

# Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative

## August Stakeholder Update



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## A Message from CYBHI Director Melissa Stafford Jones

The Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) is deeply rooted in collaboration, building partnerships and providing the information needed to propel our efforts to reimagine the ecosystem that supports the mental, emotional and behavioral health and well-being of our children and youth.

As a part of our commitment to keeping you informed, CYBHI hosted a quarterly webinar on July 15 highlighting youth voices, updates on initiative-wide work, workstream-specific updates and deep-dives into the Behavioral Health Coach and Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform workstream. If you missed the webinar, we encourage you to [view the recording](#) and the [presentation](#) on the CYBHI webpage.

Additionally, we will release a new “CYBHI 101” PDF presentation which will provide an overview of the initiative and its workstreams. The CYBHI 101 presentation will be available on the [CYBHI web page](#) later this month.

I am also pleased to share a recent [article](#) from U.S. Surgeon General Vivek H. Murthy, MD which features a mention of the work being done to transform children and youth behavioral health care in California through the CYBHI. The article serves as a call to action for the whole country with a stark reminder of what’s at stake in assuring that children and youth receive the help they need, where and when they need it; especially those in our most underserved communities. I encourage you to read how the federal government is uplifting the CYBHI as an example of what’s possible and hope it further fuels you the way it has for me, in our mission to support California’s children and youth.

In this update, you’ll find highlights of the work we and our partners have engaged in the last month. You’ll see initiative-wide progress on our Equity Working Group, and the progress being made by our workstreams in areas like strengthening our behavioral health workforce, raising awareness of behavioral health and the development of a Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform.

Thank you to everyone who has joined us in this effort. I am grateful for your commitment, collaboration and leadership.

In Partnership,

Melissa Stafford Jones, Director,

Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative

## Current Activities and Progress

### Initiative-wide Updates

Detailed information on the initiative-wide work can be viewed through the [July 15 webinar](#). In this update we want to highlight a promising development in furthering our commitment to equity.

To ensure that equity is embedded into the core of our efforts – from our processes, design, planning, implementation and overall approach of the CYBHI to the activities, services, programs and policies of individual workstreams – we are launching an [Equity Working Group](#) to help guide our work. The working group will have three key roles:

1. Develop and help apply a recommended equity framework for the CYBHI.
2. Support the use of data to advance equity.
3. Serve as a thought partner and go-to resource on advancing equity for workstream teams.

The Equity Working Group will hold its first public meeting on August 17, 2022. More information including a registration link will be made available on the [CYBHI web page](#).

Additionally, the CYBHI released a [Request for Proposal \(RFP\)](#) to support the evaluation and assessment of initiative-wide progress toward the overall goals, outcomes and aspirations of the initiative. Interested parties will be required to submit final proposals by 3 p.m. PST on September 9, 2022.

## Engagement by the Numbers:

The CYBHI is engaging in extensive outreach with young people, families, and a broad range of cross-sector stakeholders and partners. As of July 20, we've reached the following:

- **575** organizations, including:
  - **188** local, county and state government entities.
  - **131** providers of healthcare, education and social services.
  - **30** child, youth, and family organizations.
- **1,600** registrants recorded for CYBHI public webinars.
- **257** stakeholder and expert interviews conducted.
- **25+** roundtables and existing forums hosted or participated in.

## Workstreams-specific Updates

Over the last few months, the departments and offices leading CYBHI's 14 workstreams conducted extensive stakeholder outreach, launched new funding opportunities and forged key partnerships to advance their work. Below, you'll find highlights on progress for two of the 14 workstreams: behavioral health workforce and a deeper dive into the development of an online Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform. You can find additional details and updates on the other 12 workstreams in the [Webinar Presentation](#).

**Health Care Access and Information (HCAI):** To support behavioral health providers and strengthen the behavioral health workforce, HCAI has expanded two loan repayment programs and two scholarship programs to help professionals address student-loan debt, including:

1. [Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program](#) to support psychiatrists.
2. [Licensed Mental Health Services Provider Education Loan Repayment Program](#) to support behavioral health providers with licenses or certifications.
3. [Allied Healthcare Scholarship Program](#), which includes students in behavioral health education programs such as Substance-Use Disorder (SUD) counselors, social work, marriage and family therapists as well as others.

4. [Advanced Practice Healthcare Scholarship Program](#) for students including nurse practitioners in psychiatric mental health and psychiatric nurse programs.

Applications for these programs are currently open and due by October 31, 3:00 p.m. PST. HCAI has awarded \$3.2 million through these programs in the most recent two-month cycle to facilitate the acceleration of the impact of these programs to support recruitment and retention of the behavioral health workforce.

On July 15, HCAI opened the application cycle for the [California State Loan Repayment Program](#). The application is open through September 15. Additionally, as a part of the Broad Behavioral Health Workforce Capacity workstream, HCAI has awarded 12 grants, totaling \$11.5 million, for the [Peer Personnel Training and Placement Program](#).

**Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform:** In July 2022, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) issued a [Request for Information](#) (RFI) to learn from potential vendors about “best in class” solutions, approaches to scale, and potential timeline considerations, as well as to gather additional information to inform the design, development, and launch of the Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform (BHVSP) by January 2024. The RFI closed on August 3.

