

Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative

June Stakeholder Update



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A Message from CYBHI Director Melissa Stafford Jones

The Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) is striving to hold young people and their families at the center of our work. As we work together with youth and parents, partners, and stakeholders to reimagine California's behavioral health ecosystem for children and youth, we are committed to honoring their voices, experiences and needs throughout every phase of the process.

That means engaging with and hearing directly from young people themselves. CalHHS, its departments and many of our partners have held initial conversations with youth and parents over the past few months and here is a glimpse of what we've heard.

Young people want more visible and accessible mental health resources and opportunities on school campuses. They want the environments around them, including schools, to support their mental wellness and to have adults that are knowledgeable and trained in social and emotional issues who they can go to for support and to check-in. They want to have access to supports before they are in distress. They are looking for support from professionals who not only look like them, but also speak their language and understand their communities.

Youth are very aware of mental health issues as well as their own mental health and express a desire for spaces to be and share their authentic selves. Youth express that they often turn to friends when facing mental health challenges and some want to access support when they need it from peers or near-peers. They want to be more deeply connected with their communities and are looking for safe spaces and ways to address their mental health, whether through school clubs, art, yoga, music or different activities. Young people have emphasized how disconnected and isolated they feel from their fellow students and how stigma from families and communities directly impacts their ability to access supports and services. They crave ways to heal and find joy in their lives.

These ideas are a powerful testament that our young people are eager to be heard about the mental health challenges they face and what they need to improve their well-being.

In this update, you'll find ways in which CalHHS, our departments and state partners are working to address the urgency of the moment, including highlights on Children's Mental Health Awareness Week and the 2022-23 May Revision. Additionally, you'll learn about the overall progress of the CYBHI, including a spotlight on the work of the Department of Health Care Access and Information, as well as upcoming meetings and ways to participate.

Thank you for your continued leadership, partnership and commitment to this effort.

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

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

We know, and the data shows, that the existing mental health crisis among children and youth has been exacerbated by the stress, trauma and social isolation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. For Mental Health Awareness Month in May and Children's Mental Health Awareness Week on May 1-7, CalHHS, along with our departments, other state agencies and partners worked to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and help connect young people, families, schools and teachers to resources that support wellness. Following are links to resources and activities that took place in observance of Children's Mental Health Awareness Week:

- Governor Newsom's [proclamation](#) declaring May 1-7 as Children's Mental Health Awareness Week.
- [Mental Health Resources for Youth Webpage](#), an online resource hub that provides valuable information to support the mental health and well-being of children and youth now and in the future.
- Secretary Mark Ghaly and State Superintendent Tony Thurmond's [joint letter](#) to raise awareness of the resources for use in classrooms and school communities, including [Wellness Wednesday](#) activities.

Seeking Further Action through the May Budget Revision

While we work to ensure the CYBHI will have a meaningful impact on outcomes for children and youth in the long-term, partners also identified the need for additional immediate actions. Recognizing the urgency of the mental health crisis facing children and youth today and in response to those concerns, Governor Newsom's [2022-23 May Revision](#) proposes \$290 million in General Fund one-time investments to address youth behavioral health urgent and emergent issues. The May Revision's proposed investments focus on youth suicide prevention, supporting wellness and building resilience of children, youth and parents. [Read the CalHHS 2022-23 Revised Budget Highlights](#) on addressing youth behavioral health needs.

Current Activities and Progress

The Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) includes 14 workstreams led by five departments and offices of CalHHS – Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC), California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Office of the California Surgeon General (OSG). Each of these state departments and offices are moving CYBHI forward, with multiple components of work already underway, from community engagement to programmatic and technical progress. In the coming months, we want to rebuild our website to capture and reflect regular progress across each workstream. In the meantime, we will regularly provide key highlights of the work completed in these workstreams, as well as spotlight specific workstreams as the work continues.

Initiative-wide Updates

In line with our commitments to collaboration and lifting up community voices, we have held initiative-wide focus groups with youth and parents to discuss CYBHI outcomes and their experiences with mental health. We have also begun discussing potential CYBHI outcome metrics with health and education partners, and will be expanding this outreach through additional meetings, research, and expert interviews in the months to come with the goal of releasing initiative-wide outcomes and measures this fall.

CYBHI established partnerships with children, youth and family organizations, and we are currently in discussion with additional potential partners to hold focus groups on needed systems changes, five-year CYBHI outcomes goals, and provide input on workstream-specific efforts. Additionally, we have participated in multiple existing forums across sectors to engage stakeholders with professional experience – such as school-based health, child welfare, pediatrics, education, health plans, etc. – to share an overview of the initiative and gather important feedback and insights.

