoft Teams.

To participate remotely, please use this link on Microsoft Teams:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Committee Purpose Statement: The Teaching and Learning Committee collectively works to operationalize the strategic priorities of the Helena Public Schools specifically in areas related to our goals and measures for teaching and learning.

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

This is the time for comment on public matters that are not on the agenda. Public matters do not include any pending legal matters, private personnel issues, or private student issues. Please do not attempt to address such issues at this time or you will be ruled out of order. The Board cannot enter into a discussion during General Public Comment.

IV. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Review of 02.01.23 Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting Minutes.

V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

A. District School Health Grant Facilitator Update

VI. BOARD COMMENTS

VII. ADJOURNMENT



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Board of Trustees
Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 1st, 2023 – 12:00pm

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

<i>Trustees:</i>	<i>Others:</i>
Jennifer McKee, Committee Chair	Joslyn Davidson, Curriculum Administrator
Janet Armstrong, Trustee	Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology
Lois Fitzpatrick, Trustee	Trish Klock, Bryant Principal
Jennifer Walsh, Trustee	Jane Shawn, HEA President
Siobhan Hathhorn, Board Chair	Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director
	Brian Cummings, Assistant Superintendent
	Jonna Schwartz, Instructional Coach
	Kaitlyn Hess, Assessment and Federal Programs
	Karen Ogden, Communications Officer
	Meghan Schulte, Instructional Coach
	Christy Mock-Stutz, Instructional Coach
	Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
	Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
	Marisa Graybill, Instructional Coach
	Lona Carter, School Health Grant Facilitator
	Erin Maxwell, RBLC Principal
	Jessi Mitchell, Instructional Coach
	Nick Radley, Central Principal
	Cal Boyle, HMS Principal
	Steve Thennis, HHS Principal
	Karen Ogden, Communications Officer
	Jane Shawn, HEA President
	Kayla Ryan, Instructional Coach
	Kayla Lunnon, Instructional Coach
	Michelle Schulte, Instructional Coach

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m. by Trustee Janet Armstrong.

II. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment.

III. REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were requested to the agenda.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the 01.04.23 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting.

V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

A. Overview of Grant Work in the Target Buildings

The Trustees viewed a presentation regarding an overview of grant work in the target buildings. The first school highlighted was Ray Bjork Learning Center (RBLC). Erin Maxwell, RBLC Principal, discussed that RBLC services students who have been identified, evaluated, and qualified for special education services. Students are identified through Child Find, Family Outreach, Head Start, out of district transfer, or parent referral. Curriculum at RBLC includes Creative Curriculum (social emotional, physical, cognitive, and language), Heggerty Phonemic Awareness, Handwriting Without Tears, and Second Step Social Emotional. Assessment tools at RBLC include DIAL-4 Language, and Teaching Strategies Gold with three yearly checkpoints at the end of each trimester. The committee reviewed the fall benchmark data for RBLC. RBLC used the DIAL-4 Language subtest. This assessment includes: personal information, articulation, objects/actions (expressive and receptive), letter and sounds, rhyming and problem solving. There is a need for Oral Language support and the SLT goal is that by the end of the 2022-2023 school year, the DIAL-4 Language, Tier 3 will decrease by 10% and Tier 1 will increase by 10%.

The second school highlighted was Bryant Elementary School. Bryant Principal, Trish Klock, reviewed the K/1st grade Acadience reading goal, the 2nd-5th grade overall iReady reading goal, the 2nd-5th grade iReady reading sub-goal, the kindergarten math goal, the 1st-5th grade iReady

math goal, and the 1st-5th grade iReady math sub-goal. At Bryant Elementary School there is a whole school math PLC training two times a month, there is a focus on vertical alignment of Numbers and Operations standards K-5, there is training on concrete-representational-abstract, there is training in different manipulatives and when to use them, there is number sense routine training, and bi-weekly paraprofessional training. Ms. Klock concluded by stating that there is discussion around how to create sustainability of systems beyond grant including weekly grade level meetings and data storage.

The next school highlighted was Central Elementary. The committee reviewed data from Central Elementary including the kindergarten Acadience reading goal, the 1st grade Acadience reading goal, the 2nd-5th grade iReady reading goal, the kindergarten math goal, and the 1st-5th grade iReady math goal. Principal Nick Radley discussed at Central they are focusing on IEFA with a monthly email share of 3 ways to incorporate led by Gage Furshong. There is title work and family engagement led by Jill Downing including creating a more inviting entryway, updating the school website with more information around Title I, STEM night, Soup and Story night, and a HHS sports night. Principal Radley stated there is discussion around how to create sustainability of systems beyond the grant including weekly meetings with title, admin, and coaches and creating an online shared folder systems for grade levels. Central Elementary has an action plan and all committees have a section that tracks and works toward overall school goals, along with SLT, Care Team (climate and PAX), IEFA, Title I, Student Council, and A-Team.

The next school highlighted was Helena Middle School. Cal Boyle, Principal at Helena Middle School, discussed the school leadership team at HMS. The school leadership team use their walkthrough data to determine job-embedded professional development to present. Principal Boyle reviewed data for Helena Middle School including iReady reading results, iReady math results, and growth in co-lab classes.

