CANINE COUNSELORS

CANINE CAPERS IN SCHOOL AND COUNSELING SETTINGS:
A THERAPY DOG COMPARISON OF
SCHOOL VERSUS PRIVATE PRACTICE
BY
SUZANNE REINHART AND BARBARA STICKEL

WHAT IS A THERAPY DOG?

Teams of dog and handler
- Certified and/or registered team
- Well-trained and well-socialized dog
- Individual vs. facility-owned dog
Therapeutic Tool
- Hospitals
- Hospices
- Schools
- Libraries
- Mental Health Settings
- Nursing Homes
- Trauma situations

A GROWING TREND

Time to Heal: A Dog’s Love Helps
WHO LET THE DOGS OUT?

Three types of Dog Interventions:

- **Therapy Dogs** – dogs that have completed a certification program and have been trained specifically to provide mental and emotional support to enhance the therapeutic relationship and environment and to assist with therapeutic interventions in a variety of settings.

- **Services Dogs and Emotional Support Dogs** – dogs specifically trained to assist with a specific person’s disabilities and to mitigate specific symptoms to increase that person’s independence and to enhance their quality of life.

- **Emotional Support, Resident or Pet Therapy Dogs** – dogs who provide love and companionship within a home, school, hospice, nursing home, special needs situation.

Animal Assisted Therapy

- “The incorporation of pets as therapeutic agents into the counseling process” (Chandler, 2005, p. 2).

APPLICATIONS OF AAT-C

- **Mental Health**
  - Individual counseling
  - Group counseling

- **School**
  - Individual counseling
  - Group Counseling
  - Classroom Guidance
  - School Wide Programs/Incentives
Therapy Dogs in the Hospital

http://youtu.be/6-bIp-m86Hc

Benefits of AAT

- Medical
  - Decrease blood pressure
  - Decrease Cortisol

- Emotional
  - Significant improvement in emotional state
  - Decrease in depression
  - Reduction in anxiety
  - Improvement in self-esteem

- Social
  - Decrease in negative comments
  - Increase in eye contact
  - Smile more
  - Demonstrate a greater ability to pay attention

Making Magic

“When Dusty wiggled into this man’s personal space and put her head in his lap, I observed what I am still only able to describe as “magic.”

Kris Butler
It’s Our Magic!

- Legacy of Magic
- Celebration of Life
- Grief and Loss
  Coloring Book

Canine Comfort

Comparison of School vs. Agency Setting

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<td>Administrative Support</td>
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<td>Staff Buy In</td>
<td>Staff Buy In</td>
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<td>Allergies</td>
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<td>Research</td>
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<td>Financial/Legal/Ethical</td>
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<td>Obligations</td>
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<td>Interview</td>
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<td>Wait!</td>
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<td>Publicity</td>
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STEP ONE TO OWNERSHIP OF A THERAPY DOG

Research to understand the multitude of obligations:

✓ Physical and logistical obligations
✓ Financial obligations
✓ Legal obligations
✓ Ethical obligations

WHAT SIZE AND TYPE OF DOG FITS YOU?
✓ BIG, MEDIUM, SMALL?

FITS YOUR LIFESTYLE?
✓ HOW PHYSICALLY ACTIVE ARE YOU?

FITS YOUR HOME?
✓ IS THERE SOMEBODY ELSE TO ASSIST WITH CARING FOR DOG?
✓ CHILDREN? (OBLIGATION TO PROTECT CHILD AND DOG)

FITS YOUR AGENCY?
✓ IS THERE AN APPROPRIATE PLACE FOR YOUR DOG TO ELIMINATE?
✓ IS THERE ENOUGH TIME IN BETWEEN APPOINTMENTS TO MEET THE DOG, CLIENT AND YOUR NEEDS?

Physical and logistical obligations:
Questions to research and ask

WHAT SIZE AND TYPE OF DOG FITS YOU?
✓ BIG, MEDIUM, SMALL?

FITS YOUR LIFESTYLE?
✓ HOW PHYSICALLY ACTIVE ARE YOU?

