



ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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Student Services

To: WCSD Board of Education

From: Lisa Jondle, Director of Student Services

Date: August 22, 2025

Re: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between WCSD and Psychotherapy Center of Waunakee (PCOW) for Embedded Therapist at WCHS

Board of Education (BOE) approval is requested to expand our partnership with Psychotherapy Center of Waunakee (PCOW) to provide additional mental health services and support, onsite, for our students in need during the 2025-2026 school year. This MOU is specific to an embedded therapist model at the high school level.

The partnership with PCOW has been in existence since the 2021-2022 school year, when therapists began providing onsite services to WCHS students. The subsequent school years have included substantially more new student referrals as services have extended to the Middle School, Intermediate School and in 2025-2026 to all three elementary schools.

The service model for this new position is an integrated approach. PCOW will provide a licensed clinical behavioral health professional who will function as an embedded member of our school's support system, specifically serving students in grades 9-12. The PCOW Clinician will hold appropriate licensure (LPC, LMFT, LCSW, Licensed Psychologist, or In-Training Licensed provider) to deliver clinical behavioral health services. Rather than operating as an external service, the therapist will be embedded within our existing school support infrastructure, enabling seamless coordination with counselors, administrators, and other student services personnel.

The integrated approach will allow us to continue to improve access to high-quality mental health care within school settings, reduce barriers that prevent students and families from accessing

mental health services, and provide a consistent, comprehensive approach to support at the high school.

There is a cost of \$40,000 for this partnership which will be paid for with designated Mental Health Grant funds. Additional grant funds, when available, and purposefully directed for such services, may also continue to be used to support students who are unable to pay for direct services.

The new MOU will be dated September 9, 2025 through July 31, 2026 and will be specific to Waunakee Community High School.