The last school highlighted today was Helena High School. There are walkthroughs at Helena High School which focus on the middle of the framework and increasing the amount of time students are authentically writing. The committee reviewed data for Helena High School including 2023 iReady winter data, iReady completion rates, school-wide data in reading and math, overview of 9th grade data in reading and math, overview of 10th grade data in reading and math, and an overview of 11 grade data in reading and math. PD opportunities at Helena High School include two rounds of PD offered around learning targets and success criteria, 22 staff members have participated in the lunch PD, there are four different sessions of PD offered and all staff members participated in a different breakout session.

B. Overview of ACT Day

Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent 6-12, discussed with the Teaching and Learning Committee what ACT day will look like this year. The ACT test is a required state test for all

juniors and the testing will take place for the Helena School District on April 11th. In the past, the ACT test was given offsite, but this year the test will be administered completely online, and the students will stay at school to take the test. Mr. McKay also forecasted that the day will look different for the 9th, 10th, and 12th graders not taking the test, and more information will be sent out about what the day will look like for them.

VI. BOARD COMMENTS

There were no board comments.

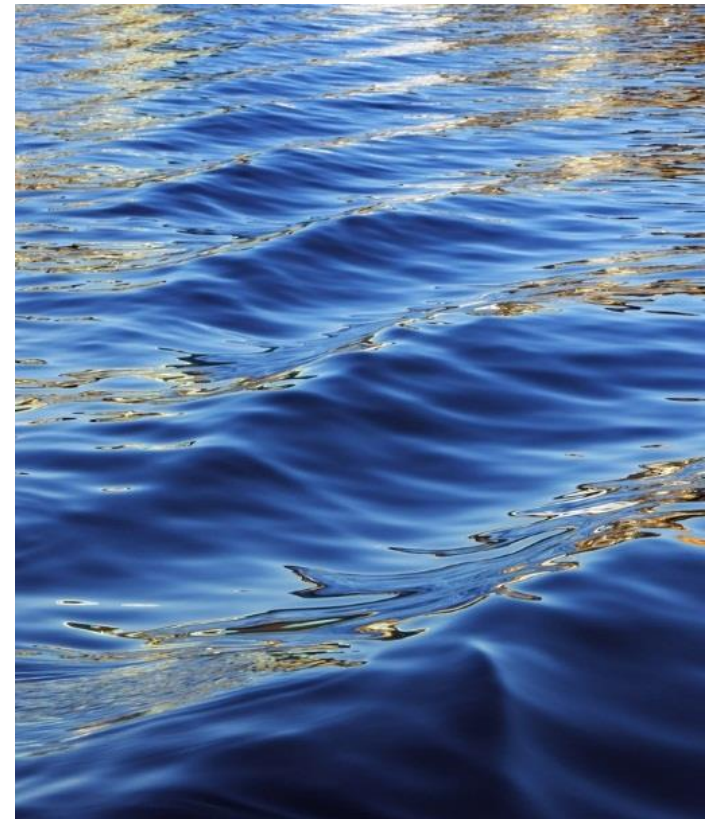
VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 p.m. by Committee Chair Jennifer McKee.



Helena Public Schools

School Health Facilitator Update ~
Sustainable School Based Health Services





As we emerge from
COVID, how
are our students doing?



Families who applied and qualified for FRL

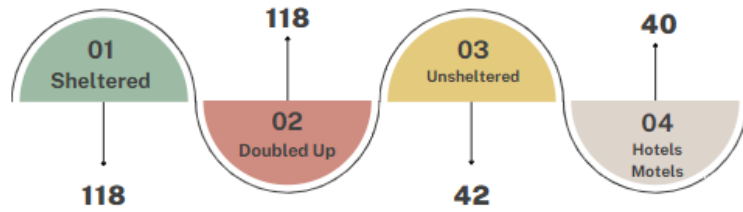
- 1728 students qualified for free meals
- 261 students qualified for reduced price meals
- Schools vary from 12.5% - 59% eligibility
- 1 in 4 of our students is surviving poverty

HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT McKinney-Vento Students in Transition

As of February 13, 2023

318

Total Number of McKinney-Vento Students in Transition



55

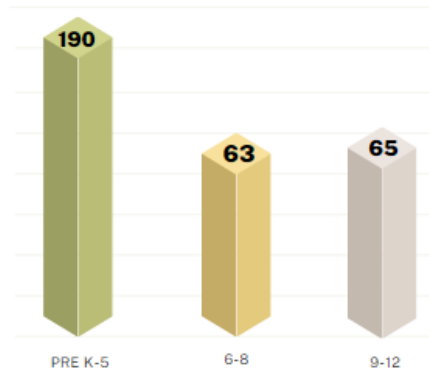
Student transportation assistance

31

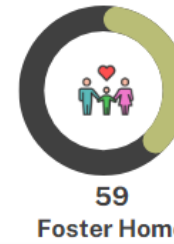
Student gas card assistance



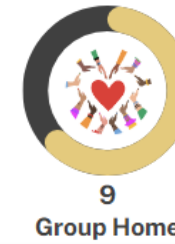
Homelessness by Grade Levels



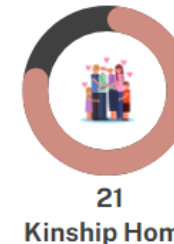
UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH



