

Cambridge Health Alliance

1493 Cambridge Street • Cambridge, MA 02139 • 617.503.2300

January 25, 1999

Robert W. Healy
City Manager
City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Mr. Healy,

I am writing in response to City Council Order #027 dated 10/26/98 regarding child and mental health services especially those available through the elementary school and the high school.

It is the goal of the Division of Child Psychiatry to meet the needs of the children of Cambridge to the fullest extent possible in clinic, school, home and neighborhood health center settings and to do so in coordination with the Cambridge Health Alliance, the Public Schools and the Health of the Cities project.

Our services include consultation, evaluation, counseling, psychotherapy, family therapy, psychopharmacology, neurology, educational planning and acute intervention. They are provided in a variety of settings, as indicated above. Outreach services are provided on a 24 hour, 7 day per week basis and are most commonly delivered in settings of school and home. Acute assessment and intervention are provided as needed and include single or multiple visits for children/families, consultation to schools, coordination with or referral to other appropriate agencies and evaluation for hospitalization as needed. When traumatic community events occur, the Outreach Team also provides consultation and services to relevant organizations as well as affected individuals.

Administrative Response Teams have been developed at the request of the Superintendent of Schools. They have been planned jointly by representatives of the Division of Child Psychiatry and the School Department. A team now exists at each school and is composed of the principal and members of the staff of that school as chosen by the principal. We have so far provided four system wide trainings in crisis response. These teams will plan and coordinate within their school any necessary interventions at times of crisis or trauma.



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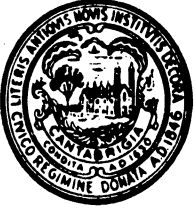
In addition to these services, psychiatric consultation is provided to CRLS as well as an innovative program that utilizes staff with small groups of all students at the school for purposes of mentorship, guidance and the development of communication skills. Services are delivered through the Teen Health Center. Initiatives to substantially expand the psychiatric services offered at the school and the Health Center are currently being actively developed.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this at 498-1001. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John G. O'Brien", written in a cursive style.

John G. O'Brien
Chief Executive Officer



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

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10.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

February 1, 1999

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 4, regarding a report on child and mental health services especially those available through the elementary schools and the high school, received from Chief Executive Officer of the Cambridge Health Alliance John O'Brien.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec

Consent Agenda #10,

5-84

Relative to AR #4, regarding a
report on child and mental health
services especially those available
through the elementary schools and
high school.

In City Council February 1, 1999

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