



February Update



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A Message from CYBHI Director Melissa Stafford Jones

“It’s a culture of we instead of me.” -Indira Infante, Program Manager, Placer County’s Parent Partners Program

Integrated systems centered on youth and families are fundamental to the [Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative \(CYBHI\)](#).

On February 8, a group of leaders from CalHHS and our departments attended Placer County’s **SMART Policy Team**, an interagency leadership group to improve youth outcomes. Including youth- and family-focused systems as well as family advocates, the group provides guidance and high-level coordination of services and policies affecting kids and families. This work is part of Placer County’s Children’s System of Care, which has integrated its child-serving efforts for 30 years. The voices of youth and families are critical to this system, as seen in the **Parent Partners** program, which brings people with lived experience on as partners, practitioners and voices in policy discussions. It was instructive to learn how this system was formed, the hard work involved in creating alignment, the culture of collaboration they have developed, and how their approach radiates out to the school-based wellness centers we also visited.

What could integration look like in practice as we work together to implement the CYBHI at the state and local levels? [Working Paper: California’s Children & Youth Behavioral Health Ecosystem](#) outlines an early blueprint of a more integrated and equitable behavioral health system and the components, changes and steps needed to get there. These transformative goals, while extremely challenging, can be achieved when systems and partners undertake together the necessary collective change work. Efforts underway by CYBHI and other state and local entities provide an opportunity to build on the paper’s recommendations to better serve our youth and families.

Integration is really about bringing everyone to the table and focusing on the experiences, needs and wants of youth and families. Both the working paper and the work going on in Placer County demonstrate what is possible when we unite our efforts under a shared vision, shared principles and shared goals.

Thank you for your continued collaboration, commitment and leadership.

In Partnership,

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

Current Funding Opportunities

Scholarship - Advanced Practice Healthcare Scholarship Program (HCAI) **Responses due February 24, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.**

The purpose of this program is to increase the number of appropriately trained advanced practice healthcare professionals (including behavioral health professionals) providing direct patient care in an underserved area or qualified facility within California. Interested parties are encouraged to apply for funding using the HCAI [funding portal](#).

Scholarship - Allied Healthcare Scholarship Program (HCAI) **Responses due February 24, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.**

The purpose of this program is to increase the number of appropriately trained allied professionals (including allied behavioral health professionals) providing direct patient care in an underserved area or qualified facility within California. Interested parties are encouraged to apply for funding using the HCAI [funding portal](#).

RFI - Marketing Strategy & Execution (HCAI)

Responses due February 24, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

HCAI invites interested parties to review and respond to this non-binding Request for Information (RFI). This request for information seeks a qualified vendor that will partner with HCAI in developing the certification process for expanded and newly developed professional roles, specifically that of Wellness Coaches (WC) and Community Health Workers/Promotores (CHW/P). Information is available on [Cal eProcure.com](https://www.calstateprocure.com).

RFA - Substance Use Disorder Earn and Learn Grant Program (HCAI) **Responses due February 28, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.**

This grant opportunity will result in a three-year grant agreement(s) with SUD Earn and Learn (E & L) providers to provide education and paid job experience to students getting SUD certified in California. Information about the opportunity can be found on the [HCAI website](#). Interested parties are encouraged to apply for funding using the [online application](#).

RFA - EBP/CDEP: Trauma-informed Programs (DHCS)**Responses due March 3, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.**

In the second round of the Evidenced-Based Practices/Community-Defined Evidence Practices (EBP/CDEP) Grant Program, DHCS seeks proposals from various individuals, organizations, and agencies to scale evidence-based, trauma-informed programs and practices. Information about the opportunity can be found on the [DHCS website](#). Interested parties are encouraged to apply for funding using this [application form](#).

RFI - Certification and Technical Assistance (HCAI)**Responses due March 3, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.**

HCAI invites vendors to review and respond to this non-binding Request for Information (RFI), which will provide information to HCAI to inform the planning, design, development, and implementation of a marketing campaign for both Community Health Workers/Promotores (CHW/P) and Wellness Coaches (WC) by May 31, 2023. HCAI may use the RFI responses to develop a scope of work for a potential future solicitation of services. Information is available on [Cal eProcure.com](#).

RFA - Peer Personnel Training and Placement Program (HCAI)**Responses due March 30, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.**

This grant opportunity will result in agreement(s) with public, private, and nonprofit organizations, including faith based and community-based organizations, for training and support that facilitates the training and placement of peer personnel. Information about the opportunity can be found on the [HCAI website](#). Interested parties are encouraged to apply for funding using the [HCAI funding portal](#).

RFI - BH Training Development (HCAI)**Responses due March 31, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.**

HCAI invites vendors to review and respond to this non-binding Request for Information (RFI), which will provide information to HCAI to inform the planning, design, development, and launch of the behavioral health training for non-medical and non-behavioral health professionals by June 2023. HCAI may use the RFI responses to develop a scope of work for a potential future solicitation of services. Information is available on [Cal eProcure.com](#).