59
Foster Home



9
Group Home



21
Kinship Home



Behavioral Health ~

In our Helena School District, the number of students requiring hospitalization from suicidal ideation has elevated as students emerge from the global pandemic. **During the 2021-2022 school year 223 students in our district warranted crisis care at school due to suicidal ideation.** Sixty-seven of these students were transported to the hospital for evaluation, and **fifty-three were hospitalized.** **There was no age group that didn't have students at risk.**

How have we traditionally identified students as needing behavioral health support and how do we support them?

- Self, peer or family reporting
- Discipline referrals
- Absences
- School Failure
- Suicide Attempt
- Suicide

What can we do to
better ensure
the Behavioral Health
needs of our
students are addressed?

- ▼ **To better understand the depth and breadth of the number of students managing mental health crises in our district, the Behavioral and Emotional Risk Index (BASC-BESS) was administered districtwide in October 2022. The results are sobering.**

Ten percent (156 students) of our K-2 students were identified as having an “Extremely Elevated Risk” of behavioral and emotional risk, with an additional 15% (235 students) identified as having an “Elevated Risk” for a total of 391 district K-2nd graders.

Completing the survey themselves, 9% (445 students) of third through twelfth grade students rated themselves as being in the “Extremely Elevated Risk” of behavioral and emotional risk, with an additional 17% (854 students) rating themselves as having an “Elevated Risk”.

Our internal screening tools indicate that approximately one in five youth have an elevated risk for anxiety and/or depression.

Resiliency
programs
currently in
our schools;
K-12

- **BASC-BESS (Behavioral & Emotional Screening System)** - Kindergarten – 12th grades; given in October and February.
- **CONSCIOUS DISCIPLINE** - Kindergarten – 12th grades; Conscious Discipline is based on brain research and is a social emotional learning program that emphasizes adults modeling behavior and problem-solving during student behavioral episode that teaches the student skills that assist in self-control and self-regulation.

Resiliency programs currently in our schools; K-5

- **Second Step Lessons** – Kindergarten – 5th grades. The skills with Second Step are focused on empathy, emotion management, friendship and problem solving.
- **PAX GBG (PeaceBuilders Good Behavior Game)** - Kindergarten – 5th grades. The PAX GBG is an evidence-based, best practice, universal preventative intervention applied by teacher in the classroom. Students learn self-management (self-regulation) skills while collaborating to make their classroom a peaceful and productive learning environment. The PAX GBG was not designed to be a suicide prevention program, but studies have shown students who learned the PAX GBG are significantly less likely to have experienced suicidal ideation.

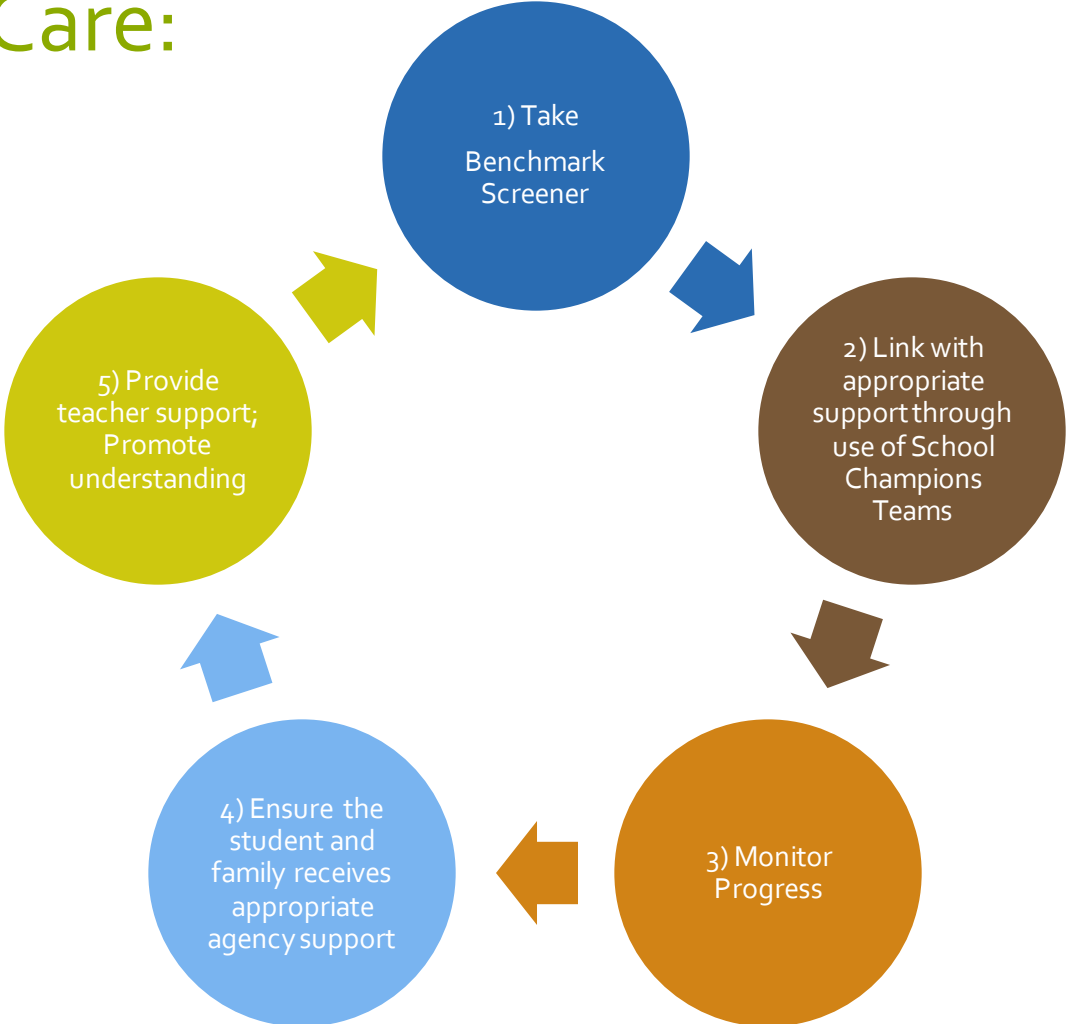
Resiliency programs currently in our schools; 6-12


