



## EMERGENCY MOBILE PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES

EMPS is a program funded by the State of Connecticut in partnership with the United Way of Connecticut 2-1-1.



**Connecticut Public Act 13-178: An Act Concerning the Mental, Emotional And Behavioral Health Of Youths states that:** *“Emergency mobile psychiatric service providers shall collaborate with community-based mental health care agencies, school-based health centers and the contracting authority for each local or regional board of education throughout the state, utilizing a variety of methods, including, but not limited to, memoranda of understanding, policy and protocols regarding referrals and outreach and liaison between the respective entities. These methods shall be designed to (1) improve coordination and communication in order to enable such entities to promptly identify and refer children with mental, emotional or behavioral health issues to the appropriate treatment program, and (2) plan for any appropriate follow-up with the child and family.”*

Through EMPS, a mobile intervention service for children and adolescents in crisis provided in partnership by the State of Connecticut and United Way of Connecticut 2-1-1, educators can receive assistance with behavioral health crises and provide students with the support and resources needed during their time of crisis. While reducing the number of expulsions, suspensions and juvenile arrests resulting from behavioral crises, calling EMPS also provides students with ongoing support resources following the incident.

By dialing 2-1-1 and, when prompted, pressing ‘1’ for ‘crisis’, educators can gain access to EMPS’ team of nearly 150 trained mental health professionals across the state that can respond immediately, face-to-face or by phone, to help manage the student’s behavioral or emotional crisis.

EMPS offers support when a student is:

- Unresponsive to authority
- Destroying property or out of control
- Threatening to hurt himself/herself or others
- Having a behavioral crisis that is too much for you and/or your team to handle
- Acting violently or dangerously

EMPS phone support is available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year, and mobile support, Monday through Friday from 8:00a.m.-10:00p.m. and from 1:00p.m.-10:00p.m. on weekends and holidays. Following the crisis, an EMPS clinician and members of the provider team will meet with the student’s family for up to six weeks, develop an action plan and connect them with additional community resources to help the student work through the challenges that prompted the initial crisis.

Enclosed are an EMPS fact sheet, sample EMPS-School District MOA, EMPS poster and 2-1-1 poster. We hope you will thoughtfully consider the MOA and feature the poster in your break room to educate staff on the free, mobile, support resources that are available to them when a student is experiencing a behavioral or emotional crisis. If you have questions about the MOA, call Yecenia Casiano at 860-679-2336.

To learn more about how EMPS can help manage and respond to behavioral and emotional crises in your school, visit <http://empsct.org>.

We hope you will take advantage of this vital service and work with us to reduce the number of juvenile arrests and school expulsions/suspensions for youth who struggle with school-related behavioral health issues.

Sincerely,

Tanya Barrett  
Senior Vice President  
2-1-1 Health and Human Services  
United Way of CT