



June Update



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A Message from CYBHI Director Melissa Stafford Jones

Happy Pride Month! In June, we honor the incredible resilience and strength of LGBTQIA+ communities and stand together against those who would marginalize them. Young people's mental health is [particularly impacted](#) by anti-LGBTQIA+ hatred and stigma, and CYBHI is committed to supporting their behavioral health and wellbeing, [connecting them to resources](#), increasing access to services and supports, and creating a healing, inclusive and equitable behavioral health ecosystem.

This month, I'd like to express my gratitude to the members of the [CYBHI Equity Working Group](#), which held its final meeting on May 31. Consisting of 40 members with backgrounds at the state and local levels covering health and behavioral health, education, mental health advocacy, family and community engagement, research and evaluation, and a number of other areas, this committed group worked together to create an [equity framework and toolkit](#) that will be critical to the initiative's efforts.

Equity is at the center of our vision of a transformed behavioral health system for California's children, youth and families. The framework is designed to help embed equity into every aspect of the CYBHI's work, from program design to implementation and evaluation. We've begun incorporating it into the initiative's workstreams, though there is still much work left to be done. While the framework is specific to CYBHI, departments are also finding ways to apply the ideas it contains into other work.

I'm happy to share a new *Story From the Field* featuring the [Desert Mountain Children's Center](#), whose transdisciplinary approach is a great example of how integrating efforts can provide more effective and equitable care.

This month, we also launched CYBHI's [new website](#), where you can find a wealth of information about CYBHI, its workstreams and how to get involved with and support its work. I encourage you to visit the site, discover what's available and sign up for our mailing list to stay up to date on the initiative's progress.

Thank you to all who have joined us in this effort. Your collaboration, leadership and dedication play a vital role in transforming our behavioral health system to better serve California children, youth and families.

In Partnership,

Melissa Stafford Jones, Director, Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative

Current Funding Opportunities

Scholarship - Behavioral Health Scholarship Program (HCAI)

Application due by 3 p.m., August 15, 2023.

Applications are open for the Behavioral Health Scholarship Program, which aims to increase the number of appropriately trained allied and advanced behavioral health professionals providing direct patient care and support individuals pursuing behavioral health careers in reproductive health settings. Information is available on HCAI's Behavioral Health Scholarship Program [webpage](#).

Updates

CYBHI Equity Working Group Releases Final Framework

On May 31, 2023, the CYBHI [Equity Working Group \(EWG\)](#) held its final meeting. Over the past year, the group has worked to help embed equity into the processes, design, planning, implementation and accountability efforts of the Initiative and its individual workstreams.

The EWG has adopted an [Equity Framework and Toolkit](#), including a working definition of equity, six core equity pillars, a toolkit to support implementation and an extensive resource list.

Launched in summer 2022, the EWG was chartered to provide advice, guidance, tools and recommendations on embedding and advancing equity in the work of the CYBHI, including:

- Developing and helping to apply a recommended equity framework for the CYBHI, with a toolkit to aid implementation.
- Supporting the use of data to advance equity.
- Serving as thought partner and go-to resource on advancing equity through the work of the CYBHI.

Designed to tap into expertise from the field about how to meaningfully advance equity in an initiative such as CYBHI, the EWG's initial call for members resulted in more than 100 applications. The [final group](#) represented a wide range of backgrounds, constituencies and areas of expertise—including behavioral health agencies, mental

health advocates, community-based organizations, school mental health professionals, local and regional education agencies and others—all committed to making transformational change. While the Equity Working Group may have completed its work, the effort to incorporate equity throughout the CYBHI and its workstreams continues. CalHHS and its departments are working to apply the framework and toolkit at the workstream level.

CYBHI has also formed an Evaluation Advisory Group, which includes several members of the EWG, to help center equity in our evaluation work. The EWG also offered detailed guidance to CYBHI's evaluation partner, Mathematica, on intended outcomes, data metrics and approaches to quantitative and qualitative evaluation; provided thought partnership and guidance to two key workstreams; and created a crucial space enabling candid conversations between people with many different experiences, deepening relationships that will be crucial to future equity work.

To learn more about the CYBHI equity framework, visit the [CYBHI website](#).

