



Working Together for Safer Schools, Healthier Families and Stronger Communities

Kathy Edmonston, B.A.

Holley Galland, MD, MPH

Bethany Sclafani, LCSW-BACS

April 20, 1999

Columbine changed everything...

The number one finding from the FBI report on Columbine is that kids need to feel safe in speaking with someone at school.



Who Comes To School?



21% of US children ages 9 to 17 have a **diagnosable** mental or addictive disorder that causes at least minimal impairment and behavioral challenges.

School Based Therapy Program Diagnoses:

- 52% ADHD
- 15% Conduct Disorder
- 12% Anxiety Disorder
- 10% PTSD/ Adjustment Disorder
- 9% Depressive Disorders
- 2% Social Phobia



Zach's Story



Challenges School Systems Have In Meeting Mental Health Needs



Kids Come To School With Layers Of Trauma

trauma

PTSD

abuse

flashbacks

anxiety

insomnia

fear

nightmares

hyper-vigilance

witnessing trauma

irritability

victim

kids

jumpy

veteran

alcohol abuse

post-traumatic stress disorder

drugs abuse

uncontrollable thoughts

experiencing trauma

on edge

emotional distance

men

women

impatience

mental health

terrifying event

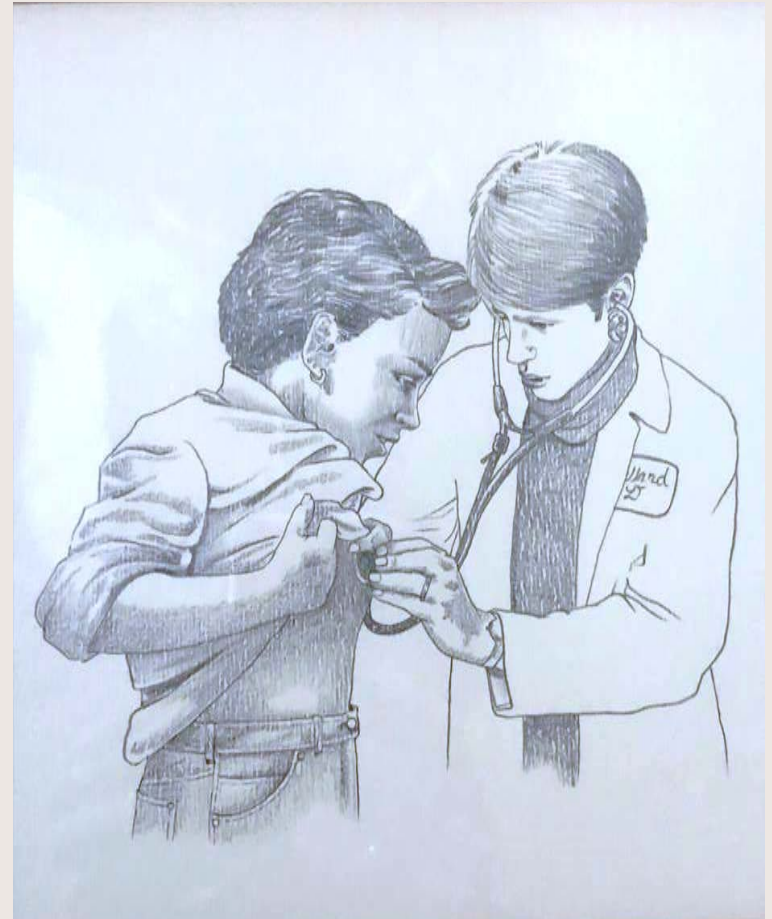
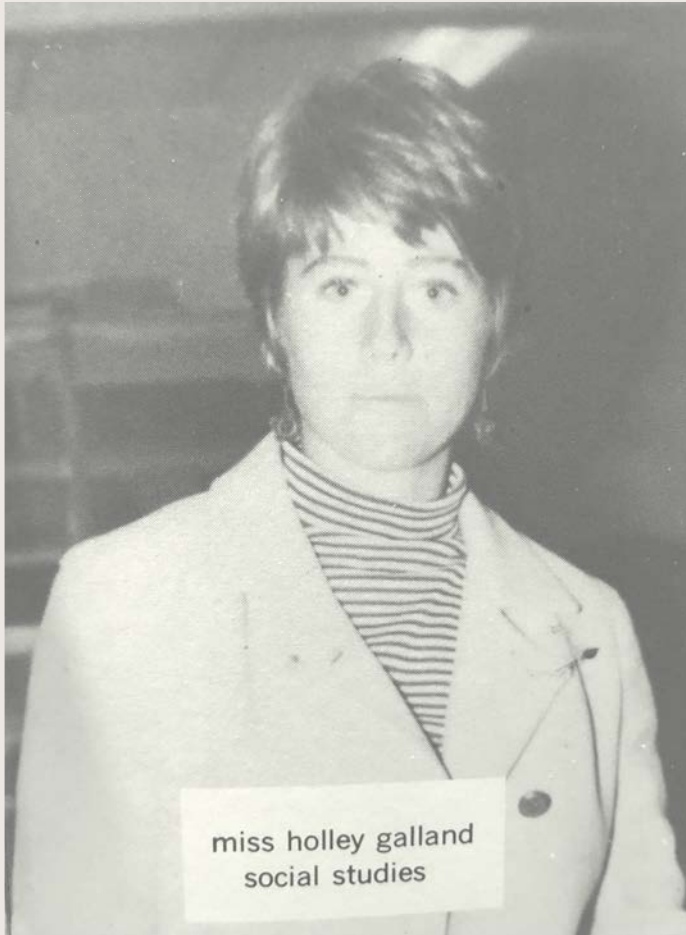
Weather in South Louisiana