- **SOS (Signs of Suicide)** – Middle School and Junior year program, presented by counselors. SOS is specifically designed to teach students how to recognize the signs of suicide and mental health struggles in themselves or peers and to encourage students to reach out for help. Students learned ACT (Acknowledge, Care, Tell).
- **YAMH (Youth Aware of Mental Health)** – Freshman year program run through the Frosh PE courses. Five lessons are presented by outside mental health professionals.
- **QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer)** – Sophomore program run through the Health classes by health teachers. The focus of this program is for students to learn how to engage with a classmate who may be having suicidal thoughts and to understand the importance of asking for help from an adult if they feel their friend is at risk.

Behavioral
Health
Screenings
currently in
our schools;
6-12

- **Individual Behavioral Health and Wellness Screening** - Middle School and High School; free, opt-in, voluntary screening conducted during school hours with parent permission by the School Based Outpatient Therapy (SBOT) services of Intermountain.
- **Rural Behavioral Health Institute (RBHI)** - Middle School and High School; free, voluntary, opt-out screening conducted during school hours **with same-day data, safety intervention along with free case management and a link-to-care.**

School-Based Mental Health Screener~ Rural Behavioral Health Initiative (RBHI) Mental Health Screenings Linked to Care:





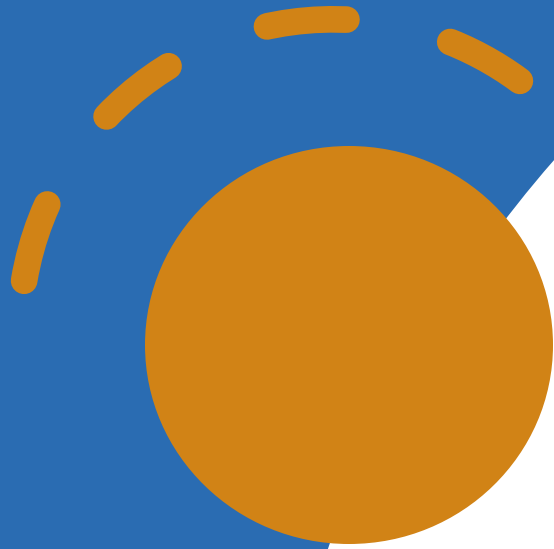
How will we know
if we are helping
our students?

- BASC-BESS - K-5 given in the late fall, early spring
- RBHI - 6-12 given in the late fall, early spring with link to care
- YRBS (Youth Risk Behavior Survey) - given odd years to 8th, 10th & 12th
- PNA (Prevention Needs Assessment) - given even years to 8th, 10th & 12th
- Numbers of Suicide/Threat protocols administered