FITS YOUR HOME?
✓ IS THERE SOMEBODY ELSE TO ASSIST WITH CARING FOR DOG?
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FITS YOUR AGENCY?
✓ IS THERE AN APPROPRIATE PLACE FOR YOUR DOG TO ELIMINATE?
✓ IS THERE ENOUGH TIME IN BETWEEN APPOINTMENTS TO MEET THE DOG, CLIENT AND YOUR NEEDS?

Financial obligations:
Questions to research and ask

$ INITIAL COSTS FOR DOG AND NECESSARY ITEMS:
$ PURCHASE PRICE
$ CRATE
$ FOOD
$ BED
$ COLLAR AND LEASH
$ DOG LICENSE
$ CARE PRODUCTS – SHAMPOO, CONDITIONER, NAIL CARE, ETC.
$ VACCINATIONS AND NEUTERING
$ MAINTENANCE FOR VET CARE, YEARLY SHOTS, FLEA AND TICK MEDICATIONS, FOOD AND PET CARE PRODUCTS
$ INSURANCE: LIABILITY AND PET HEALTH INSURANCE
✓ TYPE OR BREED COULD COST YOU MORE OR DENY ELIGIBILITY
✓ TRAINING AND ORGANIZATION COSTS
LIABILITY INSURANCE IS A MUST!
PROBLEMS?
HOMEOWNER'S POLICY VS NATIONAL ORGANIZATION VS SPECIALIZED?
IN BETWEEN?
DOCUMENTATION FOR CERTIFICATION AND TAX DEDUCTIONS?
INCIDENT REPORTS?
MAINTAINING DOG LICENSE, VACCINATIONS, HEARTWORM AND FLEA TREATMENT
TYPE OF DOG BREED?

DANGEROUS DOG BREEDS

According to most insurance companies, the following are the more common “Dangerous Breeds” or “Blacklisted Breeds”:

- Pit Bulls & Staffordshire Terriers
- Doberman Pinschers
- Rottweilers
- Chows
- Great Danes
- Presa Canarios

Beware: These breeds often cannot be covered under a homeowners’ policy!

- Akitas
- Alaskan Malamutes
- German Shepherds
- Siberian Huskies
- Wolf-hybrids
- Or a mix of any of the above

http://einhorninsurance.com/dangerous-dog-liability-insurance/#all-breeds

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS:
Questions to research and ask

- Know your dog and be able to read and respond to your dog’s responses
- Amount of hours

- Clinical documentation in session notes, incident reports (e.g., progressive desensitization)
- Training and Certification documentation
- Dog Resume?

WELFARE OF THERAPY DOG AND CLIENT
ALWAYS PROTECT AND CAUSE NO HARM!

- Know your dog and be able to read and respond to your dog’s responses
- Amount of hours

- Clinical documentation in session notes, incident reports (e.g., progressive desensitization)
- Training and Certification documentation
- Dog Resume?
STEP TWO BOOKS TO READ!

- Healing Dogs
- Therapy Dogs Every Day
- Perfect Dog: Therapy Dog Professional
- Therapy Dogs

STEP THREE PICK YOUR PARTNER!

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<tr>
<th>PUPPY</th>
<th>VS</th>
<th>MATURE</th>
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- PICK A BREED? 
  [Link]
- CHECK GENETICS?
  Puppy - Try to meet the parents and observe their behavior for best indicator of the puppy’s temperament and health.
  Mature - Age, health and temperament of dog?

- PUPPY TRAINING
  Creating the Perfect Puppy: How to Start Off Right and STAY on Track DVD by Sophia Yin
  AKC Star Puppy Program
  [Link]

STEP FOUR TRAINING AND MORE TRAINING

- Local Training Programs
- National Training Programs
- International Training Programs
TESTING AND CERTIFICATION!

AKC Canine Good Citizen Test
http://www.akc.org/dogowner/training/canine_good_citizen/links.cfm

National and International Certification Programs

Pet Partners – developed by Delta Society – Participants must complete skills test (based on AKC CGC test) and an aptitude test given by an approved Pet Partner evaluator and handlers must either read a home study book or attend a day-long workshop. Teams must be re-evaluated every two years.

