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Alliance Health & Johnston County Public Schools Win 2019 Innovation Award for Quality Commitment

Pinehurst, NC (December 5, 2019). In 2018, the General Assembly worked with State Superintendent Mark Johnson to launch a \$35 million School Safety Grants Program to improve safety in public school units by providing grants for school safety resource officers, services for students in crisis, training to increase school safety, safety equipment in schools, and additional school mental health support personnel. Alliance Health partnered with Johnston County Public Schools and was awarded a School Safety Grant for \$38,430 for the 2018-2019 school year focusing on improving safety and early detection in public schools. It was this partnership which was recognized with an i2i Quality Commitment Innovation Award.

Alliance Health and Johnston County School system worked closely together to launch a number of initiatives with these funds. Funds have been used for three initiatives that address support for students and faculty to better recognize and address mental health needs of students. The first was the PREPaRE School Crisis Prevention & Intervention Curriculum Training. The PREPaRE curriculum, developed by the National Association of School Psychologists, is an evidenced-based training module for school personnel that focuses on how to establish and serve on school safety and crisis response teams. The PREPaRE curriculum teaches school professionals how to respond to students' behavioral health needs in times of crisis as well as how to establish and maintain building level safety.

A suicide prevention training was offered in December 2018, and 88 behavioral health support staff - counselors, social workers, nurses, student advocates, school psychologists, behavior

specialists, and exceptional children's specialists - completed an intensive suicide prevention training module that included how to respond when students who are at-risk are referred for evaluation. As a result, 90% of those who attended the training reported feeling more adequately prepared in times of crisis. Additionally, 86% have investigated at least one student risk situation with 42% of these situations resulting in contact being made to an emergency responder or admission into a mental health facility.

The last initiative was a Multi-Media Campaign where Alliance and Johnston County Public Schools worked together to develop a print (English & Spanish) campaign to inform school professionals, parents, caregivers, and community members about the appropriate steps to take when a child is struggling with behavioral health and/or substance use issues. The materials, focusing on students in crisis and how to access care, have been distributed throughout all schools within Johnston County. Over the next year, billboards with information about how to get help for kids in crisis will also be displayed throughout Johnston County.

About i2i Center for Integrative Health

The mission of the i2i Center is to foster collaborative and evidence-based initiatives for improving the quality and efficacy of the behavioral health, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and substance use care and support services systems within a comprehensive system of whole person care. The i2i Center accomplishes its mission by convening stakeholders, strategizing solutions, and activating change.