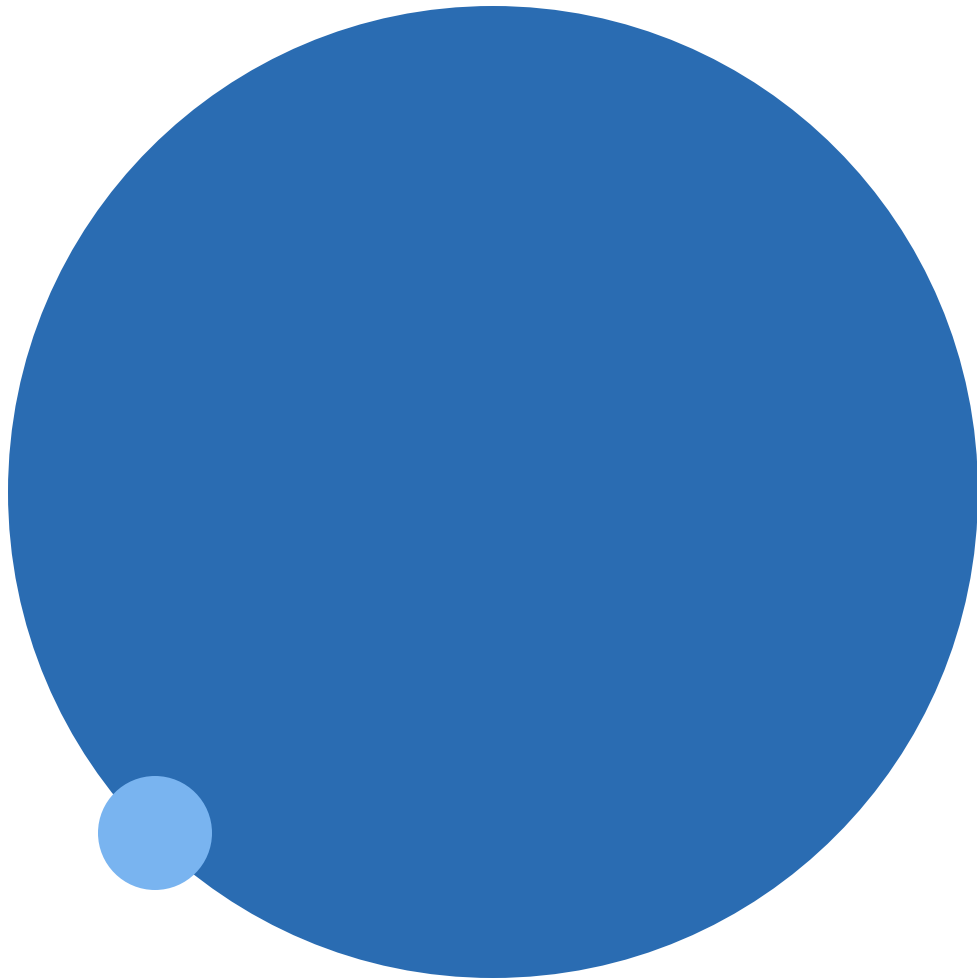
Next Steps

#1 Montana Healthcare Foundation Planning & Implementation Grant



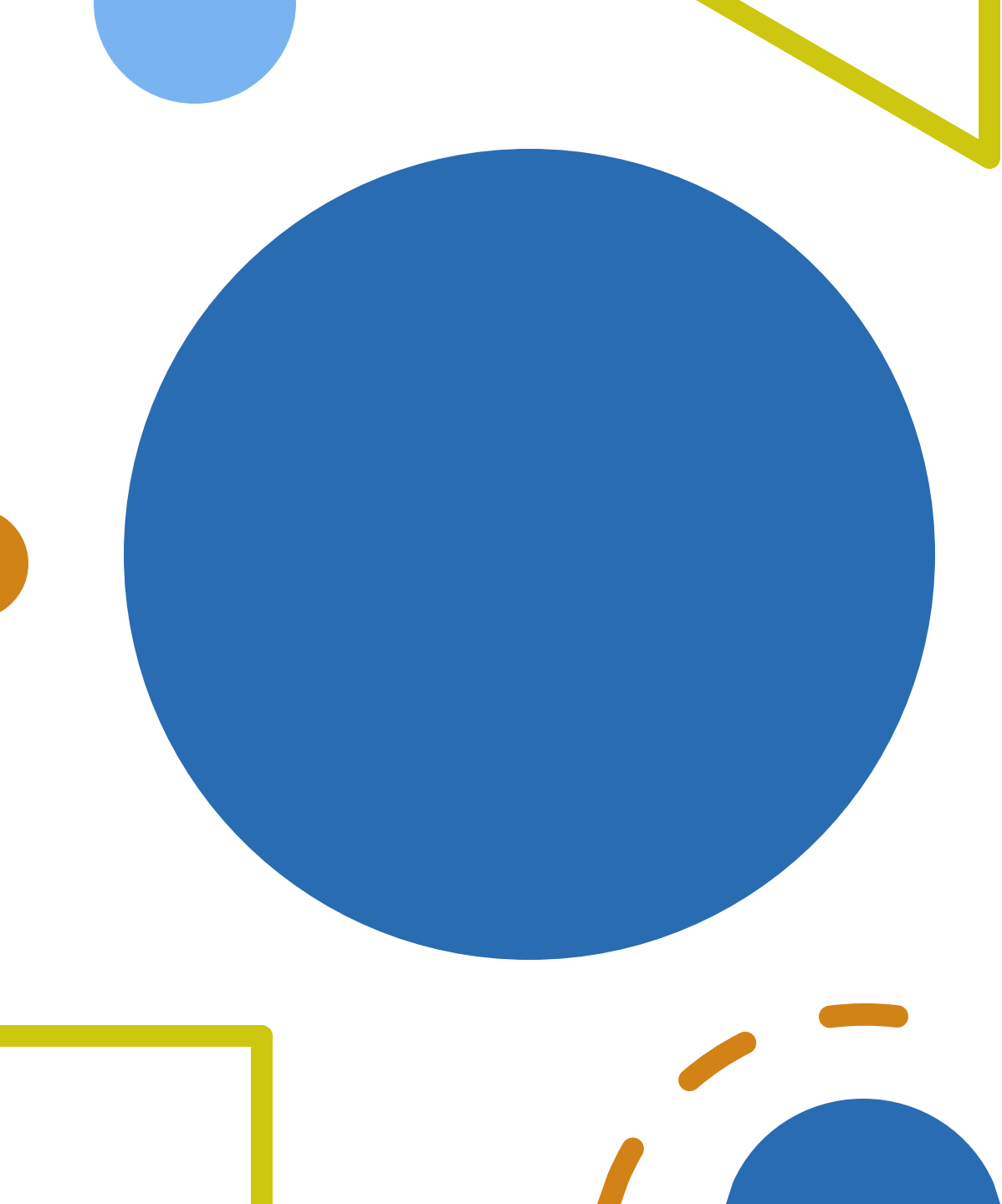
Formalize sustainable community partnerships with the Helena Schools and community health care providers, creating a menu of on-campus, community and/or virtual supports for youth in need.

