

# GLENDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## SYSTEM OF CARE CENTER EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



### INTRODUCTION

The Glendale Elementary School District (GESD) is developing a school-based system of care center facilitated by the District in collaboration with community partners. This network of community-based services and supports will include a wide array of services for students, staff, and families.

Research shows that child health and nutrition are strongly associated with educational achievement. Understanding this, the resources and supports available in our homes, neighborhoods, and communities; the quality of our schooling; the safety of our workplaces; the cleanliness of our water, and food; and the nature of our social interactions and relationships are critical. The opportunities to access these resources are key.

The GESD System of Care Center (SoCC) will provide the resources necessary to improve the outcomes for those engaged with the GESD community. Providers will deliver resources to create healthy communities through interagency collaboration. Services to be provided include:

- Mental Health Services
- Social Services
- Educational Services
- Health Services
- Substance Abuse Services
- Vocational Services
- Recreational Services
- Juvenile Justice Services

## THE NEED FOR THIS CENTER



The social determinants of health are the non-medical factors that influence health outcomes. They are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, and live, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life.

– World Health Organization



One of the most challenging aspects of human services today is providing comprehensive, coordinated human services to meet the needs of youth and families. Today, the percentage of families that live in poverty in the 85301, 85302, and 85303 zip codes ranges from 15.9% to 32.9%. This is reflected in a high percentage of GESD students receiving free and reduced lunch and GESD being a Title I school district.

The SoCC will be a unique asset to the community. GESD's deep understanding of the community it serves plays a critical role in addressing the disparities faced by those living within the 85301, 85302, and 85303 zip codes.

The Glendale community has resources available; however, navigating the medical, social, eligibility, housing, and transportation systems can be a challenge. There is unequal access to information, broken systems, and other systematic barriers that can create obstacles too great for individuals to overcome alone. When neighborhoods and specific populations face decades of poverty, incarceration, violence, and untreated mental health issues, they are more likely to have increased poor health outcomes. In 85301 alone, there is a substantial difference in life outcomes that are directly related to which zip code a person resides within. This divide reflects inequities based on unequal access to the social determinants of health. Negative experiences in childhood and the teenage years may put children at risk for chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance use in adulthood.



The SoCC will provide resources and tools to strengthen families through Protective Factors such as:

- Resilience - building strength, coping with worries, meeting family needs
- Connections - support from family, neighbors, community
- Child Development - parent groups, brain development, milestones, safety
- Basics - food, housing, utilities, health care
- Social and Emotional Health - building relationships, self-control, understanding feelings

## **BACKGROUND**

On March 11, 2021, the GESD Governing Board voted on the closure and repurposing of Coyote Ridge School into a SoCC effective for the 2022-2023 school year.

The SoCC will provide a spectrum of effective, community-based services and support for students, staff and community members with or at risk for mental health or other challenges and their families. The SoCC will build meaningful partnerships with families and youth and will address their cultural and linguistic needs.

The SoCC is a hub for human services where community members are welcomed to a facility that provides a sense of safety and belonging and empowers community members to be actively engaged in their life. It is an anchor in the community offering service primarily to residents of the 85301, 85302, and 85303 zip codes.

In preparation for this work a committee was established and assigned the task of defining the work of the SoCC guided by the following core values:

- 1. Support and Build Strong Families** - By providing access to an all-inclusive spectrum of community-based services, children and families receive effective care to improve their quality of life.
- 2. Interagency Collaboration** - Develop and nurture meaningful partnerships to support a relevant and sustainable framework.
- 3. Shared Responsibility to Drive Awareness** - Through collaborative outreach and deepening connections with our local community, we develop awareness to ensure continuous use of services.

## **PARTNERSHIPS AND OPERATIONS**

Cultivating and sustaining partnerships will be fundamental for the SoCC to operate successfully. Partnerships will be developed by inviting local agencies and businesses to monthly gatherings that will inform them with rich data about the SoCC, such as the number of families assisted each month, types of services offered, new partnerships, and to celebrate contributions and donations. Most importantly, these monthly gatherings will raise awareness about the needs of the community to continue and broaden the provided services.

In the Glendale community, the SoCC will be continuously promoted in a hyperlocal newspaper, *The Glendale Star*. This approach will inform families about the SoCC and will draw attention to partnership opportunities for businesses and organizations in the area. Furthermore, each GESD school will post the provided services and contact information on school marquees, websites, and social media platforms.

The SoCC will provide access to an all-inclusive spectrum of community-based services for children and adults to improve their quality of life. This task will be accomplished by implementing effective and efficient case management services. The process will begin by having a case manager assess the needs of each member to determine the appropriate services. Followed by coordinating and implementing those services. The case management system will advocate, support and guide members to ensure each participant receives quality services, which will be accomplished by continuous communication, monitoring, and evaluation of services.

## **CONCLUSION**

The goal of this crucial community project is to develop a coordinated system of care supporting child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health, and education. Agencies work collectively to ensure that children with mental, emotional, and behavioral problems and their families have access to needed services to succeed. Together, these partners develop individualized service plans for children and families. By building on the strengths and knowledge of both public health and education, GESD strives to create expanded opportunities for stronger, healthier communities through the power of our combined networks.

