

Statement to HCCMHC re: Diploma On!

Diploma On! At its inception was meant to locate students who had dropped out of school and to get them re-enrolled. The efforts were created to address the significant amount of students in Hennepin County who were dropping out of school. The staff person assigned to the project was a school social worker and was therefore able to identify students who were experiencing mental health challenges which was likely a barrier for them maintaining school enrollment.

Since that time, we have expanded our staff who have continued to identify students who require support for their mental health. The staff are supervised by a social worker but are not social worker themselves. The staff provide referrals to the students and operate more as case coordinators. Over the years, previous case coordinators have gone on in their schooling to become social workers.

While Diploma On! Isn't providing direct therapeutic services, they are providing services in which supports the students to obtain the help that they need.