Therapy Dogs International, Inc. (TDI) TDI Test – adopted the AKC Good Citizen Test (CGC)

Therapy Dogs Incorporated, (TDInc.) TDInc. – Participants must pass initial test then complete 3 follow up visits all overseen by approved TDInc. Tester/observer.

Samson Mimicking his Co-therapist!

AKC Therapy Dog Title

To earn an AKC Therapy Dog™ title, you and your dog must meet the following criteria:

Certified/registered by an AKC recognized therapy dog organization.
Perform the required number of visits for the title for which you are applying.

AKC Therapy Dog Novice (THDN). Must have completed 10 visits.
AKC Therapy Dog (THD). Must have completed 50 visits.
AKC Therapy Dog Advanced (THDA). Must have completed 100 visits.
AKC Therapy Dog Excellent (THDX). Must have completed 200 visits.
AKC Therapy Dog Distinguished (THDD). Must have completed 400 visits.
AKC Therapy Dog Organizations Listing

The following national therapy dog registration/certification organizations assisted in the launching of the AKC Therapy Dog title:

- Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs
- Love on a Leash
- Pet Partners (previously Delta Society)
- Therapy Dogs Incorporated (TD Inc.)
- Therapy Dogs International (TDI)

https://www.akc.org/akctherapydog/organizations.cfm

Top Three National Organizations

http://tdi-dog.org
http://www.deltasociety.org
http://therapydogs.com

Therapy Dog Organizations

Since the 1980’s, there have been significant advances in the field of animal assisted therapy and the use of therapy dogs. Organized therapy dog groups provide educational materials to volunteers, they screen both volunteer and dogs and they provide liability insurance for when the dog and handler are Volunteering in a therapy setting. For additional information of a Therapy Dog Organization in your area, Please refer to the listing of Therapy Dog Organizations provided by the American Kennel Club at the end of this handout.

Therapy Dog Ethics

Career Choice...

Drafted!
Therapy Dogs Incorporated Rules and Regulations

Code of Ethics

Part II: Code of Ethics

1. TDInc members shall maintain high standards of honesty, integrity and impartiality, free from any personal considerations, favoritism or partisan demands.

2. TDInc members shall be courteous and considerate when dealing with the public, realizing that we serve the public.

3. TDInc members shall maintain mutual respect and professional cooperation in their relationships with other TDInc members.

4. TDInc members shall not financially or professionally benefit from the sale of any registered therapy dog teams regardless of registry.

5. TDInc members shall be fair, impartial and consistent in the performance of their voluntary duties and shall treat others with dignity, respect and compassion, void of all retribution, harassment or abuse.

6. TDInc members will conduct themselves in a manner that will not bring discredit or embarrassment to the organization when performing their volunteer duties.

7. TDInc members shall report without reservation any witnessed infractions of TDInc Rules and Regulations or unethical behavior that could affect either members or the integrity of Therapy Dogs Incorporated.

8. TDInc members shall not abuse their position, education or professional title.

9. TDInc members shall not solicit from anyone for their services, either directly or indirectly, anything of economic value, such as a gift, gratuity or favor.

10. TDInc members shall not use the TDInc name, logo or slogan without approval from the president.

11. TDInc members will not discriminate against any person, facility employee or any member of the public on the basis of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability or national origin.

12. TDInc members will not sexually harass or condone sexual harassment with or against any person.

13. TDInc members shall not misrepresent their therapy dogs as assistance dogs for the purpose of gaining public access to planes, restaurants, public buildings, stores, etc.

14. TDInc members who choose to engage in behaviors/actions outside of the guidelines without an approved exception, must remove the official red heart shaped TDInc tag from the dog’s collar and notify the facility supervisor that TDInc insurance is not in effect for the duration of that behavior/activity.