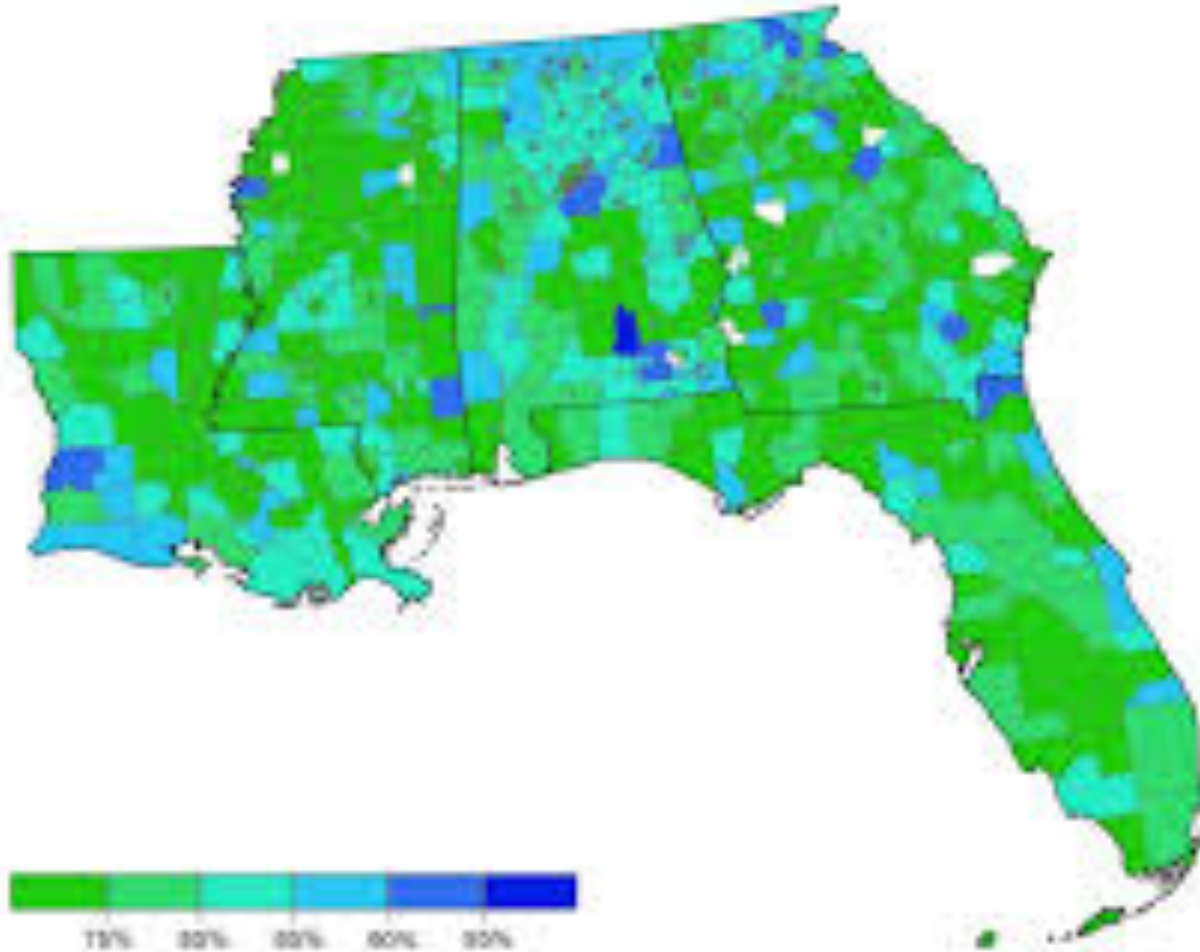
Navigating School Systems



From Teacher to Doctor



Graduation Rates In The South



Our Goal



“228,000 Students”



**“Back to School”
Sandy Hook Promise**

Sexual Trauma



Family Center of Washington DC





Every week...



Bullying 24/7



No longer limited to schoolyards or street corners, modern-day bullying can happen at home as well as at school - essentially 24 hours a day.



Neighborhood Violence



Three quarters of American children have been exposed to neighborhood violence in their lifetimes

“In a violent Baton Rouge neighborhood, no one comes out for the ice cream truck”

The Advocate May 2019



Background of School Based Therapy Program

- **Eliminate transportation barriers**
- **Reduce absences from school**
- **Meet clients where they are**



Which Schools?

- Targeted schools with large number of clinic no-shows
- Large numbers of free and reduced lunch students
- Large numbers of in school and out of school suspensions



We're Growing

- **From 3 schools to 45!**
 - **Safe Schools Healthy Students Grant (SSHS)**
 - **School Emergency Response to Violence Grant (SERV)**
 - **Hospital board funding**
 - **Corporation donations**
 - **Medicaid and insurance reimbursement**



Who do we see?

Issues:

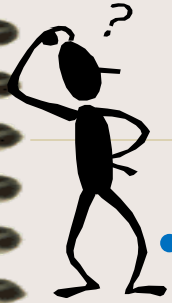
- School attendance
- Academic performance
- Behavior problems – home and school
- Social/legal issues

PLUS we require:

- Parental consent to age 16
- a DSM diagnosis



How Do School Based Therapists Help?



- We take referrals from whole school community
- Identify the concern with the parent and child
- Individual, family or group intervention every week
- Work with teachers to design behavior modification programs



And we COLLABORATE!

- Primary care providers
- Child protection workers
- Probation and Truancy Officers
- Wrap around and community
- Interagency Service Council

The Schools:

- We are there for SBLC, IEP, expulsion hearings.



