

School-Based Health Partnership with Stanfield Elementary School District #24

March 6, 2024

Dear Families of the Stanfield Elementary School District:

Earlier this school year, **Stanfield Elementary School District and Desert Senita Community Health Center partnered to offer school-based health services** in a building set aside for this purpose by the Stanfield School District Governing Board (Building O, the former junior high school office) for students, families, staff, and community members of the Stanfield Elementary School District and the Stanfield community. That building is currently under renovation to serve as a full-service clinic, offering outpatient **Family Medical Care, Mental Health Care (Counseling and Psychiatry), Dental Care, and even Pharmacy (through home and school delivery of medications)**. Access to the clinic (which will be **open five days a week from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM** with different days available for each of the services mentioned above) will be through a separate entrance off Highway 84. Renovations and the installation of fencing for the entrance should be complete by the end of March, and the clinic is scheduled to open sometime in May.

Medical providers (physicians and nurse practitioners) will be available for appointments and walk-ins two days per week. These providers can see just about any condition, diagnose, treat, and prescribe medication, provide wellness services (including vaccines) as well as order laboratory tests and medical imaging. **All patients of Desert Senita Community Health Center also have access to both community and clinical pharmacists by telephone and tele-health** to answer their medication and patient care questions. **Mental Health Providers** will also be in the clinic two days per week to provide **individual, family, and group mental health counseling services for conditions like anxiety, depression, and trauma**. Additionally, Desert Senita **provides evaluations for psychological (including educational testing) and psychiatric conditions** both in-person and via telehealth and **evaluations for the treatment of mental health conditions using medications**. Appointments for any of the above services can be made by contacting the clinic office at (520) 387-5651 or by speaking to the Healthcare Technician on-site at the clinic. **Transportation and medication delivery are provided for free.**

Even before the clinic opens in partnership with the school district, we have begun to embed mental health clinicians (counselors) and behavioral health technicians (BHTs, paraprofessionals in mental health) in the elementary school during school days. You will see these individuals on campus as they begin to work closely with the school staff and families to make sure that students and families have access to the highest quality of care available in any community.

Mental health and other clinical staff from Desert Senita Community Health Center will only work directly with students from whom we have received a "Consent to Treat" form signed by a parent

or guardian, so families who have a child in need of an evaluation for mental health treatment are encouraged to contact either their child's school counselor or DSCHC BHTs directly to make a referral.

The Stanfield Elementary School Counselor is working with families to make sure that children who may need mental health services are contacted and made aware of the availability of those services.

Desert Senita currently offers the following services both on-campus and in our Arizona City Offices, all of which are accessible to students and families of SEDS as well as all Stanfield community members:

- **Mental Health Evaluations and Assessments** (school-based, office-based, or home-based)
- **Individual and Family Therapy**
- **Group Therapy**
- **Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment**
- **Case Management and Integrated Care**
- **Medication Evaluations by a Psychiatric Clinician**
- **Pharmacy Services** (with medications available for delivery to home and school)
- **Dual Diagnosis Therapy for Children and Adults with both Mental Health and Development Disorders**
- **Diagnosis, Assessment, and Evaluation of Learning Disabilities, Mental Health Disorders, and Development Disabilities by a Clinical Psychologist** (beginning in May)
- **Free Transportation** to and from clinic appointments
- **Primary Care Medical Services** for the Whole Family*
- **Clinical Pharmacy Services***
- **Laboratory Services***
- **X-Ray** (in-clinic in Arizona City beginning in April/May)
*in clinic in Arizona City currently and beginning in May in Stanfield

Our primary offices in Arizona City are located at:

- **Medical and Pharmacy** – 14574 S. Sunland Gin Rd., Arizona City, AZ 85123
 - **Mental Health** – 13060 S. Sunland Gin Rd., Arizona City, AZ 85123
- Our main line for all services is (520) 387-5651.

Your team of mental health professionals currently assigned to SEDS include the following individuals, all of whom are happy to hear from you with any questions at any time:

- **Jill Unruh, MA, LPC, CPRP** – Clinical Director, Behavioral Health – junruh@desertsenita.org
- **Lee Anne Bárbara, MAEd, MA, LAC-Candidate** – School-Based Mental Health - Coordinator – also assigned to SEDS - lbarbara@desertsenita.org – Cell (520) 517-1935 – **Se habla español.**

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- **Michele Mitchell, MA, LPC, CSAC** – School-Based Mental Health Counselor – also assigned to TES – mmitchell@desertsenita.org – Cell (520) 517-1935
- **Lisa Gaylord, BHT** – Lead Behavioral Health Technician – lgaylord@desertsenita.org – Cell (520) 517-1255

Additional professional and para-professional staff will be onboarding soon, and Desert Senita plans to actively engage with the school community through summer programming, so please stay tuned.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our offices, and if you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Jill or me directly.

Sincerely,



Dr. Daniel Bárbara
Chief Executive Officer