Therapy Groups Listed Alphabetically

4Paws Learning and Wellness Center (San Francisco & greater North Bay area)
Aggieland Pets With A Purpose (Brazos Valley area, TX)
Agility Ability (Central Ohio)
Animal Samaritans (Palm Springs area, CA)
Aston Dog Alliance (Greater Austin, TX)
BAKE (Beach Animals Reading with Kids) (California, Arizona)
Baylor Health Care System Animal Assisted Therapy
Bright Spot Therapy Dogs, Inc. (western Massachusetts)
Canine Assisted Therapy (Florida)
Canine Caregivers (Salisbury, NC area)
Canine Therapy Corps (Chicago)
Caring Canines Therapy Dog Club of Southern VT (southwest VT)
Caring Critters, Inc. (Houston Metropolitan area)
Carolina Canines for Service (Wilmington & Raleigh, NC)
CHAMP Assistance and Therapy Dogs, Inc. (Greater St. Louis)
Comfort Caring Canines Therapy Dogs, Inc. (southeastern PA, NJ, DE, MD)
Companion Animal Program (Cape Cod, MA)

https://www.akc.org/akctherapydog/organizations.cfm
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<td>Creature Comfort Pet Therapy (northern New Jersey)</td>
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<td>Creatures and Kids, Inc. (Oklahoma)</td>
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<td>Divine Canines (Greater Austin, TX)</td>
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<td>Dog B.O.N.E.S. Therapy Dogs of Massachusetts</td>
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<td>Dogs On Call (DOC): An Easter Seals Program (central and southeastern Alabama)</td>
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<td>Domestic PUPS (southeast NE &amp; MO)</td>
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<td>East Bay SPCA PALS (Pets and Love Shared) (Bay area of CA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fairfax Pets on Wheels (Fairfax County, VA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faithful Friends Pet Therapy (DE and southeast PA)</td>
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<td>Faithful Paws Pet Therapy (Houston, TX)</td>
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<td>Federación Canófila de Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico)</td>
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<td>Fidos for Freedom (Baltimore, Greater Washington)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fox Valley Therapy Dogs (Kendall, Kane, DuPage, WIL counties-IL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services (California – San Jose and Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Happy Tails Pet Therapy (Atlanta)</td>
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<td>Healing Heart Therapy Dogs, Inc. (Nebraska)</td>
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<td>Howard County Paws 4 Comfort</td>
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<td>Human Animal Link of Oklahoma Foundation (HALO) (Oklahoma)</td>
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<td>Humane Hearts Pet Therapy (Ferndale County (GA) area)</td>
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<td>Humane Society of Broward County (FL)</td>
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<td>Humane Society of Southern Arizona Pet VIP Program (southern AZ)</td>
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<td>Independent Therapy Dogs, Incorporated (Select cities in CA, NV, and WA.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intermountain Therapy Animals and the Reading Education Assistance Dogs® (R.E.A.D.®)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathleen C. Cailloux Humane Society of Kerrville (Kerrville, TX)</td>
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<tr>
<td>KPETS-Keystone Pet Enhanced Therapy Services (southeast/central PA, northeast MD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lend A Heart Animal Assisted Therapy (Greater Sacramento, CA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lend A Paw Therapy Dogs (Greater Los Angeles/Santa Clarita, CA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literacy Education Assistance Pups (L.E.A.P.) (Delaware, Salisbury, MD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Love on 4 Paws (Greater Los Angeles, CA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lutheran Medical Center Pet Therapy (Greater Denver, CO)</td>
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<td>Lutheran Medical Center Pet Therapy (Greater Denver, CO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miami Valley Pet Therapy Association (MVPTEA) (Dayton, Ohio and surrounding counties)</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Capital Therapy Dogs, Inc. (Washington DC, Baltimore, eastern MD, southern VA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ohio 4-H Pet Pals (state of Ohio)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olympic Mountain Pet Pals</td>
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<td>Orange County SCPA PAWS (Orange County, CA)</td>
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- Paws As Loving Support (CA)
- PAWS: Assistance & Therapy Dogs (Naples, FL)
- Paws for Friendship, Inc.
- Paws for Healing, Inc. (northern CA-Napa, Solano, Sonoma, Marin counties)
- PAWS for People (Pet Assisted Visitation Volunteer Services, Inc.)
- Paws4Life Teams, Inc. (San Diego County, CA)
- PAWS of CNY, Inc (central NY)
- Peninsula Humane Society Pet Assisted Therapy People Animals Love
- Pet-A-Pet Club, Inc. (Greater Detroit/Ann Arbor, MI)
- Pet Prescription Team (southern CA)
- Pet Therapy of the Ozarks, Inc. (50 mile radius from Springfield, MO)
- Pets and People Foundation, Inc. (eastern Massachusetts)
- Pets for Life, Inc.
- Pets Helping People, Inc.
- Pets on Wheels (Maryland)
- Pets on Wheels of Delmarva (DE, MD, VA)
- Pets on Wheels of Scottsdale, Inc. (AZ)
- Project PUP (Pets Uplifting People) (Tampa Bay area, FL)

