



Hello to all Gallatin County parents! My name is Abby Simerly, I graduated from Eldorado High School in 2016, shortly after graduating I joined the navy. After about 4 years of service, I was honorably discharged in 2020. I am so excited to start working with you and your kids here at Gallatin County!

I work for Egyptian Health Department as a Support Specialist. It is my job to provide your kids with education on substance use prevention strategies, and will provide intervention services. I will be using the evidence-based practice of SBIRT. SBIRT stands for: Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment. Sessions are held with me on an individual basis or, if needed, in a small group setting.

I am not familiar with your kids just yet. I am hoping to be an additional resource that you can refer your children to. We all know that youth substance use, especially vaping, is a problem. I would like the chance to use the skills I have learned to educate them and give them the knowledge and tools so they can make healthy decisions for themselves. Also, my door is always open and my contact information is below. You can make a referral by calling the school or me directly.

With that being said, why would you make a referral? Indicators in youth can be a sudden drop in grades, perhaps they come to school smelling like a certain substance, missing school, failing a drug test, or getting caught vaping at school (are just some of the few, as you all know). If you have a question on whether or not to refer your child for something specific, please reach out and ask. I am here to be a non-judgmental adult that is trained to work on substance use issues with adolescents.

I would like to take the time to say that, even though I am not a substance use counselor, one is available specifically for youth at our agency. Egyptian Health has provided telehealth equipment so your kids can see a counselor without having to leave school.

Not all youth are going to need to see a counselor and that is what I am here for. I will be seeing students to give them extra support and provide intervention/prevention services when it comes to youth substance use.

This is just a little bit about myself and my position. I am looking forward to serving your school and your kids!

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