

To: Board of Education

From: Kevin Harrell, executive director, student support/special education, ext. 2221

Re: Letter of Agreement with Bert Nash Mental Health Center

Date: July 20, 2017

Background:

The Lawrence Public Schools and Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center have had an agreement to collaboratively provide certain services to students. The agreement authorizes continuation of two types: Mental Health Services at the Juvenile Detention Center and the Secondary Therapeutic Classroom.

The Detention Center component provides for individual and group therapy for up to six hours weekly. The therapeutic classroom program, located at the Bert Nash facility and Southwest Middle School, also includes a therapy as well as a classroom component provided by mental health professionals, teachers and paraeducators. The agreement for the therapeutic classrooms includes the employment of two classroom therapists and a program supervisor.

Total cost of the agreement is \$97,747 and is distributed as follows:

Juvenile Detention Center:	\$13,639
Therapeutic Classrooms:	\$87,041
TOTAL	\$100,680

Rationale:

The collaboration with Bert Nash has proven to be beneficial to the students participating in these programs and services. The progress of students in these programs is greatly enhanced by incorporating a therapeutic component into the learning environment. These programs help to reduce significant mental health issues faced by students and, as a result, contribute positively to improving achievement and reducing dropout rates.

Recommendation:

The administration recommends that the Board of Education approve the annual agreement with the Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center to provide services at the Detention Center and the therapeutic classrooms for the 2017-2018 school year. The expenditure will be paid from Juvenile Detention Center state funds (011000808753230) and Special Education funds (051000000053230).

Motion:

"I move that the Board of Education approve the annual agreement with Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center in the amount of \$13,639 for services to the Juvenile Detention Center and \$87,041 for services to the therapeutic classrooms."