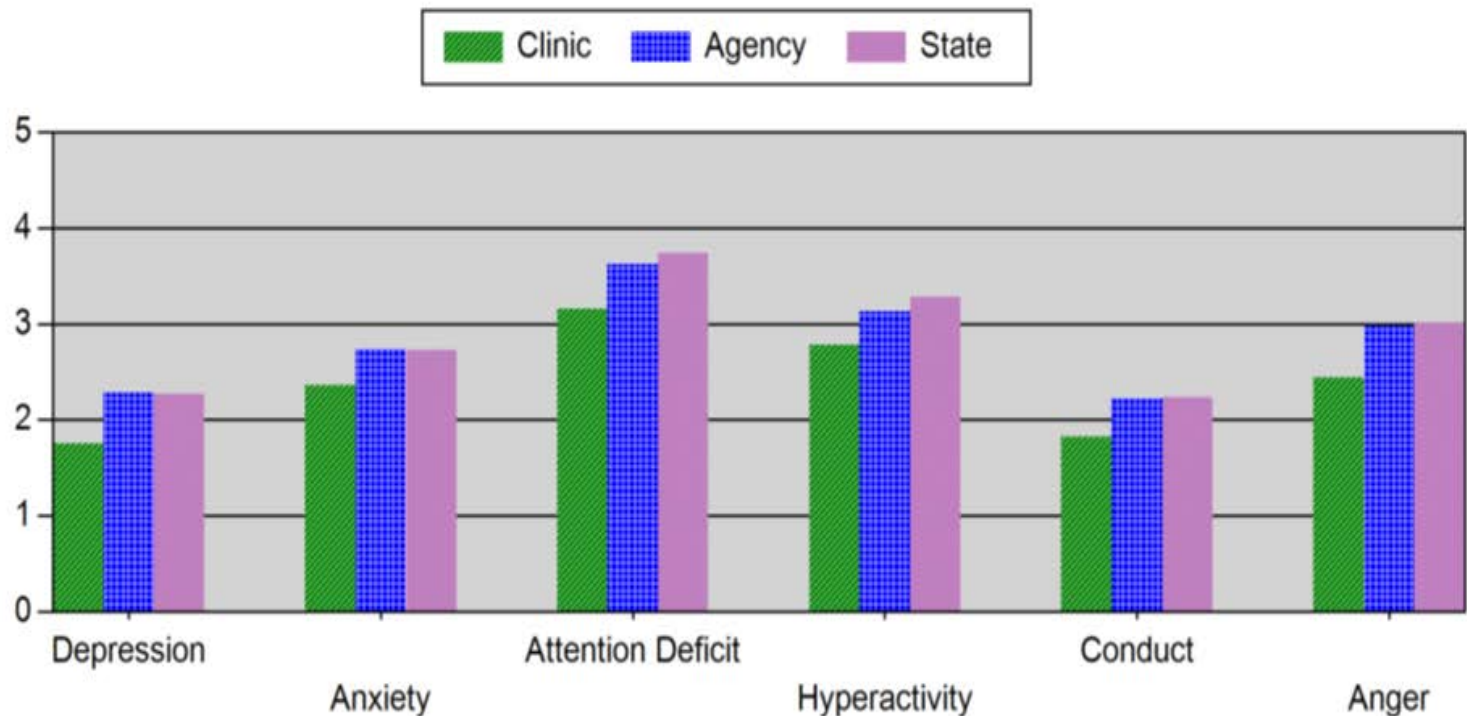
Unique Features to School Based Therapy Program

- Access to a vast in-house network of professionals
- Team of masters-level counselors, social workers and physicians