



Scope of Services Physical and Occupational Therapy in the Yonkers Public Schools 2018-2019 School Year

Since our founding in 1888, Saint Joseph's Medical Center has been a vital part of this community. We have remained committed to both the people and City of Yonkers and continue to invest in their future and ours.

We are a valuable resource for health care for all ages from children to senior adults. We are committed to providing the best possible care for those we serve. That means staying current with the latest technology, expanding our services wherever necessary and recruiting and retaining skilled and caring staff, while staying fiscally responsible and true to our mission.

1) Services Provided

The Saint Joseph's School Based Program was established in 1989 and has since then provided occupational and physical therapy to students in Westchester County. Our mission is to build qualitative changes that impact the educational and developmental levels of the students we service.

Our program is able to provide:

- Occupational therapy and physical therapy direct service intervention which includes services in and out of the classroom.
- Comprehensive occupational therapy and physical therapy evaluations addressing a variety of sensory and neuro-motor areas.
- Consultation including classroom modifications, sensory diets, RtI (Response to Intervention) strategies and interventions for the early grades.
- In-services on the development of sensory processing, handwriting and motor skills.

Our therapists are trained in the latest technology, intervention programs and techniques. We provide direct on site clinical supervision and are in full compliance with all State and Medicaid in Education requirements.

2) Who is served?

Students are referred to us by the CSE and are in need of physical and/or occupational therapy as a related service to enable them to be able to receive a free and appropriate public educational program. Communication regarding follow-up care is always provided to teachers and parents regarding each child as part of their intervention. The students who are referred have a "disability" and are eligible to receive OT and/or PT under special education -IDEA, Section 504 (part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) or Section 502.

This past school year we will have provided approximately 75,000 visits to over 1300 students throughout the district.

3) *Who will provide the service?*

All physical and occupational therapists are licensed and registered in the state of New York. Occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants (OTA's and COTA's) are NYS licensed and certified by the NYS Commissioner of Education. The OTA's work under the direction of a NYS licensed and NYS registered occupational therapist.

All Therapists will have been fingerprinted and a criminal history record check and clearance by the State Education Department has been performed prior to them working in the schools.

All Staff will attend an annual Medicaid Compliance Training provided by the School District.

We currently have 37 therapists (24 OT's, 5 COTA's and 8 PT's) providing physical or occupational therapy services within the district. We will have a full time Director who is a PT, and OT Supervisors for the OTA's. Regular onsite supervision is provided to all.

4) *Communication*

Communication is performed formally and informally. Informal communication is ongoing between parents, teachers and other school personnel. This communication is in the form of written letters and notes and consults with teachers as well as telephone conversations with parents and notes written back and forth. Formal communication is through Report Cards Contemporaneous Encounter Notes, Annual Reviews, and Initial Evaluations. All documentation is in compliance with the Medicaid in Education requirements

5) *Evaluation of quality of service*

Each therapist receives a competency assessment at hire and after their first 3 months of employment. Feedback from the individual schools is formally obtained annually by a questionnaire sent to each school principal, individual teachers and other professionals who come in contact with the therapists. Each therapist has an annual employee evaluation based on competencies to meet the job requirements, ability to complete paperwork appropriately (both content and timeliness) and clinical abilities. Based on the results of these assessments, we will develop goals for individuals and staff development needs.

Initial and annual competency assessments are completed for each therapist as per The Joint Commission Standards as well as the American Physical Therapy Association and American Occupational Therapy Association Standards and State Practice Acts and Regulations.

Staff receive ongoing formal in-services throughout the year on a variety of topics that will enhance their ability to provide quality care to the students.