



Context

This document was developed at the request of the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS) to provide background and context for members of the Behavioral Health Task Force (BHTF). During the BHTF meeting to be convened on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, members of the task force will have the opportunity to inform the development of CYBHI outcomes. Input from the BHTF, together with inputs from CalHHS, the department teams, and various other stakeholders, (including educators and children, youth, and families) will be used to further refine the aspiration and outcomes for the CYBHI.

The approaches and considerations included in this document are preliminary and not meant to be exhaustive.

February 25, 2022

Overview

The CYBHI aspiration seeks to articulate the cohesive mission of the CYBHI clearly and succinctly and represents a shared belief about what the CYBHI is ultimately striving to achieve. Alignment on the aspiration is key not only to cultivate commitment from all stakeholders and teams involved in the initiative but to also enable clear communication and system-level alignment across multiple cross-sector stakeholders.

Translating the overall aspiration for the CYBHI into a set of specific initiative-level outcomes will serve to establish a foundation for detailed planning, design, and evaluation. The initial list of initiative-level outcomes outlined below will continue to be refined based on input from various stakeholders. Specific metrics and data sources to measure and evaluate CYBHI progress over time will be informed by the finalized list of initiative-level outcomes.

CYBHI Aspiration

The current version of the CYBHI aspiration is:

“Reimagine behavioral health and emotional wellbeing for all children, youth, and families in California by delivering equitable, appropriate, timely, and accessible mental health and substance use services and supports from prevention to treatment to recovery in an innovative, upstream focused, ecosystem.”

CYBHI Initiative-Level Outcomes

Potential CYBHI outcomes that emerged through the initial cross-department working sessions completed in February 2022 include:

- **Eliminate stigma related to behavioral health conditions and normalize help-seeking and wellness as part of everyday life**

- **Embed preventive interventions and supports throughout the ecosystem to decrease downstream needs**, (example measures may include awareness of or engagement with prevention programs, screening rate)
- **Improve accessibility of services and supports, across the continuum of care, by building capacity and expanding the breadth of services**, (example measures may include time to referral after initial assessment, insurance coverage for behavioral health among children and youth)
- **Equitably improve behavioral health outcomes across the State, addressing the needs of at-risk and underserved communities** (e.g., Medi-Cal, underrepresented racial / ethnic groups, justice-involved youth), (example measures may include racial and linguistic diversity of workforce and support resources, equitable performance on all outcomes)
- **Improve overall health, social outcomes, and emotional wellbeing for children and youth**, (example measures may include high school graduation, homelessness, suicide, and employment rates)
- **Ensure that positive outcomes are sustainable in the short- and long-term** (e.g., ongoing funding, workforce, focus on upstream interventions)

Final outcomes to be determined by CalHHS and CYBHI department teams.

Questions for BHTF Consideration

The agenda for the BHTF meeting to be convened on Tuesday, March 8 will include dedicated time for discussion in small groups. Some potential questions to consider in advance of this discussion include:

- Which words in the CYBHI aspiration statement stand out to you most? Are there any words that you found particularly energizing and / or motivating?
- Do you find the emerging initiative-level outcomes compelling and aligned with the CYBHI aspiration? Do any specific outcomes resonate most and why?
- What can be changed in the description of the potential outcomes to ensure that they appropriately reflect the aspiration of the CYBHI?
- How do these emerging outcomes relate to and show up in your work and in your community?

Next Steps

CalHHS will continue refining initiative-level outcomes, based on inputs from children, youth, families, SMEs, and other stakeholders. CalHHS is also considering forming a workgroup and / or engaging evaluation partner(s) to define the specific metrics and data sources to measure and evaluate CYBHI progress toward initiative-level outcomes.

CalHHS will plan to bring update on process to BHTF in June 2022. Additional updates on these efforts will continue to be communicated as part of regular updates from CalHHS on CYBHI work and progress.