



Post Graduate Fellowship Training Program in School Mental Health

With the support of a planning grant from [Ed Forward](#), Marisa Parella will be working to develop a Post Graduate Fellowship Training Program in School Mental Health with a launch goal of fall of 2023.

This program hopes to be a partnership between Mary's Center's SBMH program in our 26 partner schools, George Washington University School of Public Health's Center for Health and Healthcare in Schools, and Georgetown's Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. The partnerships build upon years of existing collaboration between Mary's Center and both universities as well as the significant investments that the Mayor's office has made in expanding School Mental Health.

Workforce shortages for qualified child mental health providers existed pre-covid and have worsened now, particularly in school settings where in-person work is a mandate. This fellowship is predicated on the idea that school-based clinicians juggle a complex set of challenges, from implementing best practices in children's mental health intervention, to learning how to make meaningful impact on systemic inequities, to understanding what strategies support a school culture of wellness.

In lieu of recent events, we are particularly reminded that schools have been sites of unspeakable violence, potentiating fears in children and families, and reminding us of how critical our support for students and school communities is.

The program aims to provide the training needed to support talented clinicians' long-term sustainability in the work and hopes to benefit from expertise at Mary's Center and locally. Moreover, we aim to elevate and prioritize recruitment and acceptance of clinicians of color who reflect the communities we serve.

Finally, we hope this can be a replicable and sustainable model to create a trained workforce pipeline for children's mental health professionals in our community.

More details coming soon!