



NEWS RELEASE

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Waterford School District Awarded \$280,814 Mentoring Grant from United States Department of Justice

September 23, 2011, Waterford, Mich. – The United States Department of Justice has awarded the Waterford School District the “Mentoring for Youth with Disabilities Initiative” grant to implement a site-based mentoring program for students attending Kingsley Montgomery School (KMS). The award, totaling \$280,814, will be distributed over the course of three years, and will expand upon the existing mentoring program.

The grant aims to provide one- to- one mentoring relationships to students with severe emotional impairments in grades K-12 who participate in the Day Treatment Program at KMS. The mentoring matches will meet in the school for one hour, one day per week, during school hours for a minimum of one year. The goals of the program are to:

- Reduce the risk and incidence of delinquency for students with severe emotional impairments
- Create a model mentoring program for students with severe emotional impairments that can be replicated in other districts
- Reduce involvement in the court systems
- Increase the number of trained mentors who are available as a resource to Waterford students
- Increase pro-social skills

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The Waterford School District worked closely with its community partners to ensure that the plan for the site-based mentoring program will be a successful and supportive community effort. The partnerships developed through the Safe Schools/Healthy Students and community-based mentoring program initiatives will continue to collaborate for this project. Program partners include: Oakland County Circuit Court-Family Division, Waterford Coalition for Youth, Michigan State University Extension 4-H Youth Development Programs, Waterford Township Police Department, Oakland County Department of Health and Human Services, Waterford Area Chamber of Commerce, and Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority.

The District and its partners will proceed with planning for mentor recruitment and training, and plan to implement the program with students during the current school year.

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