

Mental Health Initiative Board Report 2025

Danielle Howard has been trained as a trainer for Mental Health First Aid, and we have successfully coordinated with Melissa Drury for Center for Life Resources to train all student facing staff in evidenced based MHFA practices in accordance to state guidance. To date, 54% of all staff have been trained, including 100% of Middle School, 67% of the high school trained, including bus drivers. We focused a great deal on expanding our training to elementary this year, including special education staff.

Last year, Leah Parker served 33 students as a Mental Health Specialist on BHS and BMS campuses while also serving part time as one of BMS' school counselors. She has resigned as she and her husband (a coach) moved to Katy.

Danielle Howard served all elementary campuses, DAEP, and Night School in a mental health capacity including 48 individuals with services requiring consent. Additionally, training all 6th grade students "Choosing the Best" curriculum, outlining healthy boundaries in relationships with and abstinence focus. Additionally, DAEP is provided with structured curriculum called "Why Try?" every week to address making responsible choices.

This year, the program has gone through a bit of revision, with Danielle Howard serving DAEP, 6th, BMS, and BHS Full time while assisting Laura Scantling, LPC-Associate, in developing a behavior support focused elementary program on the four elementary campuses.

Laura Scantling is a former science teacher with Brownwood ISD. She completed her counseling internship under Danielle Howard 2 years ago, and has been serving as the behavior support teaching assistant for Woodland Heights for the last year and a half. She is an excellent asset to the Counseling and Mental Health program, and we have been able to intentionally address students with behavioral challenges in an organized and supportive way.

We have working Memorandums of Understanding with the following entities:

- 2Ingage
- Center for Life Resources
- Arrow
- New Horizons FAYS Program

In working with 2Ingage, Danielle Howard has been invited to participate in monthly meeting with local child placing agencies to ensure smooth wrap around support for our students in foster care.

Additionally, Danielle Howard is active in Community Resource Collaboration Group (CRCG) and Child Welfare Board in order to maximize access to community support.

All of our school counselors continue to serve as the frontline for ongoing crisis including supporting mental health triage, and they work at every level coordinating with community through Mental Health Coordinator, including partners and support. We continue to have a working relationship with Center for Life Resources, utilizing their crisis response team when a student asserts suicidal ideation. We are working to improve our tracking system for support.

For this school year, as of the date of the writing of this report (9/24/25):

We have collaborated with CFLR for 11 times for Crisis support, involving 5 required hospitalizations, and 9 plans to support student mental health made with local resources and families.

Four of our campuses won the CREST Leadership award last year: Brownwood Middle School, East Elementary, Northwest Elementary, and Woodland Heights Elementary.

We continue to have a working relationship with Howard Payne University Social Work Program, though we have no interns at this time.

We continue to collaborate with Region 15 Counseling program as well and we have some of our students being served by the counselors through Region 15, which was able to serve students over the summer as well.

Child Welfare Board has provided socks, foot powder, and various hygiene products to every school in the district. Young Professionals of the Chamber of Commerce has provided a generous assortment of shoes.

Our participation with the SHAPE grant has allowed us to receive Character Strong guidance curriculum on the Middle School and 6th grade campus, and another grant has allowed Character Strong curriculum on all the elementary campuses. School counselor partner with Good Samaritan to provided bags of food for students in need, the Cowboy Church for coats in the winter, and Fishers of Men for a mentoring program for young men.

Elementary level counselor provides in class guidance lessons, and coordinator mental and behavioral support with the Behavioral Counselor, Laura Scantling. Mental Health guidance curriculum is included in BHS and BMS's daily announcements, as well as in

class curriculum through classrooms coordinated between school counselors and Mental Health Coordinator.

Brownwood High School provides in depth communication through social media platforms including Facebook and Instagram on the Brownwood Counselor information page including mental health information, scholarship opportunities, and information regarding parent meetings and support.

Thank you again for another opportunity to support Brownwood ISD.

In Service,

Danielle Howard, M.Ed., LPC-S, RPT-S
Mental Health Coordinator
Brownwood ISD