As CYBHI works to incorporate systems change and human-centered design into the initiative, we are looking forward to numerous milestones in the next few weeks and months. This summer, we will host seven community engagement sessions across California's diverse regions. We are also convening three working groups on equity, prevention and wellness, and the behavioral health ecosystem to focus on cross-cutting issues. Applications have opened for the Equity Working Group, convened to ensure that equity is embedded into the processes, design, planning and implementation of the overall approach as well as into the activities, services, programs, and policies of each workstream. The application materials, description and purpose of the group can be found on the [CYBHI website](#). The Behavioral Health Ecosystem Expert Working Group will

meet this summer and a draft working paper focused on opportunities for systems change will be released in early fall.

CYBHI is also working on a Landscape Analysis intended to inform the development of workstreams and spur collaboration and connections across ongoing state efforts in health and education. The analysis will include a set of deep-dive profiles of existing and new state behavioral health efforts and initiatives related to the behavioral health system for children and youth. The analysis initially will be shared publicly this summer and updated overtime.

In July, you can expect to see the release of an RFP to identify evaluation partners for the initiative.

Workstream-specific Updates

The success of CYBHI is dependent upon the collaboration, involvement and leadership of partners and stakeholders, including health and behavioral health, K-12 educators, early childhood and higher education partners, local and state government officials, community-based organizations, along with parents and young people. From completing initial listening sessions focused on behavioral health services and supports linked to schools, to hosting public webinars and conducting more than 50 interviews with experts in the field, each workstream continues to engage key stakeholders. Together DHCS, DMHC and HCAI held multiple joint listening sessions with more being planned in the near future.

Led by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), two think tanks were launched to support the Virtual Behavioral Health Services Platform workstream and the Evidence-Based and Community-Defined Practices workstream. DHCS also identified Managed Care Plans, County Offices of Education, County Behavioral Health Departments and local education agencies who will be implementing the [Student Behavioral Health Incentive Program](#). The department provided their [fourth update](#) on the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program in advance of an expected RFP release next month. DHCS is preparing to release an RFI in July for behavioral health services platform procurement. And, DHCS has also convened the final Community of Practice meeting of the school year as well as launched the [CalHOPE Social Emotional Learning website](#) to help schools support proactive and early intervention in response to the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students, families and educators.

Additionally, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has convened a group of nationwide experts to support the development of a public education and awareness campaign as well as held a second internal subject matter expert convening. In collaboration with CDPH's Fusion Center, the department has also completed an internal landscape analysis of behavioral health.

The Office of the California Surgeon General (OSG) released an RFP for the ACEs public awareness campaign and convened a panel of subject matter experts to support the development of trauma-informed training for educators, with the goal of making this training available in the fall.

The Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) is continuing to engage with health plans on the CYBHI and, along with DHCS, HCAI and CYBHI, participated in a California Association of Health Plans seminar on reimagining behavioral health for our children and youth.

Focused on bolstering the behavioral health care workforce, the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) launched the Peer Personnel Training and Placement program application. The department also designed grant applications for behavioral health workforce pipeline programs, developed a loan repayment program and augmented scholarship opportunities for existing programs. A more detailed spotlight on HCAI's work and upcoming milestones can be found in the next section.

Spotlight on Progress:

Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI)

We are excited to share an update by the Department of Health Care Access and Information to strengthen and increase the behavioral health care workforce. The workstream seeks to augment the behavioral health workforce and increase the availability of behavioral health services for youth through the following strategies:

- Create a school behavioral health coach and counselor workforce
- Strengthen behavioral health workforce pipeline programs
- Expand behavioral health training for primary care providers
- Expand peer personnel training and placement programs
- Increase training capacity for psychiatry
- Augment existing loan repayment, scholarship and stipend programs
- Develop the Substance Use Disorder workforce
- Enhance training to serve justice- and system-involved youth

The workstream is actively working toward the release of the following:

- In summer 2022, a framework and career ladder for the new behavioral health coach role based on ongoing research, planning, and stakeholder engagement.
- In early 2023, an initial grant funding opportunity for education and training institutions to begin offering a behavioral health coach training program.
- Starting now and continuing into fall 2022, the first application cycles will be released for funding focused on supporting increased capacity of the broader behavioral health workforce, including:
 - **Peer Personnel Training and Placement Program**, to train, certify, and place peer personnel specialists
 - **Health Professions Pathways Program**, to build a behavioral health workforce pipeline

- **Psychiatric Education Capacity Expansion Program**, to build and expand psychiatry residency and psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner training programs
- Social Work training expansion program, to build and expand capacity to train social workers (fall 2022)
- Support for recruiting and retaining the behavioral health workforce through **opening application cycles** for the Advanced Practice Healthcare Scholarship Program, Allied Health Scholarship Program, Licensed Mental Health Services Provider Education Program, and the Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program
- The FY 2022-2023 proposed Governor’s budget also includes new investments in the behavioral health workforce to:
 - Sustain and expand the social worker workforce.
 - Expand training of psychiatrists, psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners, psychologists, among others.
 - The Governor’s May Revise budget also includes proposals-- beyond HCAI-- to expand the Golden State Teacher Grant program to include candidates pursuing a PPS credential and to provide \$500M to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to augment the Teacher Residency Grant Program to support teacher and school counselor residency programs that recruit and support the preparation of teachers and school counselors.