Barriers to care will be removed as services will be delivered at school sites.




#2 Partnership with Carroll College's new LCSW program (MOU signed, launching 2023)

#3 School Site Transition Centers (implementing at 9-12; K-8 forecasted for 2023-24)



#4 Current Professional Development to support staff with students' needs, students supporting students and schools supporting families: PAX, Conscious Discipline, QPR, SOS, YAM, Suicide and/or Threat Assessment training

#5 Anticipated Professional Development: Trauma Informed Care Modules, Youth Mental Health First Aid Training, Suicide Safe Care Tools Training, and others (2023)



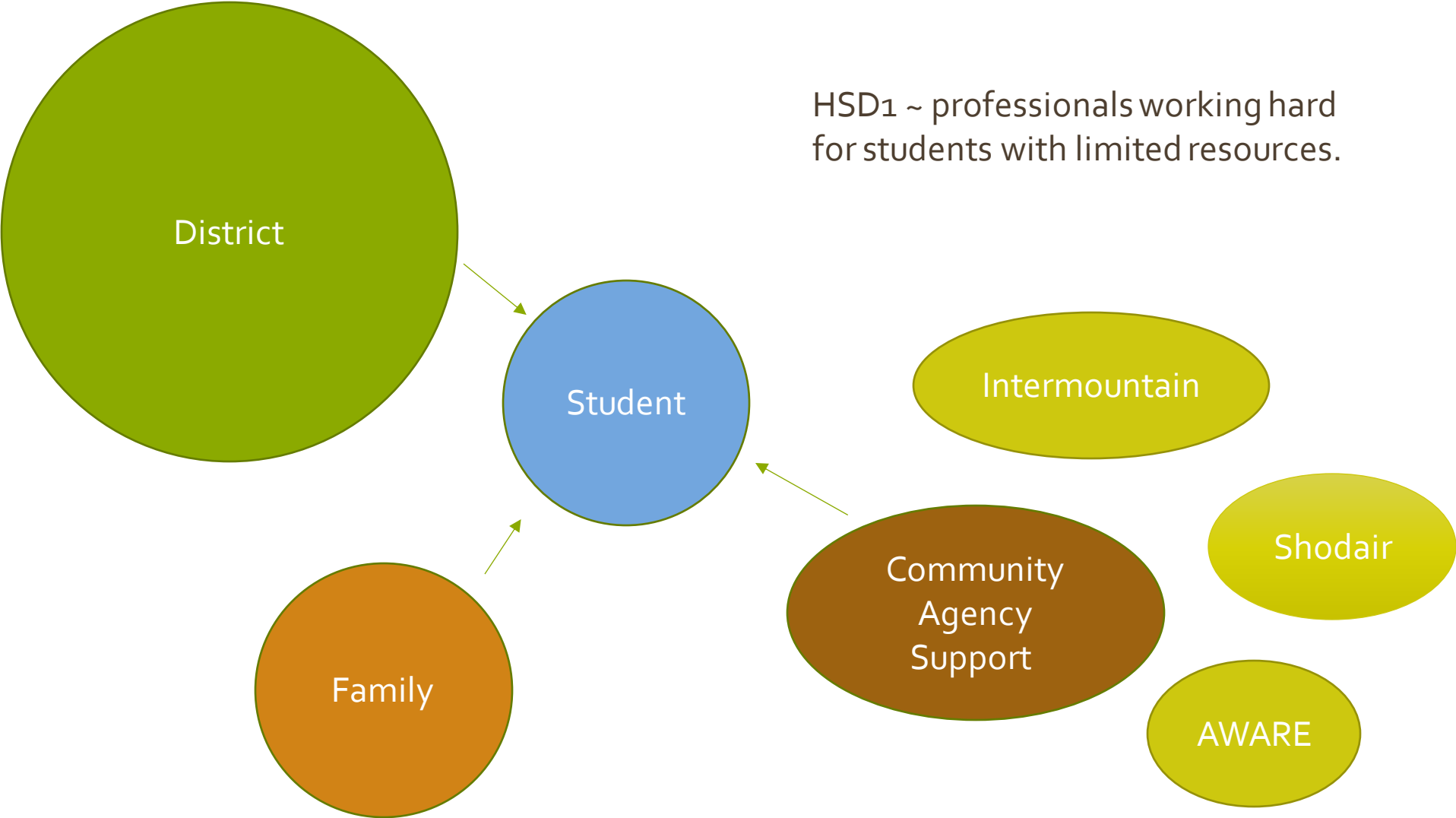
#6 SEL calendar for district coordination of staff trainings, trainings for students, and assessments /survey dates (2023)

