



November 20, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

DeKalb Community Service Board (CSB) protests the recent “intent to award” decisions of the APEX 3.0 grant. DeKalb CSB has a remarkable record and history of providing APEX services, over the past five years and provided significant support to score favorably for this current award. DeKalb CSB is the APEX provider for the DeKalb County School District (DCSD) and the City Schools of Decatur District, with five years of experiencing serving the APEX grant. DCSD is the third largest school district in Georgia, serving 102,000 students within 140 schools and centers. City Schools of Decatur services 5,700 students within 10 schools. DeKalb CSB has cultivated a working relationship with both school districts which has led us to being a preferred provider for APEX services in both school districts. The superintendents of each district wrote in support of expanding APEX services into nine additional schools based upon the DeKalb CSB’s embedded model of service delivery. The embedded DeKalb CSB clinical model follows the System of Care philosophy and has demonstrated success in increasing school CCRPI scores, improving CANS scores, and improving Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire scores.

DeKalb County School District is so supportive of the DeKalb CSB APEX program that they did not write letters of support any other provider as they consider it a conflict of interest to support outside agencies DCSD and City Schools of Decatur continue to support DeKalb CSB’s efforts to expand APEX services into nine additional schools with a population of over 11,000 students with the implication of providing quality mental health services to students and families, staff education on mental health, and improved CCRPI scores. Therefore, it is concerning that the third largest school district in the state, will not enjoy an expansion of APEX services due to the current award scoring and distribution.

In review of the Cost Proposal Summary, it is clear that the DeKalb CSB presented with similar penetration rates at the lowest cost per student and provided additional financial partnerships. Without knowing the scoring criteria, but in review of the scores and other data on the spreadsheet, we identified the following information:

DeKalb CSB has a Cost Score of 86 with a Total Service Cost request of \$323,790. The total school population identified was 11,232 of which we proposed to serve 341 students in Tier III



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services (a 0.03 penetration rate at a cost of \$949.53 per student served) and a caseload average listed as 46.7 (This number differs from the Appendix K information we submitted showing an average of 40 per full time clinician). Additional financial partnerships were secured.

**Region 3 Proposed Awardees:**

Viewpoint has a Cost Score of 130 with a Total Service Cost request of \$369,369.00. The total school population identified was 45,413 of which they proposed to serve 322 students in Tier III services (a 0.007 penetration rate at a cost of \$1,147 per student served) and a caseload average of 40. No additional financial partnerships were secured.

Family and Children – Georgia Hope has a Cost Score of 154 with a Total Service Cost request of \$72,317.50. The total school population identified was 818 of which they proposed to serve 40 students in Tier III services (a 0.04 penetration rate at a cost of \$1,808 per student served) and a caseload average of 62.5. No additional financial partnerships were secured.

Academy for Family Empowerment has a Cost Score of 67 with a Total Service Cost request of \$418,100.00. The total school population identified was 2,100 of which they proposed to serve 360 students in Tier III services (a 0.17 penetration rate at a cost of \$1,161 per student served) and a caseload average of 30. Additional financial partnership was secured.

In review of this above information DeKalb CSB protests the “intent to award” as evidence shows that the DeKalb CSB has a penetration rate similar to Family and Children – Georgia Hope and Family Ties Enterprises and a higher penetration rate than Viewpoint. DeKalb CSB also has a lower cost per student served at the Tier III level than all the proposed awardees. Considering this data and DeKalb CSB’s long-term successful working relationships with both the DeKalb County School District and the City Schools of Decatur District, we ask that you reconsider the recent “intent to award” decisions of the APEX 3.0 grant and allocate funding to DeKalb CSB, a preferred provider for APEX services in these school districts.

  
Fabio van der Merwe, CHC  
Chief Executive Officer Signature

11/20/2020  
Date