Additionally, On May 24, HCAI held a Lunch & Learn session for the Behavioral Health Task Force to discuss CYBHI related workforce efforts. The presentation and recording of this session will be available [here](#).

Upcoming Meetings and Participation Activities

Our efforts to engage a broad range of communities, sectors and partners will remain consistent and constant. Below you'll find upcoming meetings and opportunities led by CYBHI workstreams.

June 6, 2022, 2:30 - 4 p.m. – DHCS Public Update Webinar on DHCS-led CYBHI Workstreams

DHCS is hosting a series of monthly public webinars to keep stakeholders apprised of DHCS' progress in implementing various CYBHI workstreams. [Register to join the June 6 Public Webinar.](#)

June 7, 2022, 4 - 5:30 p.m. – DHCS Statewide Listening Session

DHCS, in collaboration with the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) and the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC), will host a statewide public listening session to gather perspectives on the current state and opportunities for school-linked behavioral health services workstreams, including the following:

- School-linked partnership, infrastructure and capacity grants (DHCS)
- Establishing behavioral health coaches in the behavioral health workforce (HCAI)
- Development of a statewide all-payer fee-schedule for behavioral health services (DHCS/DMHC)

This statewide listening tour session will build off of prior listening tour sessions, held between February and May, with partners across the state. [Register to join the June 7 Public Listening Tour Session.](#)

June 8, 2022, 10 - 11 a.m. – HCAI Informational Webinar on Workforce Grant Funding Opportunities

HCAI will host an informational webinar from 10am to 11am to announce grant funding opportunities for healthcare pipeline programs, student internships, and fellowships. This webinar will provide an overview of the different programs and key information regarding who is eligible and how to apply. [Register to join the June 8 webinar.](#)

June 9, 2022, 2 - 4 p.m. – DCHS Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) and Community-Defined Practices (CDP) Workgroup Meeting

These workgroup meetings are open to the public and will focus on reviewing the scope of Evidence-Based Practices and Community-Defined Practices identified for scaling through CYBHI grant programs. [Register to join the June 9 EBP and CDP workgroup meeting.](#)

More information about workgroup members is posted on the [EBP/CDP Workgroup Member List.](#)

June 13, 2022, 11 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. – HCAI Webinar on Psychiatric Workforce Program

HCAI will host two webinars providing key information on the Psychiatric Education Capacity Expansion (PECE) Psychiatry Residency and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) programs, regarding eligibility and how to apply. [Register to join the Psychiatry Residency webinar from 11 to 11:45 a.m.](#) [Register to join the PECE PMHNP webinar from 12 to 12:45 p.m.](#)

June 14, 2022 – Quarterly Behavioral Health Task Force Meeting

Will include an update on the CYBHI, focusing on initiative-level outcomes, outcome measures and overall progress across work streams. [Register to join the June 14 Behavioral Health Task Force Meeting.](#)

June 27, 2022, 2 - 4 p.m. – DCHS Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) and Community-Defined Practices (CDP) Workgroup Meeting

[Register to join the June 27 EBP and CDP workgroup meeting.](#)

July 21, 2022, 2 - 4 p.m. – DCHS Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) and Community-Defined Practices (CDP) Workgroup Meeting

[Register to join the July 21 EBP and CDP workgroup meeting.](#)

July – Initiative-wide public update webinar, Date TBD

We are working diligently to conduct and provide opportunities for engagement at the initiative-wide and workstream-specific levels. Listening sessions, focus groups, workgroup sessions, interviews and public webinars will continue.

Stay Engaged

We welcome input on the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative. To provide thoughts or comments or to sign up to receive regular updates, please email CYBHI@chhs.ca.gov.

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

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):
HWDD.ADMIN@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 goal of the [Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative](#) is to address the behavioral health challenges facing children and youth by reimagining the systems that support behavioral health and wellness for children, youth and their families.

The initiative will take a whole system approach by creating cross-system partnerships – involving stakeholders from the various systems that support children and youth behavioral health – to ensure that the reimagined ecosystem is children and youth-centered and equity-focused.

Past Updates & Information

- [March 2022](#)
- March Kick-Off Webinar [presentation](#) and [video recording](#)
- [February 2022](#)