

ITEM FOR INFORMATION**SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT: SUNSET HIGH SCHOOL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CTE PATHWAY****SUMMARY**

Presenters will share highlights of the Behavioral Health Career Technical Education Pathway at Sunset High School.

BACKGROUND

Beaverton is home to a wealth of linguistic and multicultural assets. Our community needs behavioral health care that reflects our diversity. At Sunset High School we have created a CTE Behavioral Health program to both help students graduate prepared for college and careers, and prepare students to be passionate and dedicated behavioral health professionals who use their multilingual and multicultural assets to close the gap in mental health services in our community.

The new Behavioral Health CTE Pathway provides students with learning experiences in high-demand, high-paying and high-interest fields of behavioral health including counseling, psychology, psychiatry, occupational therapy and more. Modeled after the highly successful BSD Health Careers program, we will offer academic classes and field experiences to prepare students to enter the workforce, start certification programs and pursue higher education options. Courses will include Foundations of Behavioral Health, Behavioral Health Systems and Interventions, The Biopsychosocial Model, and Field Experience. Students will gain industry-recognized certifications, possibly including Youth Mental Health First Aid, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, and/or peer counseling. Our program is constructed in partnership with local colleges and employers and will offer students access to further education, internships and employment opportunities directly after graduation. As we plan our second year, we are exploring opportunities to expand to become a district-wide half-day CTE program.

We have seen exponential demand for behavioral health services in our school community in the last five years. In reviewing CTE programming at Sunset, we noticed that we had gap areas in terms of students accessing CTE programming. In addition, we recognized a desire for students to have more coursework that can prepare them for work, higher education, or both concurrently. After surveying students and visiting a similar program in Salem, we applied for several grants to start this new CTE pathway. We received a small grant from Cambia Health to launch the first year of the program this year. We are currently applying for an Oregon Health Authority grant for program expansion to serve 300 students annually. We have partnered with Washington County Behavioral Health, PCC Department of Child and Family Services, United We Heal, and Oregon Child and Family Center for Excellence to advise the program.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff will present information on the Behavioral Health CTE Pathway at Sunset High School. No action is needed.

Belong. Believe. Achieve.