Stories From the Field: Desert Mountain Children's Center

*Stories from the Field highlight work addressing youth behavioral health needs and efforts to improve systems and create sustainable change. They showcase CYBHI's values, vision and goals through personal experiences, composite stories and audiocasts, while demonstrating how the Initiative can learn from existing efforts and build on them. A value fundamental to CYBHI is **integration**—breaking down the silos between child-serving systems and uniting their efforts to better meet the behavioral health needs of California kids and families. The following story is one example of what integration can look like in action and the impact it can create.*

For young children with behavioral health needs, early intervention can positively impact learning, development and overall well-being. But navigating multiple systems or providers to receive early intervention services can pose hurdles for families and hinder access to care, particularly when those systems are misaligned or uncoordinated.

Yet, some providers are finding ways to address the fragmentation of child-serving systems, including the [Desert Mountain Children's Center \(DMCC\)](#) in San Bernardino County.

The DMCC partners with child- and family-serving agencies throughout the region to provide a coordinated system of care for children and families, including the Desert Mountain Special Education Local Plan Area, Desert Mountain Charter Special Education Local Plan Area, California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, San Bernardino Department of Behavioral Health, local school districts and other agencies.

They and their partners apply a **transdisciplinary approach to care**, leveraging a team of practitioners from different disciplines, partnering across agencies and with families to work toward a shared vision of success for each child.

One example of this approach is the [Comprehensive Assessment, Research, and Evaluation \(CARE\)](#) program. Developed by DMCC to serve preschool-aged children with acute behavioral health needs, CARE uses an intensive 10-week therapeutic program that assesses each child's unique needs and designs tailored supports to meet them. It involves an extensive transdisciplinary team, including a pediatrician, pediatric neuropsychologist, clinical psychologist, school psychologist, speech and language psychologist, occupational therapist, public health or clinical nurse, licensed clinical social worker and marriage and family therapist, as well as specialists in Applied Behavior Analysis.

This team collaborates to create what CARE Program Supervisor Keri Gomez describes as “a mental health environment.” Working together across disciplines, they consider each child's unique, multifaceted needs, helping them get the differentiated supports they need to thrive in school and life.

“We use the term ‘transdisciplinary team’ versus ‘multidisciplinary team,’ and that really is the idea that what we all do overlaps for the child. No one discipline is better than the other, and no one discipline is more important than another,” said DMCC Director Linda Llamas. “We are all in the room so that we can help the child, and we can see from different lenses about how to do that and how to integrate each modality of treatment into helping the child and the family be most successful.”

DMCC staff report a slew of positive outcomes associated with this approach. Children regularly emerge from the program with improved social, emotional, behavioral and language skills, enabling them to form relationships and participate in essential day-to-day activities, such as classroom learning or family meals.

“How do we know there’s success? You see it,” said Program Manager Theresa Vaughan. “You have a kid who came in with no speech and by the end of the 10 weeks is able to tell their parent—and this is a true story—‘I love you,’ for the first time.”

The biggest measure of success are the reports that DMCC receives from their families, as well as the different things that their children are doing. Families are able to take their kids to the grocery store for the first time, build attachments and see fewer struggles based on the trauma that their kids have experienced. Their kids are able to sit in the classroom, complete assignments and more.

The innovative transdisciplinary approaches to behavioral health care facilitated by DMCC and its partner agencies are helping to put some of the Desert Mountain area’s youngest children on a path toward lifelong health and well-being.

This story was created in partnership with [WestEd](#) as part of CYBHI’s Stories From the Field audiocast series. To hear the full story on the Desert Mountain Children’s Center’s Transdisciplinary System of Care and to hear other audiocasts, visit cybhi.chhs.ca.gov/dmcc/.

California Awards \$14.4 Million to Boost the State’s Behavioral Health Workforce

In June, Governor Gavin Newsom announced \$14.4 million in grants to add nearly 3,300 peer personnel to California’s behavioral health workforce through training and placement programs.

“California is building a behavioral health workforce that reaches people where they are,” said Governor Newsom. “These grants will help provide invaluable support to those who need it most from workers with lived experience.”

Awarded under the Department of Health Care Access and Information’s (HCAI) [Peer Personnel Training and Placement](#) program, the grants will allow 16 organizations to recruit, train and place peer personnel across the state.

Peer personnel have lived experience with mental or behavioral health services as a consumer, a family member or caregiver. They lead recovery groups, build community and relationships, share resources and advocate for people in recovery.