listening to and working closely with students, families, school staff and the community.



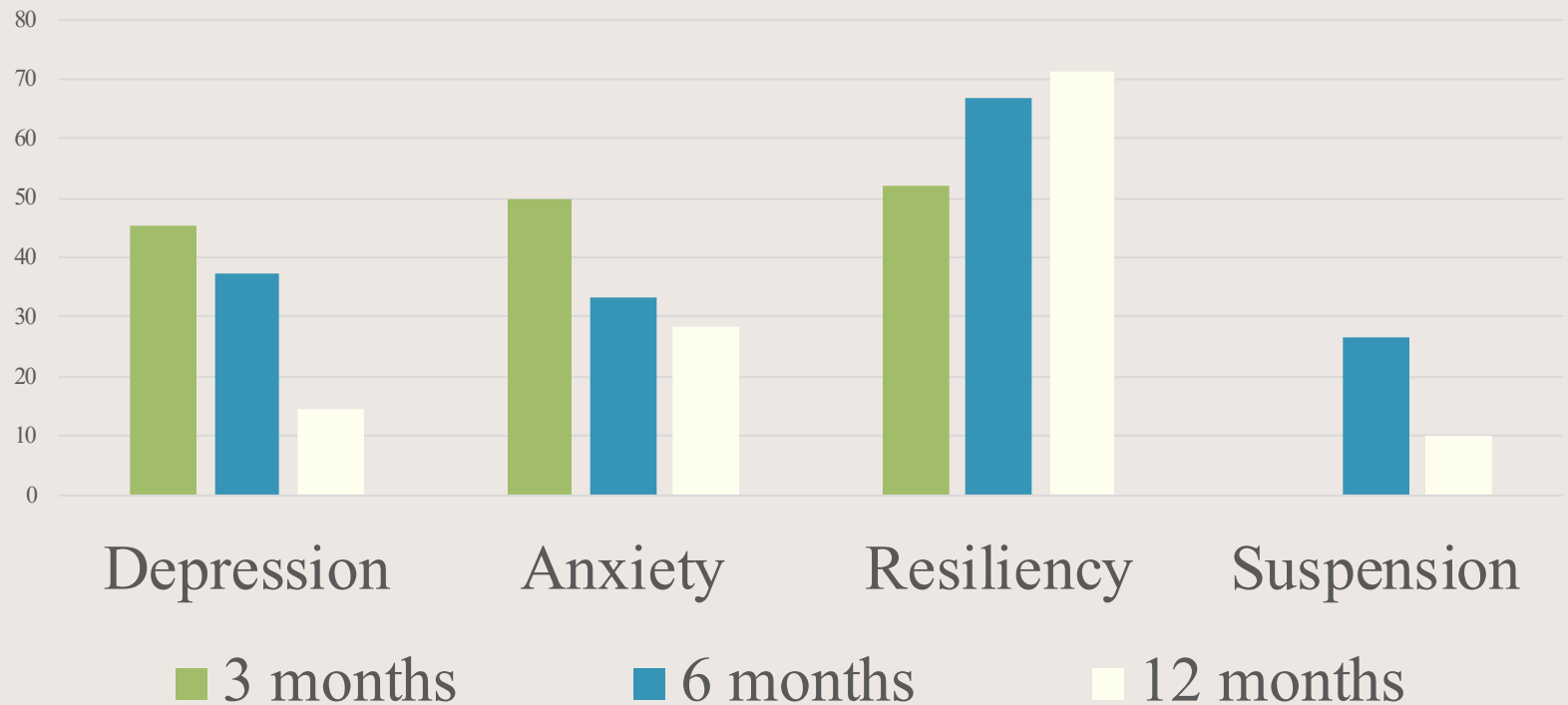
Outcomes – School Based Clinic Is Most Effective Location For Treatment

