

To: Board of Education

From: Kevin Harrell, executive director, student services, ext. 2221

Re: Annual Letter of Agreement with Bert Nash Mental Health Center

Date: August 4, 2016

Background:

Lawrence Public Schools and the 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 classrooms.

The Juvenile Detention Center component provides for individual and group therapy for up to six (6) 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	\$13,242
Therapeutic Classrooms	84,505
Total	\$97,747

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. Significant mental health issues faced by students are reduced through these programs and, as a result, positive contributions are made to improving achievement and reducing dropout rates.

Recommendation:

Administration recommends board approval for the annual agreement with the Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center to provide services at the Juvenile Detention Center and the therapeutic classrooms for the 2016-2017 school year. The expenditure will be paid from Juvenile Detention Center state funds (011000808753230) and Special Education funds (051000000053230).

Motion:

"I move the Board of Education approve the annual agreement with Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center in the amount of \$13,242 for services to the Juvenile Detention Center and \$84,505 for services to the therapeutic classrooms for a total of \$97,747."