



## May is Mental Health Awareness Month: Referral Pathways Protocol for Mental Health Supports

Based on the Now is the Time Technical Assistance Center (NITT-TA) comprehensive *School Mental Health Referral Pathways (SMHRP) Toolkit*, Project AWARE Ohio compiled a seven-step protocol for interested stakeholders who want to establish a mental health referral pathway within their local communities. This protocol was developed by condensing information from the *SMHRP Toolkit* into an easy-to-use seven-step checklist. This protocol is intended to provide a general overview of the steps to consider in establishing a referral pathway for behavioral and mental health issues. This protocol should be considered a basic introductory overview that condenses the information provided in the *SMHRP Toolkit* into simple steps for practitioners that are easy to understand, rather than a complete guide for establishing a mental health referral pathway. Please refer to the original *SMHRP Toolkit* for a thorough discussion of the practices recommended by SAMSHA and NITT-TA when establishing a mental health referral pathway.

The entire 130-page document is available at the following webpage:  
<http://files.ctctcdn.com/bde05f96001/84fa3636-08af-43fc-aeaf-a016f2aa68a6.pdf>

### 7 Steps of the Referral Pathways Protocol for Mental Health Supports

1. Establish a problem-solving team.
2. Determine a procedure for managing referral flow.
3. Develop a system for the team to gather information.
4. Establish a secure student record management system.
5. Map available resources and interventions.
6. Create decision rules to determine appropriate interventions based on this information.
7. Develop a system to monitor and evaluate intervention effectiveness.

Please visit the following webpage to access the entire Referral Pathways Protocol for Mental Health Supports: [http://resources.oberlinkconsulting.com/uploads/protocols/Referral Pathways Protocol for Mental Health Supports.pdf](http://resources.oberlinkconsulting.com/uploads/protocols/Referral_Pathways_Protocol_for_Mental_Health_Supports.pdf)

All of our Project AWARE Ohio resources can be found at: <http://resources.oberlinkconsulting.com/>

The Project AWARE Ohio team includes partners in 3 county ESCs. If you are from those local areas and want more information about Project AWARE services, please contact:

**Cuyahoga County ESC:** Mary Wise; (216) 901-4201; [mary.wise@esc-cc.org](mailto:mary.wise@esc-cc.org)

**Warren County ESC:** Vycki Haught; (513) 379-2310; [vycki.haught@warrencountyesc.com](mailto:vycki.haught@warrencountyesc.com)

**Wood County ESC:** Angela Patchen; (419) 354-9010 x228; [apatchen@wcesc.org](mailto:apatchen@wcesc.org)

For information about Project AWARE in other regions of the state, please contact:

Emily Jordan: [emily.jordan@education.ohio.gov](mailto:emily.jordan@education.ohio.gov)

Cricket Meehan: [meehandc@miamioh.edu](mailto:meehandc@miamioh.edu)

Kathy Oberlin (Ohio Mental Health Network for School Success): [oberlink2@gmail.com](mailto:oberlink2@gmail.com)