



For: Immediate Release
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June 2, 2021

Althing and Austin Public Schools establish a breakthrough in student health services.

There is a real and urgent issue of depression, addiction and general health challenges in our communities, specifically for children and youth. No communities are immune however the pandemic is more acutely pinned in rural and diverse communities. According the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, one in five children and adolescents experience anxiety, bullying, depression, a learning disability, or alcohol and substance abuse during their school years. Serious mental health problems, such as self-injurious behaviors and suicide, are on the rise with suicide being the second leading cause of death among high school-aged youths 14–18.

Althing has developed a comprehensive solution to address this challenge with an application of proactive adolescent **S**creening for **B**rief **I**ntervention and **R**eferral to **T**reatment (SBIRT+) services enhanced with realtime intervention and referral capabilities. Austin Public Schools and Althing successfully implemented these novel, proactive health services among students age 12 and older with groundbreaking results:

- 100% completion rate across all grade levels
- less than 3 % opt outs by parents
- effective identification of risky behaviors, mental health and safety concerns
- destigmatization of mental health services and reinforcement of positive behavior with encouragement to continue to make healthy choices
- enhancement and empowerment of onsite Austin's Student Support Professionals with offsite Althing resources
- effective intervention capabilities and a pathway to referrals through the Althing Clinic
- excellent performance of Phrazer/Kitsune without any technical challenges

Together, Althing and Austin Public Schools established the first ever proactive and scalable solution to successfully identify and connect students struggling with risky behaviors, mental health and substance use with vital services at the point of need. A novel breakthrough in student health services now available as a turn-key, effective and scalable model with a cost neutral pathway.

About Althing LLC.

Althing is a Minnesota based community services provider with special focus on community health access, education and economic development through modernized service platforms. Althing employs (Novel technology from GeaCom) Phrazer/Kitsune® platform to provide community engagement in any language, literacy, gender and culture. Althing provides proactive mobile health, Community Clinics, education and workforce services that are inclusive, community centric and locally managed. In a recent groundbreaking achievement Althing solutions provided the first ever complete, affordable and effective health services, with realtime provider access, to students between 12 and 18 years of age in a key Minnesota school district. This milestone achievement sets the standard for identifying and mitigating the rising health concerns of today's students.