https://www.akc.org/akctherapydog/organizations.cfm

Therapy Groups Listed Alphabetically

- Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy, Inc. (Chicago and surrounding counties)
- Reading with Rover
- San Diego (CA) Humane Society Therapy Dogs
- San Francisco SPCA AAT Program (San Francisco)
- Santa Fe Animal Shelter & Humane Society Pet Outreach (Santa Fe, NM)
- SC Dogs Therapy Group (upstate of SC, north GA)
- Share-A-Pet, Org., Inc. (So. Fl, San Francisca area, upstate NY)
- Sit Stay Read (Chicago, IL)
- S.M.A.R.T. Dogs (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, CA)
- Sonoma Humane Society Pet Assisted Therapy Program (Sonoma County, CA)
- Southwest Canine Corps of Volunteers, Inc. (NM: Greater Albuquerque , Santa Fe)
- SPCA of Erie County (NY) Paws For Love
- St. Huber's Animal Welfare Center (Paws for People Program) (northern NJ)
- St. John Ambulance's Therapy Dog Program (Canada)
- Sunshine Teams, Mendocino Coast Humane Society (Mendocino Coast of CA)
- Support Dogs, Inc., TOUCH Program (MO: St. Louis metropolitan area)

https://www.akc.org/akctherapydog/organizations.cfm

Therapy Groups Listed Alphabetically

- Tails of Aloha (Hawaii)
- Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare Animal Therapy
- TDK Therapy and Service Dogs (Charlotte, NC)
- The Good Dog Foundation (NY, NJ, CT, MA)
- Therapet Foundation (Greater east Texas)
- Therapet, Inc. (central NJ, CT, NY)
- Therapeutic Paws of Canada (Canada)
- Therapy Animals of San Antonio, Inc. (Greater San Antonio, TX)
- Therapy Dogs United (northwest PA and western NY)
- Therapy Pets (CA: San Francisco-Oakland Bay area)
- Therapy Pals of Golden Triangle (Denton County, TX)
- Therapy Tails Ontario (Ontario, Canada)
- Tony La Russa's ARF Pet Hug Pack (Contra Costa County, CA)

https://www.akc.org/akctherapydog/organizations.cfm
Therapy Groups Listed Alphabetically

- U.S.A. Therapy Dogs, Inc. (Central MI, FL, MA, NY, WI)
- Valley Humane Society Therapy Dog Program
- Virginia Tech Helping PAWS (VA Tech area)
- Visiting Pet Program (Metropolitan New Orleans)
- Vitas Hospice Paw Pals (Dayton, OH area)
- WAGS Across Texas, LLC (Greater San Antonio, TX)
- WAGS Pet Therapy of Kentucky, Inc. (KY)
- WCA Hospital (Southern Tier, Chautauqua County, NY)
- West Michigan Therapy Dogs, Inc. (Greater Western MI)

https://www.akc.org/akctherapydog/organizations.cfm

THERAPY DOG HUMOR

"You keep me on a chain, you make me sit on the floor, you never let me go out in public alone. We need counseling."

PET INFORMATION WEBSITES

- Service dogs and disabilities list
RESOURCES


CONTACT INFORMATION

Suzanne Reinhart, Professional School Counselor and Kennedy, suzanne_reinhart@tiffincityschools.org

Barbara Stickel LPC, and Samson, barbarastickelpcc@gmail.com