#7 District webpage dedicated to mental health resources for staff, students and families (2023)

#8 Development of updated PK-12 Crisis Response Protocol (2023-2024)

#9 Include School Based Clinics in plans for future school sites





HSD1 ~ professionals working hard for students with limited resources.

District

Student

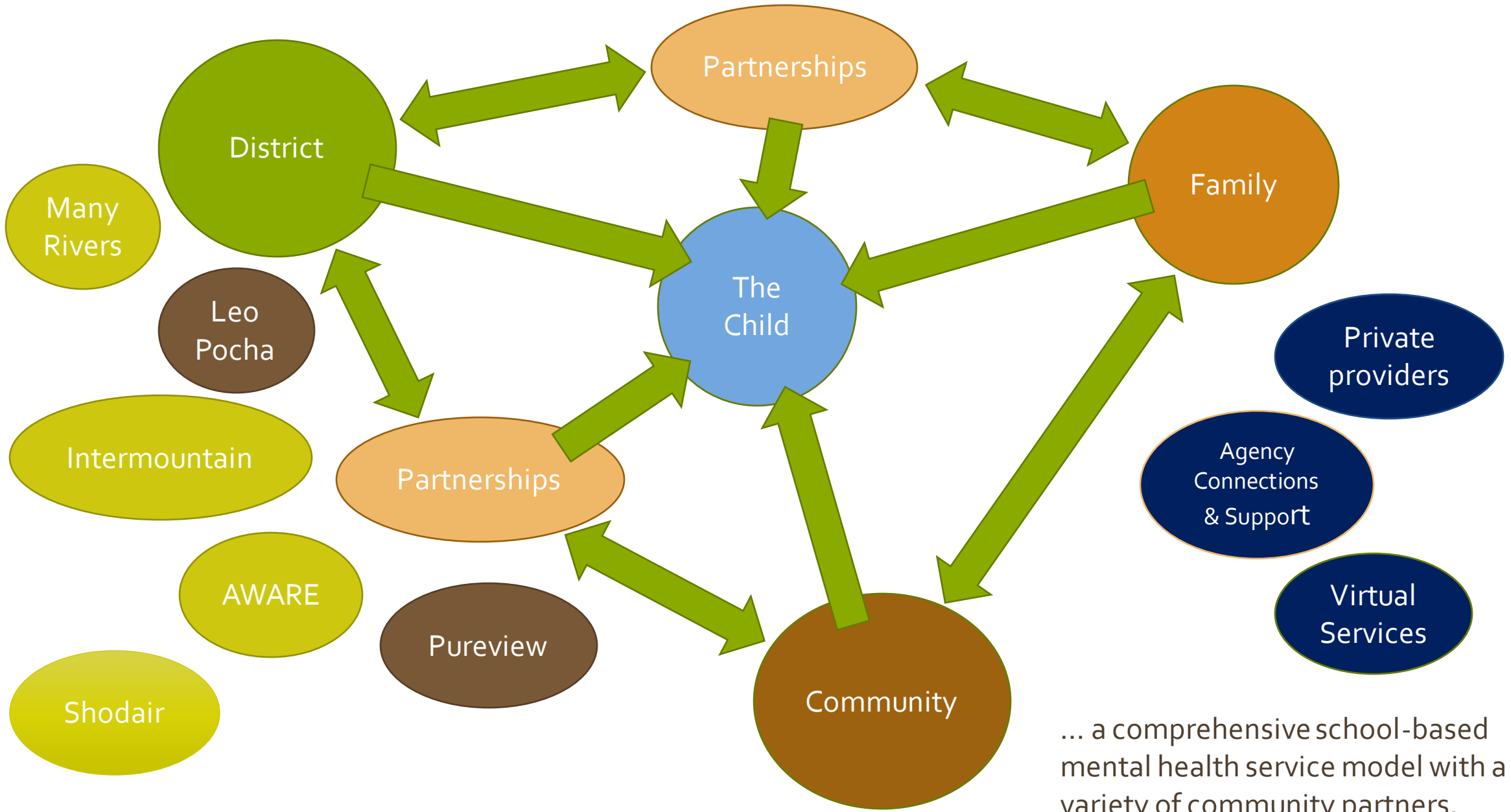
Family

Intermountain

Community Agency Support

Shodair

AWARE



... a comprehensive school-based mental health service model with a variety of community partners.

But wait!

