

## EMPS-SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

This document serves as a Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”) between Wellmore Behavioral Health and Watertown School District, Board of Education Superintendent and has been developed in order to specify roles and expectations between these parties for meeting the behavioral health needs of Watertown School District students. The MOA has been developed for the following purposes:

- To promote earlier identification of students with behavioral health needs and support timely linkage to appropriate supports and services;
- To develop a uniform process to identify and refer students who have behavioral health and psychiatric needs to community-based services including Wellmore Behavioral Health Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Services team (“EMPS”) and other appropriate services;
- To promote alternatives to psychiatric emergency department visits among students with behavioral health concerns;
- To reduce unnecessary arrests, suspensions, expulsions, police contact and other juvenile justice involvement among students with behavioral health concerns;
- To enhance communication and coordination among Wellmore Behavioral Health’s EMPS teams and Watertown School District regarding students experiencing mental health concerns.

The aim of the EMPS program is to provide a community-based crisis stabilization service to children and families in the least restrictive setting possible, and support their transition to ongoing treatment services, as appropriate.

Wellmore Behavioral Health agrees to the following:

- Have mobile EMPS available to respond in person to crisis calls from Watertown School District during EMPS mobile hours (Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.);
- Respond by offering telephone support Monday through Friday 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. through the EMPS 24 hour centralized access number (211);
- Respond to all requests for service by Watertown School District within 45 minutes or less;
- Offers Watertown School District students brief in-school crisis stabilization services with appropriate follow-up services;
- Develop a student-specific crisis plan within the episode of care and share that plan with the family, school staff, treatment providers, and other relevant parties upon execution of a proper release from the parent or guardian;
- Provide case management service linkages to students referred by Watertown School District, and their families; and;
- Collaborate and maintain close communication with the appropriate educational staff to develop an effective plan of care for each student referred for EMPS services.

