

Tell Us Something BHERO GOOD

“Our goal [with TCM] is to meet the needs of the whole child and their family in a way that traditional school supports just aren’t designed to do. As a community, we have to tie people together through cross-sector collaboration and partnership so that our schools can do the very important work that they’re meant to do.”

—Heather Simonich, Operations Director, Nexus-PATH

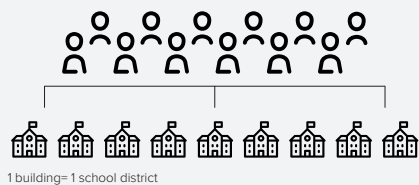
PROGRAM TARGETED CASE MANAGEMENT (TCM)

PROVIDER
Nexus-PATH Family Healing

INCEPTION
April 2019

SCHOOLS SERVED

Equivalent of 12 FTE staff serving 9 school districts and 19 different school buildings.*



*4 of those schools are served through North Dakota Full-Service Community Schools

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE: Targeted Case Management supports students, families, and school staff by placing a licensed social worker within a district building to deliver case management services for referred students. These social workers aid schools in meeting the whole child’s needs by making home visits, meeting with the students and their family to gain greater understanding of their context and needs, and helping those families access essential supports and services.

COST: Schools fund 25% of the total program cost, typically through general fund dollars, Title funds, grants (e.g. North Dakota Full-Service Community Schools initiative), and/or a solicitation of private philanthropic dollars; remaining costs are funded through Medicaid reimbursement.

IMPLEMENTATION JOURNEY— ALL ABOUT WILTON

DISTRICT ENROLLMENT (AS OF MAY 2021)
262

PROGRAM PARTNERS SINCE
January 2021

STUDENTS SERVED (SO FAR!)
8

Like many small, rural districts across the state, Wilton Public Schools recognized their limitations in supporting students with complex needs outside of the classroom—especially when it came to helping their families navigate the complicated web of community supports and resources.

“We have had families that we just cannot do enough for,” said Wilton Elementary Principal Macy Wood. “We know what would be beneficial for them, but we don’t have the resources, the staff, or the time to really be able to best help them.”

Simply put, Wilton Public Schools needed someone to help bridge the gap between homes, schools, and communities. Wilton connected with Nexus-PATH through their existing partnership with the North Dakota Full-Service Community Schools Consortium, and in January 2021, they began offering Targeted Case Management services in their district.

Their journey has not been without challenges. Because they could not justify bringing on a full-time social worker for their small district, Wilton and Nexus-PATH posted an opening for a half-time position. Despite interviewing two candidates with the right qualifications, District Superintendent Andrew Jordan knew neither of them were the right fit for Wilton.

“We didn’t want to rush anything,” Jordan said. “We knew that finding the right person was vital to make this work.”

Then, Wilton found who they were looking for: a passionate and compassionate social worker who immediately “clicked” with the district and has since formed incredible bonds with students and their families. By remaining patient and maintaining consistent and honest communication with their case manager and the entire Nexus-PATH team, Wilton has found great success with this program in a short period of time.



[READ THE SUCCESS STORY >](#)

Tell Us Something BHERO GOOD

“The goal is to serve 100 percent of your students. I don’t think that we could serve them to the best of our abilities without Targeted Case Management.”

—Andrew Jordan, District Superintendent at Wilton Public Schools

BHERO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

WHO WE ARE.

A group of educators and advocates passionate about the importance of behavioral health in our schools and communities.

WHAT WE DO.

We provide:



Training



Technical Assistance



Opportunities

WHY WE DO IT.

We want to help:



Stop the Stigma



Build Healthier Schools



Avoid Burnout

SUCCESS STORY

So far, eight Wilton students have been served through Targeted Case Management. Their needs range from getting connected to much-needed community resources to just having a trusted confidante to talk to.

“Those are eight kids that I don’t lie awake thinking that we don’t know how to help, or we can’t get them the services that they need,” Wood said.

One particular student comes to mind for Wood. Through meetings with the student, Wilton’s case manager discovered that he had a passion for baseball and dreamed of getting to play. The student had never voiced his wish before. The social worker pulled a few strings to get the student on a team, and didn’t stop there—she drove him to his games and took his entire family out for ice cream afterward.

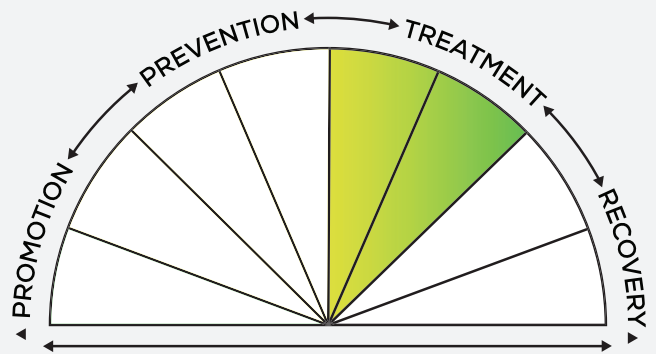
“He would come by our office with a huge grin on his face and tell us about his games,” Wood said. “That’s an experience he probably would never have gotten if his case manager wasn’t in the picture.”

While only a small number of students are receiving direct support through this program, Wood says its impact can already be felt throughout the entire district.

“It takes so much off of other people’s plates in the school, allowing us to better serve all of our students,” Wood said. “It’s an amazing feeling to know that you can help kids, when they stop by your office and you see the joy in their faces and know that probably wouldn’t have happened without the hard work of our case manager. I would encourage any school to jump on board if they can.”

BH CONTINUUM OF CARE

Targeted Case Management falls within the Treatment portion of the Behavioral Health Continuum of Care.



GET INVOLVED

Schools and districts interested in implementing Targeted Case Management are encouraged to contact Heather Simonich at Nexus-PATH to learn more.

Heather Simonich, Operations Director
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B-HERO Technical Assistance Center is a collaborative effort between Central Regional Education Association and the Department of Human Services, Behavioral Health Division.