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ESUHSD Selects Care Solace to Expand Access to Community Mental Health Care Providers

San Jose, CA - East Side Union High School District (ESUHSD) has selected Care Solace, an organization determined to calm the chaos of mental health care coordination, to expand access to community mental health care providers and substance use treatment for students, staff, and their families. Care Solace provides a Care Concierge team of experts to quickly and confidentially find appropriate, available providers in the community. Care Solace also equips school districts with a customized, online tool that makes it easier to connect with community-based mental health care, both in-person and remote.

"We recognize that the pandemic has had a significant impact on the mental health and wellness of our students, our staff, and our families. We believe that Care Solace increases access to the mental health care many of us are in need of as a result of this traumatic experience," **said Dr. Chaun Powell, ESUHSD Director of Student Services**. "With Care Solace we shift from asking families, staff, and students to navigate the mental health system alone to providing support that allows us to walk side by side with them through the process."

ESUHSD will use Care Solace to support its mission of supporting schools, students, and families to build and sustain equitable communities through the development of school cultures that use inclusive and relationship-centered practices to support positive attendance, social emotional and behavioral wellness so that students stay engaged in their learning environment.

"We know the detrimental impact Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) have on student achievement. This pandemic has been a traumatic experience for all of our students to one degree or another. We need to provide them ways to process what they have experienced this past year," **said Pattie Cortese, ESUHSD Board of Trustees Member**. "And the wellbeing of our staff is also essential so they can be fully present for our students."

With Care Solace, families and staff gain access to a dedicated Care Concierge to navigate the mental health care system on their behalf, calling providers to find the right fit and availability. They help families with private insurance, Medicaid, and no insurance, and are available 24/7 in any language.

Care Solace's care navigation system uses proprietary technology and a vast database of behavioral and mental health care resources to find carefully vetted therapists and programs in minutes. "Creating a healthy environment for learning in the 2020-2021 school year has arguably never been more challenging for staff and families," **said Chad Castruita, founder of Care Solace**. "We are

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proud to support ESUHSD in prioritizing the wellbeing of its school community by providing timely access into mental health care services.”

The Care Solace service is now available at no cost to East Side Union High School District students, staff and their families. For more information about Care Solace, please visit <https://home.caresolace.com/>.

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About East Side Union High School District

East Side Union High School District, established in 1950, serves more than 23,000 students in grades 9-12 in San Jose, Santa Clara County (Silicon Valley). The district has approximately 2,000 employees. It has the seventh largest high school student enrollment in the state and the largest in northern California. The district's mission is to align decisions to create safe, dynamic and relevant learning environments that inspire critical thinking, problem solving and innovation. For more information: www.esuhsd.org.

About Care Solace

Care Solace is on a mission to calm the chaos of mental health care. The organization provides mental health care coordination services for school systems, existing to ensure that students, staff and their families are not alone through the laborious process of accessing needed services. Care Solace offers proprietary software to aggregate mental health care providers and substance use treatment options. As of November 2020, Care Solace proudly serves two million students, over six million family members, and 150,000 staff members in over 200 school systems. The Care Concierge team has responded to 250,000 inquiries for support, connected over 100,000 students, and families to care and over 12,000 staff members to services.

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