



MEDIA ALERT
For Wednesday, April 13, 2022

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202/371-1997

Briefing Will Explore How Afterschool Programs Are Responding to the Youth Mental Health Crisis Our Country Is Experiencing

New Data Analysis to Be Released Showing Parents Recognize that Afterschool Programs Support Mental Health, Wellness, and Recovery for Children and Youth

The U.S. Surgeon General and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have issued stark warnings about the anxiety, depression, and persistent sadness many of our children and youth are experiencing, including that 1 in 5 high school students report contemplating suicide. Afterschool providers across the country have had a first-hand look at the youth mental health crisis for months and most have taken steps to provide interventions and supports to students and their families.

On Wednesday, April 13, at 1 p.m. EDT, the Afterschool Alliance will hold a virtual briefing to discuss the challenges children and youth are experiencing and how afterschool programs are helping them re-engage and heal after two years of pandemic-related closures, isolation, and disruptions of daily life. The briefing will include the release of “Promoting Healthy Futures: Afterschool Provides the Supports Parents Want for Children’s Well-Being” – an in-depth survey that shows parents increasingly turn to afterschool programs to provide the positive settings, relationships and experiences that support children’s healthy development. It is based on responses from more than 31,000 U.S. families to a pre-pandemic household survey and supplemented by a series of surveys of afterschool providers conducted throughout the pandemic.

Speakers at the virtual briefing, on Wednesday, April 13 at 1 pm EDT, will be:

- Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance
- Kwamara Thompson, Founder, TEC, LLC: Be Human
- Noah Shaw, Student, **Murray, Utah**
- Melissa Johnson, parent of a 7th grade student, **Fort Worth, Texas**
- Kenny Riley, Carole Robertson Center for Learning, **Chicago, Illinois**
- Michael “Bull” Brown, Boys & Girls Club of **Coffee County, Georgia**
- Jen Smith, Marshfield Clinic Health System, **Marshfield, Wisconsin**

[Register for the briefing here.](#)

For more information or an embargoed copy of the report, contact [Lisa Lederer](#) or [Matt Freeman](#).

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