

# Mississippi School-Based Telehealth: Addressing Community Challenges in Access to Care

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# Program History

- ✓ ***Originally established through a Mississippi Department of Education grant, expanding school-based telehealth into 73 districts across the state. Currently operating under a Center of Excellence grant providing to 32 school districts in Mississippi.***
- ✓ ***Focus: urgent care, behavioral health, and district-level perspective.***
- ✓ ***Goal: highlight measurable impact on access and reimbursement challenges, while emphasizing sustainability and replicability for other states.***

# URGENT CARE & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

## Behavioral Health Services

Provided by Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs) & Psych NP's

- Therapy and follow-up care for anxiety, depression, behavior, coping, emotional expression, and more
- Medication referrals made by LPCs when no local provider is available
- Non-urgent, scheduled visits

## Urgent Care Services

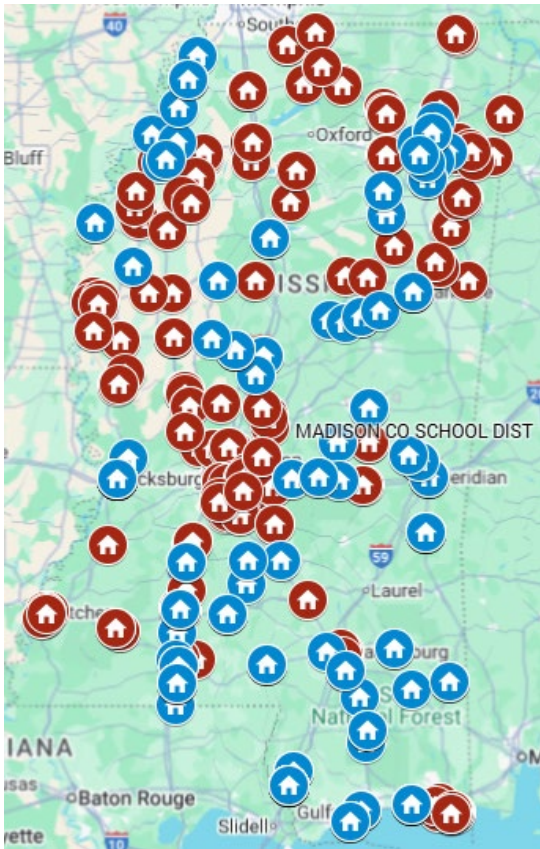
Provided by UMMC Pediatric Nurse Practitioners- SAME DAY!

- Treatment for:  
Asthma, allergies, colds, flu, headaches, fever, rashes, skin irritation, lice, pink eye & more

**Parents/guardians may join visits virtually**



# DATA SNAPSHOT & IMPACT



Active School District 2022-2025



Original District, no longer active after MDE grant ended



73 Participating School Districts (Currently 32 SD)



420 Schools Reached (Currently 205 Schools)



191,838 Students Enrolled (Currently 79,189 students)



6,051 Telehealth Encounters Since Inception



3,237 Unique Students Treated Since Inception

## **FROM THE FRONT LINES: School Leaders & Clinicians**



**Sonya Leonard, RN**  
**Pearl River County School District**  
**School Nurse**  
**(Urgent Care Perspective)**



**Margaret Hart, MSN RN**  
**FNP-C PMHNP-BC NCSN**  
**McComb School District**  
**Director of Nursing and Health Services**  
**(Behavioral Health Perspective)**



**Glen Beard**  
**Choctaw School District**  
**Superintendent**  
**(District Leadership Perspective)**

## Q & A:

### Urgent Care: School Nurse Perspective

- Managing urgent concerns during the school day
- Example: timely care → student returns to class
- Care coordination with parents & PCPs
- Parent response to telehealth access
- Impact on health disparities (rural & low-income students)



**Sonya Leonard, RN**  
**Pearl River County School District**  
**School Nurse**



## Q & A:

### Behavioral Health: Counselor/Nurse Perspective

- Barriers to care: access, cost, stigma, scheduling
- School-day impact: attendance, behavior, crisis management
- SBTH's role: therapy, med management, continuity of care
- Parent response: relief, hesitation, or mixed
- Example outcome: faster intervention, student stays in class



**Margaret Hart, MSN RN  
FNP-C PMHNP-BC NCSN  
McComb School District  
Director of Nursing and Health Services**

## Q & A:

### District Leadership: Superintendent Perspective

- Student Attendance & Early Dismissals
- Policy & Resources for Sustainability
- Future of SBTH
- Impact on Chronic Absenteeism
- Ripple Effects on Learning
- District Performance
- Leadership & Budget Strain



**Glen Beard**  
**Choctaw School District**  
**Superintendent**



# Sustainability & Future Growth

- Transition beyond grant funding as COE support sunsets
- Optimize reimbursement: streamline billing workflows, reduce denials
- Strengthen payer partnerships: Medicaid site-of-service, commercial coverage
- Explore innovative models: provider/payer
- Position SBTH as a replicable framework for rural & underserved communities
- Future of SBTH: preventive care, wellness, chronic disease management