

Special Purpose School

Prairie View at Newton

Children and adolescents struggling with emotional problems often experience difficulties in school. Prairie View's Special Purpose School is designed to help these students receive psychiatric treatment as well as an education. At Prairie View's school, students with emotional problems and serious disruptive behavior disorders develop good study habits, learn appropriate school behaviors, develop more positive attitudes about school, learn effective social skills and improve peer relationship skills.

Treatment Philosophy

The school's mission is to provide a therapeutic environment where students can learn the skills necessary to function in society. Individualized academic instruction, combined with a structure based on positive reinforcement, helps young people achieve individual success. The staff's goal is to help students achieve that success and facilitate their return to the school that referred the student, or help them graduate to a work training program that will provide them with additional skills.

Staff consists of certified special education teachers with specialized training in dealing with children and adolescents who are emotionally disturbed. In addition, the Prairie View Special Purpose School is staffed with a certified administrator, a full-time psychiatric nurse and mental health workers. Average attendance is 40, which allows for a student-to-staff ratio of 3 to 1.

Individualized Education and Care

Prairie View offers a complete range of services providing various levels of treatment depending on each individual's needs.

- **Day School.** Students are transported to and from the school by their home district. They receive individually-tailored educational services based on their individual education plan (IEP) in a therapeutic environment.
- **Crisis Stabilization Resolution.** In the event that a student is unsafe (of danger to self or others) in the day school setting, a more

intense therapeutic environment is available on the hospital unit. While on the unit, the student works one-on-one with a mental health worker to resolve issues, learn and practice appropriate social skills, write a behavior contract and make a commitment to safety. The time spent in crisis stabilization varies according to student needs but may extend overnight.

- **Inpatient Hospitalization.** In crisis situations, hospitalization may be necessary. While these students are in the hospital receiving 24-hour psychiatric services, the day school remains available to them.

Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD) Program

Housed within Prairie View's Special Purpose School is an intensive therapeutic, educational and clinical program for children and adolescents with pervasive developmental disorders and severe and persistent mental illness or behavioral problems. The program is tailored to meet individual needs and designed to address each student's specific strengths. The goal is to encourage students to achieve his or her greatest potential then return to the sending district, enter a work training program or transition to a sheltered living environment.

The program is designed to accommodate a wide range of students, ages 6 to 21, with varying disabilities including:

- Severe multiple handicapped (SMH)
- Pervasive developmental disorder (PDD)
- Severe emotional disturbance
- Severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI)
- Autism
- Developmentally delayed
- Other health impaired (OHI)
- Educable mentally handicapped (EMH)
- Mentally retarded/mentally ill (MR/MI)



Prairie View

www.prairieview.org

Unique Program Components

- Strong emphasis on pre-vocational, social and life skills training in a therapeutic environment
- Clinical social worker assistance with parenting issues, social development and interagency collaboration
- Child study team that integrates clinical expertise with behavioral and educational goals
- Daily communication between the family and the school
- Medication monitoring and 24-hour crisis intervention services
- Access to Prairie View's full range of therapies, as determined by the IEP, including expressive, recreation and horticulture therapies
- Classrooms are staffed by a minimum of one certified special education teacher and a mental health worker
- School and community-based case management services
- Group and individual therapy

Family Involvement

The student's family or caregivers can play a major role in the child's successful education and treatment. To encourage involvement, daily reports are issued to students that are taken home to be signed by the parent or caregiver.

Additional Services

Throughout the school week, students may receive a combination of the following services:

- **Creative Arts.** Students participate in school art which focuses on art education and is adapted to meet each student's needs.
- **Art Therapy.** Encourages students to communicate in nonverbal ways that can help them address treatment goals and understand issues that are difficult to verbalize.
- **Recreation Therapy.** Students receive physical education credit as they learn teamwork, improve communication skills, learn to respect authority and abide by rules. Students are taught how to maintain a healthy lifestyle and learn positive ways to reduce anger through physical fitness.
- **Family Therapy.** Families are encouraged to participate in therapy that provides support from a therapist as well as from other families in similar situations.
- **Group Therapy.** Students attend group therapy daily to process issues and concerns related to their individual education and treatment goals.
- **Adventure Course.** To enhance knowledge of contracts, trust, group interaction, goal setting and self-actualization. Students are involved in experiential learning through games and activities, reflecting on the activity and processing their experience.

About Prairie View

Founded by the Mennonite churches in 1954, Prairie View is the state's largest private behavioral and mental health services provider. Prairie View offers a complete range of services for children, adolescents, adults, older adults and families including treatment for depression and anxiety disorders, addictions and substance abuse. Through the Prairie View Food For Thought speaker series, Process Solutions Group and Employee Assistance Programs, Prairie View also offers a variety of community outreach services providing education, consultation to businesses and organizations, mental health promotion and individual support.

With a 38-bed psychiatric hospital and outpatient offices in Newton, Prairie View has outpatient locations in Hutchinson, Marion, McPherson, Salina and Wichita. It is guided by a strong tradition of Christian caring and is not-for-profit.

For Information

If you have questions about treatment, appropriateness of a referral, costs, insurance coverage or Prairie View services, call or contact Prairie View.

Prairie View at Newton

1901 E. First St. • P.O. Box 467
Newton, KS 67114-0467
316-284-6400 • 800-362-0180

Other Locations:

Hutchinson

335 N. Washington, Ste. 260
Hutchinson, KS 67501-4864
620-662-4700

Marion

504 S. Roosevelt St.
Marion, KS 66861-1358
620-382-3701

McPherson

1102 Hospital Drive
McPherson, KS 67460-2318
620-245-5000

Newton at Medical Office Plaza

700 Medical Center Drive, Ste. 102
Newton, KS 67114-8778
316-283-8300

Salina

645 E. Iron, Ste. C
Salina, KS 67401-2697
785-827-5200

Wichita East

2939 N. Rock Road, Ste. 100
Wichita, KS 67226-1100
316-634-4700

Wichita West

7570 W. 21st. St. N., Ste. 1026-D
Wichita, KS 67205-1734
316-729-6555