Led by DHCS, the BHVSP will provide children, youth, and families with access to behavioral health resources and support from wherever they are and whenever they need them. This online virtual services platform will also support the delivery of equitable, appropriate, and timely behavioral health services, from prevention to treatment to recovery. The BHVSP seeks to improve:

- Access to equitable delivery of culturally relevant behavioral health resources for historically marginalized or underrepresented groups.
- Access to free, on-demand, engaging, and confidential services.
- The social and emotional well-being of, and behavioral health outcomes for, children, youth, and families by providing connections to trusted community-based resources.

The BHVSP will provide self-service tools, including age-appropriate interactive resources and educational information about behavioral health and wellness strategies, screening and assessment tools, and resources and tools for self-management of behavioral health symptoms and conditions. Children and youth will also be able to connect with peers, coaches, and licensed behavioral health

professionals through peer groups and one-on-one short-term counseling sessions delivered via telemedicine video visits, texting, and/or chat. For young people whose needs exceed what the BHVSP can deliver, the platform will facilitate referrals to community-based behavioral health resources.

In addition, through the BHVSP, DHCS will launch a statewide eConsult system to ensure pediatricians and primary care providers in the state have consultation support from licensed behavioral health professionals.

Since April, DHCS has held numerous stakeholder engagement sessions, including monthly public webinars, and convened a think tank expert panel of state and national experts to inform the development and design of the BHVSP. DHCS also held several focus groups with children, youth, parents/caregivers, education partners, health plans, county behavioral health departments, and others. Some of the feedback provided during these sessions included:

- The importance of young people retaining anonymity and establishing a safe space that can foster trust between users.
- Ensuring that the BVHCS is clearly not a social media platform, through such techniques as avoiding the use of likes and unmoderated posts.
- Building trust in the platform will be critical, specifically among marginalized communities who may be skeptical of government services.
- Accessibility and ease of use are key to reaching disadvantaged populations.
- Personalization of resources and services may make it more likely for young people to use and return to the platform.
- Timely care and support to ensure impact on behavioral health outcomes.

## **Upcoming Meetings and Participation Opportunities**

Our efforts to engage a broad range of communities, sectors and partners will remain consistent and constant. Below you will find upcoming meetings and opportunities across the initiative.

**August 17, 2022 - 3:30-5:30 p.m. – Equity Working Group Meeting**

More information including the agenda will be made available on the [CYBHI webpage](#). [Register to attend as a member of the public the August 17 Equity Working Group Meeting](#).

**September 13, 2022 - 10 a.m. – Quarterly Behavioral Health Task Force Meeting**

Meeting will include an update and discussion on the CYBHI. [Register to join the September 13 Behavioral Health Task Force Meeting](#).

Additionally, the CYBHI continues to participate in existing forums and events. The following is an example of the experiences and voices the initiative continues to capture through ongoing stakeholder engagement efforts.

## Stakeholder Engagement Spotlight: The California Endowment's Youth Mental Wellness Now! Summit

The inclusion of youth voices is critical to the design and success of the CYBHI. On June 17, we met with youth leaders at The California Endowment's Youth Mental Wellness Now! Summit, which brought together youth from diverse backgrounds and cross-sector stakeholders to discuss youth mental health. Attendees shared their experiences with and what they want from the mental and behavioral health systems. Major takeaways included:

- **Young people want to be listened to by adults who will act on what they hear.** Real healing and reparative practices are essential for young people at the individual level and system levels.
- **Not everything is a clinical issue.** Young people want non-clinical mental wellness support and healing spaces to help both prevent and address crises.
- **Mental health services should address a young person's context.** Having access to family support and free or low-cost services from someone who personally understands their lived experience are priorities.

## Stay Engaged

We welcome all input for the CYBHI. To provide thoughts or comments or to sign up to receive regular updates, please email [CYBHI@chhs.ca.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:HWDD.ADMIN@hcai.ca.gov)
- Department of Managed Health Care: [CYBHI@dmhc.ca.gov](mailto:CYBHI@dmhc.ca.gov)
- California Department of Public Health: [CYBHI@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:CYBHI@cdph.ca.gov)



- Office of the California Surgeon General: [info@osg.ca.gov](mailto:info@osg.ca.gov)

## About the CYBHI

The [Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative \(CYBHI\)](#) is a historic, five-year, \$4.4 billion initiative to reimagine and transform the way California supports children, youth and families.

Managed by the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS), the CYBHI focuses on promoting mental, emotional and behavioral well-being, preventing challenges and providing services, support and routine screening to ALL children and youth for emerging and existing needs connected to mental, emotional and behavioral health and substance use.

Built on a foundation of equity and accessibility, the initiative is designed to meet young people and families where they are to create an ecosystem that can help them when, where and in the way they need it most.

## Past Updates & Information

- July Quarterly Webinar [presentation](#) and [video recording](#)
- [June 2022 Stakeholder Update](#)
- [March 2022 Stakeholder Update](#)
- March Kick-Off Webinar [presentation](#) and [video recording](#)
- [February 2022 Stakeholder Update](#)