Vision Statement: To be a state leader in providing school-based psychiatric treatment.

Contact Information:
Laine Young-Walker, MD, Program Director
Chris Petner, RN, Program Manager
   (573) 268-5129
Carole Schutz, RN, Program Manager
   (573) 268-4921

MU Bridge Program: School-Based Psychiatry is supported by funding from the Children’s Services Fund.
THE MU BRIDGE PROGRAM:

School-Based Psychiatry is part of University of Missouri Health Care in Columbia, Missouri. The program provides psychiatric appointments in Boone County Schools for school-age children who need prompt evaluation and treatment.

Children in the program will receive an initial psychiatric evaluation with a child psychiatrist, and two to three follow-up appointments at no cost. The program’s nurses will communicate with parents or guardians and coordinate the children’s care. Parent(s) or guardian(s) should accompany their child to the first appointment.

After the initial evaluation, if it is determined that a child does not need medication, he or she will be referred to other in-school or outpatient behavioral health programs.

Parents, teachers and providers can contact the school counselors or the school-based problem-solving team if they believe a child may benefit from the Bridge Program. The psychiatrists and nurses work as team members with school counselors and other school staff for the benefit of every child in the program.

The MU Bridge Program makes psychiatric treatment more accessible and provides timely appointments. It brings psychiatry into schools to help reduce crises. Children with emotional/behavioral problems will be able to get back on track faster, so that they can learn, socialize and feel better.

MU BRIDGE PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE:

- Initial psychiatric evaluation and a prescription for medication(s)
- When possible, prescriptions will be chosen from the $4 list of medications for children who are underinsured.
- 2-3 follow-up visits at no cost to families
- Treatment for children until their first appointment with a community provider

NURSING CARE COORDINATION INCLUDES:

- Involving parents/guardians in children’s treatment
- Tracking children’s progress and medication effectiveness
- Working with parents/guardians, school staff, in-school and community providers
- Scheduling community psychiatrist and provider appointments
- Assisting with MO Health Net application