TOMS Parent/Guardian Self-Assessment: Symptom Scores (lower is better)

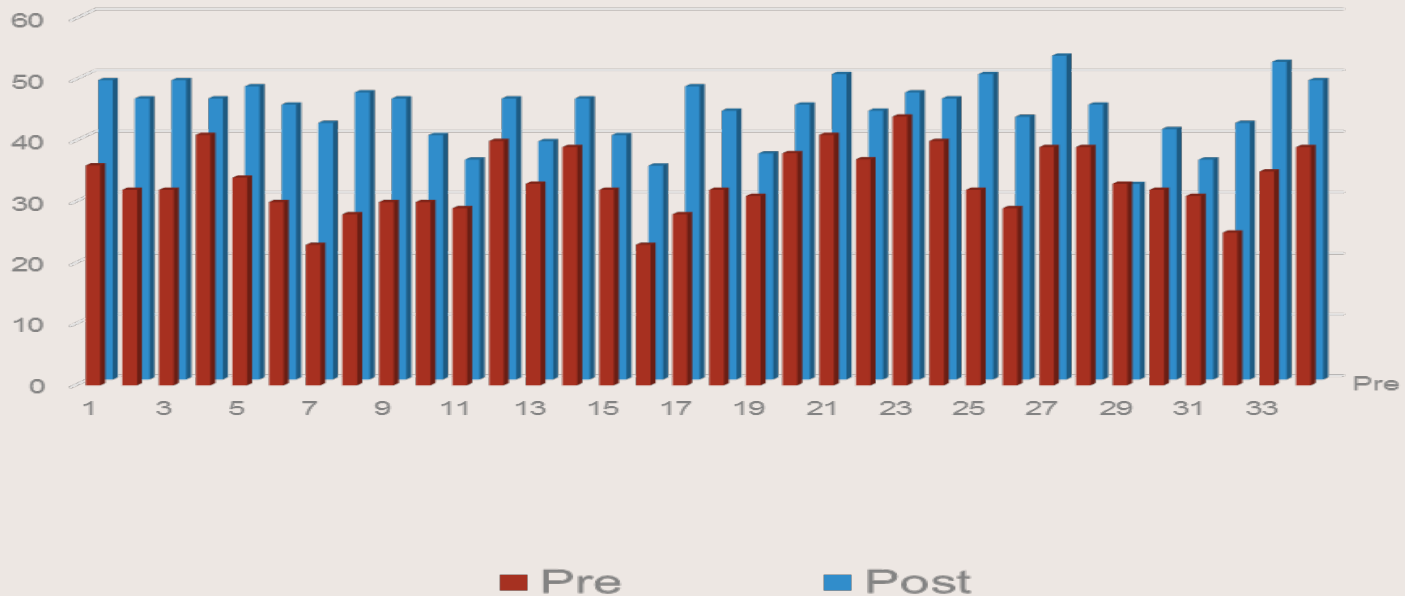


Quarterly TOMS Data

Treatment Outcome Measures



Journey of Hope Resiliency Skills



On average, their resiliency scores went from 33 to 44.

