



**DATE:** August 24, 2022

**TO:** Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Shawna Warren, Superintendent

**ORIGINATOR:** Superintendent's Office

**GOVERNANCE POLICY:** [Policy 110 – Welcoming Inclusive, Safe and Healthy Environments](#)

**ADDITIONAL REFERENCE:** [AP525 – Counselling Services](#)  
[AP711 – Welcoming Inclusive, Safe and Healthy Environments](#)  
[AP716 – Healthy School Communities](#)

**SUBJECT:** Mental Health Service Classrooms February 2023

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**PURPOSE:**

For information.

**BACKGROUND:**

July 28, 2022, the Government of Alberta announced an additional investment of \$87 million over three years to enhance child and youth addiction and mental health supports and pediatric rehabilitation services. This new funding will enhance the wide variety of supports and services already available in schools.

An investment of \$14 million per year for three years will integrate and expand child and youth recovery-oriented addiction and mental health supports in schools and communities. Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health (CASA), along with other partners, is supporting the development of a school-based services model to integrate and expand access to addiction and mental health services for children and youth from elementary to high school. The integrated services model will offer clear connections to existing community resources to make it easier for Alberta's families and children to access the services they need.

Sturgeon Public School Division and Edmonton Public School Division have been selected to participate in the mental health in schools pilot, which will see \$10 million per year for 2022/23 and 2023/24 to pilot the delivery of new and innovative supports and services through collaboration between community mental health providers and school authorities.

CASA has chosen Sturgeon Composite High School and Four Winds Public School as the sites to pilot Mental Health Services Classrooms beginning February 2023.

CASA's plan for mental health services in classrooms will include:

- Embedded classroom teams with a mental health therapist, classroom behavioural therapist, and psychiatrist. Support teams with a social worker, nurse, assessment psychologist, occupational therapist, and speech and language therapist.



- Ongoing services will include: evaluation and assessments to inform care plans; individual and group therapy; medication trials and management; family therapy and parenting support; and consultation, education, observation, and recommendations for transitions.

Sturgeon Public Schools is honoured to be selected to partner with CASA in this pilot to bring mental health services closer to Sturgeon Public students and families.

Administration is prepared to respond to questions at the August 24, 2022, Public Board meeting.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. CASA – Mental Health Service Classrooms Announcement

# CASA CHILD, ADOLESCENT AND FAMILY MENTAL HEALTH

## QUOTES FOR MEDIA MATERIALS

### **Bonnie Blakley, CEO**

“CASA Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health is pleased to partner with government to bring mental health services closer to Albertan Kids,” says CASA Chief Executive Officer Bonnie Blakley. “CASA has delivered specialized mental health treatment to kids aged three to 18 for more than 30 years. Expanding these services aligns with our vision of a community where all kids have access to timely care and are empowered to thrive.”

### **Janet Hancock, Board Chair**

“As a lifelong educator, I’m grateful the province is making mental health service in classrooms possible,” says CASA Board Chair Janet Hancock. “In my career I was able to pioneer mental health classrooms with wraparound services. I have lived their effectiveness to support children and families. I have seen firsthand how specialized mental health services such as those provided by CASA can save young lives.”

## ABOUT CASA’S PLAN FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN CLASSROOMS

- By removing barriers to access, intervening early, educating and up-skilling our partners, and providing step-up from community-based services, we aim to prevent more intensive services later in life. Providing a step-down from intensive services, we will also address gaps and issues in the mental health system for more seamless and easier-to-navigate services.
- Three to six classrooms will launch February 2023, including in Edmonton and Sturgeon County. The goal is for 20 operational mental health service classrooms serving 360 children per year by 2024.
- Classrooms will be a mix of elementary, junior high and high schools.
- Embedded classroom teams will include a mental health therapist, classroom behavioural therapist, and a psychiatrist. Support teams will include a social worker, nurse, assessment psychologist, occupational therapist, and speech and language therapist.
- Ongoing services will include: evaluation and assessments to inform care plans; individual and group therapy; medication trials and management; family therapy and parenting support; and consultation, education, observation and recommendations for transitions.



**CASA**

Child, Adolescent and Family  
Mental Health

## ABOUT CASA

CASA is an Edmonton-based non-profit organization that has delivered holistic, culturally safe wrap-around mental health services to children (age three to 18) and their families for more than 30 years in Alberta. We do this through a team of specialized mental health professionals who are trauma experts committed to delivering outcomes-based programming in collaboration with community partners. CASA's vision is a community where all children, youth and their families are provided timely mental health care and empowered to thrive.

## OUR FIVE-YEAR ROADMAP (2022-2027)

CASA will focus on the following areas over the next five years:

1. Leaders in delivering child-centred, family-inclusive mental health services.
2. Programming efficacy and relevance.
3. Financial health.

## HOW IS CASA LEVELING UP SERVICES TO KIDS AND FAMILIES?

- Expanding services in our own footprints and moving to evening, weekend and summer programming;
- Enhancing online services;
- Going to where kids are, by working with community partners to find spaces in their facilities and organizations to provide service.

Learn more about CASA programs at [casaservices.org](https://casaservices.org).



**CASA**

Child, Adolescent and Family  
Mental Health