

## **Proposal: Covering Co-Pays for Therapy**

By Lisa Jeanne Graf

I was thinking about the question of how best to increase access for therapy for students in BPS.

I am not sure if it is common knowledge that therapy is sometimes paid for by parents using school partners. The parent's insurance is billed, and then the co-pay is paid for by families. This is a problem largely for equity. If some schools cover therapy costs for their students, and other schools expect families to cover the costs that isn't fair. One way to improve the situation would be for BPS to pay for family's copays when a family's insurance is used. Then in either situation a family is not paying for therapy and more students have access to therapy.

I wonder if a lot of social emotional staffing is being set up centrally because there is a hope that parents will help pay for a lot of the cost through their insurance and families paying the copays. Even if families don't pay the copay and BPS paid the copay, the district would still save money because insurance would be paying the largest part of the bill.