School Based Therapy Delivers

Since 2008

- 595 Suicides Prevented
- 204 Expulsions Avoided
- 585 Clients discharged due to meeting treatment goals
- 40% reduction in truancy and disciplinary referrals





Satisfaction Survey Results

- 100% would *recommend services* to a friend or family member.
- 95% indicated their family *got the help they wanted* for their child.
- 94% felt their child *had someone to talk to* when he/she was troubled.
- 94% indicated the counselor helping their child *stuck with them* no matter what.

Parent Comment On Having School Based Therapist

“Having my kids work with the School Based Therapist gives me peace of mind...I am grateful that when they are at school she can be there for them when I am unable to be. She helps guide them and they will open up to her in a way that they won't open up to me.”

- Parent West Feliciana Middle School



What Have Principals Said About School Based Therapy?

“Our School Based Therapist works hard to build positive relationships and connections with our students. She is a fixer and provides an emotional balance on our campus for students in need.”

-Marvin M. Evans, Principal
Donaldsonville High School



Another Principal Said...

“Having a school based social worker has provided so many students with an opportunity to receive professional counseling services that they would not have received otherwise.”

**-Lori Charlet, Principal
Gonzales Middle School**



School Based Therapy

Case Examples

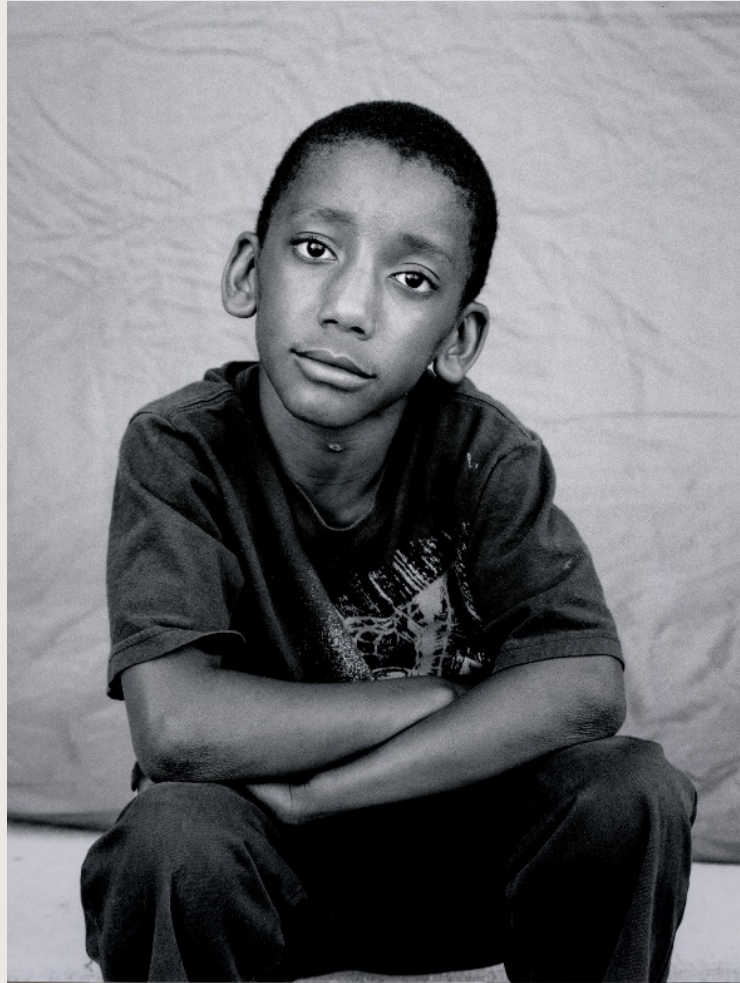


It's not ADHD

- **It's an overworked, overwhelmed mom**
- **It's domestic violence**
- **It's the neighborhood**
- **It's being stuck inside**
- **It's not enough sleep**
- **It's an undiagnosed/undertreated learning issue**



Meet Myron...



Myron's Happy Ending....



Federal Response to School Safety



When our nation's 55 million students head to class each day, they should find safe havens for learning, free from threats and hazards.

Joint Effort High Quality Emergency Operations Plan



The Federal
Commission on School
Safety presented a
report to the President.



Core Planning Teams

The outcome of that report was in September 2019, DOE, DOJ, DHS, DHH were charged with creating an atmosphere free of threats and hazards.



