Mission: To improve access to psychiatric treatment for children by providing care in schools.

Vision Statement: To be a state leader in providing school-based psychiatric treatment.

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MU Bridge Program: School-Based Psychiatry is supported by funding from the Children’s Services Fund

MU BRIDGE PROGRAM: SCHOOL-BASED PSYCHIATRY
THE MU BRIDGE PROGRAM:

School-Based Psychiatry is part of University of Missouri Health Care in Columbia, Missouri. The program provides psychiatric appointments in Boone County Schools for school-age children who need prompt evaluation and treatment.

Children in the program will receive an initial psychiatric evaluation with a child psychiatrist, and two to three follow-up appointments at no out-of-pocket cost. The program’s staff will communicate with parents or guardians and coordinate the children’s care. Parent(s) or guardian(s) accompany their child to the Bridge appointments.

After the initial evaluation, if it is determined that a child does not need medication, he or she will be referred to other in-school or outpatient behavioral health programs.

Parents, teachers and providers can contact the school counselors or the Bridge staff directly if they believe a child may benefit from the Bridge Program. The psychiatrists and nurses work as team members with school counselors and other school staff for the benefit of every child in the program.

The MU Bridge Program makes psychiatric treatment more accessible and provides timely appointments. It brings psychiatry into schools to help reduce crises. Children with emotional/behavioral problems will be able to get back on track faster, so that they can learn, socialize and feel better.

MU BRIDGE PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE:

- Initial psychiatric evaluation and a prescription for medication(s)
- When possible, prescriptions will be chosen from the $4 list of medications for children who are underinsured
- 2-3 follow-up visits at no out-of-pocket cost
- Treatment for children until their conditions are stable enough to be transferred to a community provider

NURSING CARE COORDINATION INCLUDES:

- Involving parent(s) or guardian(s) in children’s treatment
- Tracking children’s progress and medication effectiveness
- Working with parent(s) or guardian(s), school staff, in-school and community providers
- Scheduling community psychiatrist and provider appointments
- Assisting with MO Health Net application