“Governor Newsom and this Administration are committed to providing better access and care related to behavioral health, especially among our state’s youth,” said California Health and Human Services Agency Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly. “Providing grants for peer personnel training and placement will help Californians get the care they need, when they need it.”

“When we go through a difficult situation in our lives, having someone providing support that has been there helps us not feel alone and get the help we need,” said HCAI Director Elizabeth Landsberg. “At HCAI we are working to support and diversify every level of the behavioral health workforce, including those with lived experience.”

Upcoming Meetings and Participation Opportunities

July 12, 2023 – Safe Spaces: Foundations of Trauma-Informed Practice for Educational and Care Settings (OSG)

On July 12, the Office of the California Surgeon General (OSG) will launch a new online learning opportunity designed to help people who work with or care for children and youth to incorporate trauma-informed practices into their work. The self-paced training consists of three modules, two hours each, focusing on three age groups including 0-5, 5-11 and 12-18. It will be offered in both English and Spanish. More information will be available on the [Safe Spaces Webpage](#).

August 9, 2023 – 2-4:30 p.m. – Webinar for LEAs/COEs, BH Providers and Plans and Community Partners – Safe Spaces: Trauma Informed Training for Educators

Learn about new, free resources school districts can leverage to train educators and school staff with tangible strategies for supporting students and creating trauma-informed spaces. This webinar is presented as part of CYBHI’s *Leveraging and Aligning Opportunities to Advance and Sustain School Mental Health* series. **To attend, please visit the [Registration page](#).**

August 30, 2023 – 2-4:30 p.m. – Webinar for LEAs/COEs, BH Providers and Plans and Community Partners – CYBHI Fee Schedule and Partnership Capacity Grants: Part 1

Find out about a new opportunity for schools to receive increased sustainable funding to support student mental health and wellness services, working together with cross-sector partners. This webinar is presented as part of CYBHI's *Leveraging and Aligning Opportunities to Advance and Sustain School Mental Health* series. Registration information will be available on [CYBHI's Events & Funding Opportunities Webpage](#).

Stay Engaged

The CYBHI welcomes all input. To learn more about the CYBHI and to sign up to receive regular updates and engagement opportunities, please visit the [CYBHI webpage](#).

To engage on workstream-specific topics, please use the following information:

- Department of Health Care Services:
 - Contact information for questions/feedback: CYBHI@dhcs.ca.gov
 - Children & Youth Behavioral Health Initiative [Webpage](#)
 - Student Behavioral Health Incentive Program (SHIP) [Webpage](#)
 - Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) [Webpage](#)
 - CalHOPE Student Support [Webpage](#)
- Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI): CYBHI@hcai.ca.gov
- Department of Managed Health Care: CYBHI@dmhc.ca.gov
- California Department of Public Health: CYBHI@cdph.ca.gov
- Office of the California Surgeon General: info@osg.ca.gov

About the CYBHI

The [CYBHI](#) is a five-year, \$4.7 billion initiative that is transforming the way California supports children, youth and families. Serving as the core of California's [Master Plan for Kids' Mental Health](#), the CYBHI works to reimagine a more integrated, youth-centered system where young people can find support for mental health and substance use needs where, when and in the way they need it most. Built on a foundation of equity and accessibility, the CYBHI is created by and for youth and families. Together with partners across sectors and systems, we are meeting young

people where they are—such as schools—to provide access to mental health and substance use services and supports.

Past Updates & Information

- June 2023 Quarterly Webinar ([presentation](#) and [video recording](#))
- [May 2023 CYBHI Update](#)
- [April 2023 CYBHI Update](#)
- [March 2023 CYBHI Update](#)
- [February 2023 CYBHI Update](#)
- February 2023 Quarterly Webinar ([presentation](#) and [video recording](#))
- [January 2023 CYBHI Update](#)
- [December 2022 CYBHI Update](#)
- October 2022 Quarterly Webinar ([presentation](#) and [video recording](#))
- [September 2022 CYBHI Update](#)
- [August 2022 CYBHI Update](#)
- July 2022 Quarterly Webinar ([presentation](#) and [video recording](#))
- [June 2022 CYBHI Update](#)
- [March 2022 CYBHI Update](#)
- March 2022 Kick-Off Webinar ([presentation](#) and [video recording](#))
- [February 2022 CYBHI Update](#)