Staff needs
support too ~



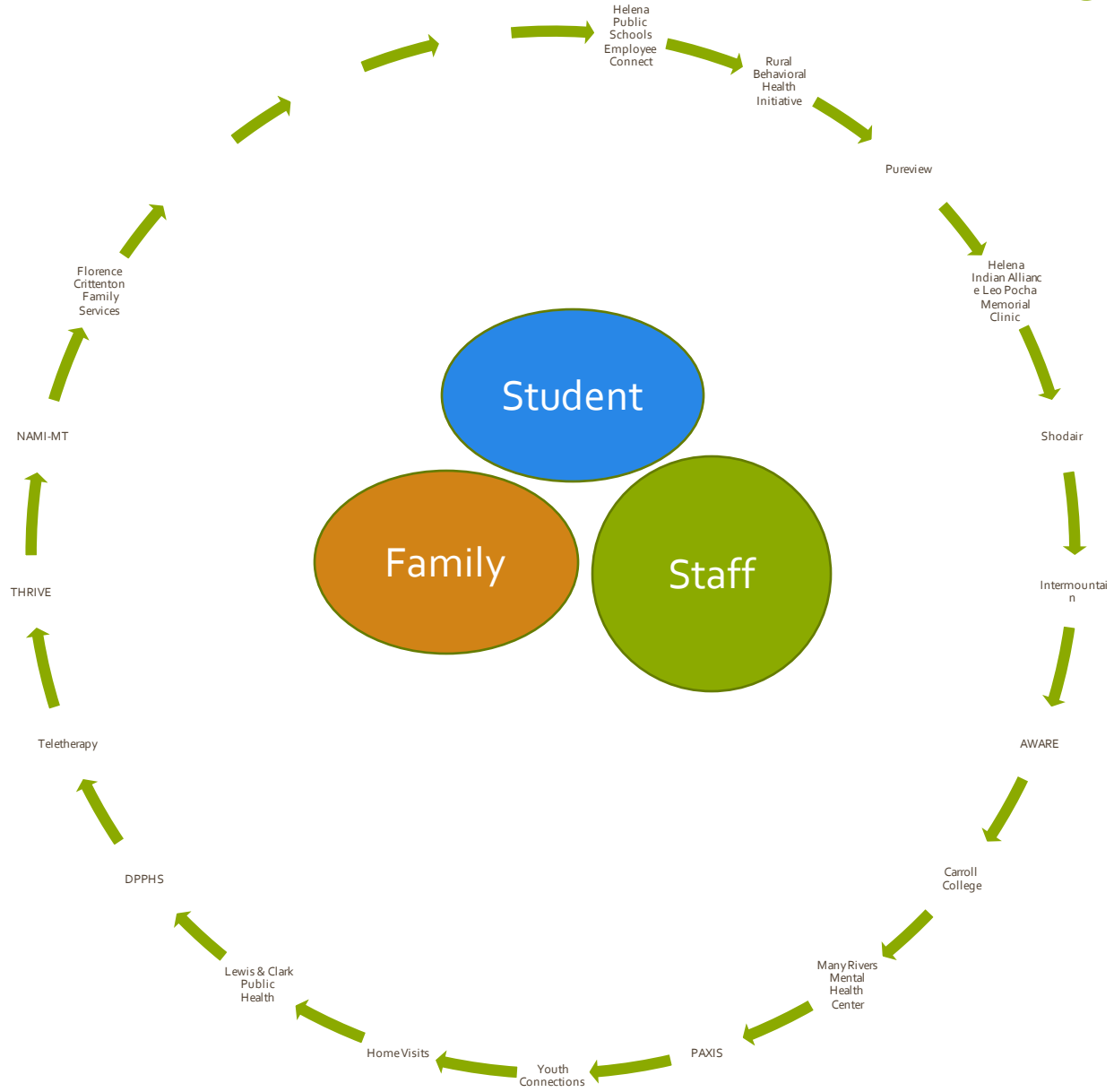
Staff Mental Health resources and support

- Employee Assistance Program Services ~ Confidential help for HSD1 employees and family members to help meet the challenges that life, work and relationships can bring. Unlimited 24/7 assistance, in-person guidance, online resources and experienced counselors. Learn more at www.Lincoln4Benefits.com; www.GuidanceResources.com or reach out to HSD1's Human Resources Benefit Coordinator, Richard Franco.
- THRIVE for Montana ~ *Thrive* by Waypoint Health is a confidential online program for people who want to take charge of their emotional well-being to lead happier, more satisfying lives. It teaches skills from cognitive behavior therapy (CBT) a method that has helped many people deal with stress, depression and anxiety. MSU offers adult Montanans who have broadband Internet access can now use *Thrive* by Waypoint Health **free of charge**. <https://thriveformontana.com/>
- (Pending) Stacy York, co-founder of Go Be YOUiversity ~ online training and courses for parents, educators, and clinicians who are interested in learning more about trauma and resiliency for self-care and to support others. <https://www.gobeyou.org/>

NEW Professional Development Opportunities being offered

- Youth Mental Health First Aide
- Suicide Safe Care Tools
- PAX Tools for all support staff across the district
- Florence Crittenton Family Services course offerings
 - Love and Logic
 - Circle of Security
 - Trauma Informed Practices

HDS1's School Based Mental Health Services Network is growing!





Thank you!

Questions?