Updates

Working Paper: California's Children & Youth Behavioral Health Ecosystem

[Working Paper: California's Children & Youth Behavioral Health Ecosystem](#) was commissioned by CalHHS to describe the changes needed to realize the vision of the CYBHI. Created by a multi-disciplinary working group led by [Breaking Barriers California](#), it describes the steps and components necessary to create an integrated and youth-centered behavioral health ecosystem. The paper is informed by more than 100 interviews with youth, families and leaders across disciplines, communities and geographies, along with more than a dozen larger advisory group meetings.

The Working Paper's recommendations highlight how our work can - and why it must - be integrated and aligned to better serve our kids. Its key themes – centering the needs of children and families, breaking down silos that separate child-serving systems and deeply committing to a collaborative approach – drive our work at the CYBHI.

The Working Paper's recommendations include:

- **Create a clear, shared vision** for and with children and families.
- Ensure **communities and families are empowered as partners** to elevate their interests.
- Commit to **addressing root issues** of structural inequity.
- Adopt an **integrated approach to child well-being** and alignment across the ecosystem.
- Invest in **capacity building, technical support and a research agenda** for initiating and building local ecosystems of care.
- Develop a **larger, culturally-responsive and congruent behavioral health workforce**.
- Develop and implement **community-defined shared outcomes, accountability and continuous improvement**.
- Incorporate **data and information-sharing processes and tools**.
- Adopt **approaches to integrated funding** to maximize impact.
- Ensure **coordinated care navigation** for youth, students and families.

The [Master Plan for Kids' Mental Health](#), the CYBHI and other related initiatives, share many of the core values laid out in the paper, and they provide an opportunity to build on its key themes. The paper is accompanied by the **Supplemental Mapping of CYBHI and other State Initiatives to Key Recommendations**, which outlines how state

initiatives including CYBHI connect and support the working paper's recommendations.

The Working Paper makes it clear that realizing these recommendations will not be easy, nor immediate. But this transformative change is possible when we work together. By integrating the efforts of the child-serving systems, we can create healthier and more equitable outcomes for our youth and families.

The CYBHI will host a webinar discussing the Working Paper on February 28 from 10-11 a.m. You can RSVP online via the [registration page](#).

View [Working Paper: California's Children & Youth Behavioral Health Ecosystem](#) on the CYBHI website.

Stories From the Field: Parent Partners

The CYBHI works to ensure that our systems are centered on and driven by the needs of youth and families and to develop a workforce with cultural competency and lived experience. The following story is one example of what those values can look like in action and the impact they can create.

When clients meet with a Family Advocate at [Parent Partners](#), which provides support to families receiving services from Placer County's system of care, they're working with someone who can personally relate to the issues they face.

"We ask others in the system of care to refer parents who are former recipients of services and would be good candidates to be family advocates," said Indira Infante, program manager for the Parent Partners program, which is operated by Cal Voice. "People don't need degrees to join our team, as long as they have lived experience navigating some of the systems."

The program, which uses creative, culturally-sensitive, and strengths-based thinking, is based on the ideas that families are the experts in their own needs and that support from someone who understands their experiences is critical to creating successful outcomes.

At first, families can be intimidated by what they see as an intrusion. Many barriers must be overcome—from language barriers and concerns around immigration status to distrust based on previous experiences with systems—to begin the path toward healing.

"Families come in with crises," Indira said. "Our team focuses on their strengths. We work together to shift the mindset."

One of the most important roles members of the team play is attending court proceedings, treatment team meetings and school meetings with families, assisting and supporting them in being equal partners with the professionals who work with them. They take part in policy discussions to make sure the experiences and concerns of the families they serve are taken into account.

“We’re a bridge to the other systems and practitioners,” Indira said. “Not working against them, but together. We act as allies to make sure families’ voices are heard.”

In Placer County, that approach—integrated systems with youth and families at the center—is bigger than one program. It’s the core of their entire system of care.

“We don’t have a separate child welfare department or mental health department for children. They’re blended together into one department, called Children’s System of Care,” said Mike Lombardo, executive director of prevention supports and services for Placer County Office of Education.

Bringing on staff with lived experience helps create an integrated system built for and with the people it serves. “The people hired by the program are embedded across our system of care,” Mike said. “They sit next to our social workers and mental health workers and take part in conversations about individual families. They work on wraparound teams and crisis teams.”

Fully incorporating families as practitioners and partners creates systems in which their voices and needs are centered. Representation at every level, from program design to implementation to evaluation, can make our systems more equitable and effective for all California families.

It creates an environment of collaboration, in which systems and families work together to create better outcomes.

As Indira says, “It’s a culture of ‘we’ instead of ‘me.’”

Parent Partners is one example of the impact that can be created when our behavioral health workforce has lived experience and when our systems are centered on and driven by the needs of those they serve. Visit the [CYBHI webpage](#) to learn more about how the initiative is putting these values into practice to serve all California children and families.

February CYBHI Quarterly Webinar

On February 1, the CYBHI held its quarterly webinar. It featured initiative-wide updates on two reports released in January - the [January 2023 CYBHI Progress Report](#) and the [Youth at the Center Report](#) - and deep dives on two workstreams, the new Medi-

Cal Dyadic Services benefit (DHCS) and the Youth Suicide Prevention Media and Outreach Campaign (CDPH).

The webinar also featured Youth Journalist and Advocate Sarah Yee, who shared her poem “16 Strings Too Many.” The poem captures her own experiences and story, exploring themes of family, Asian American identity, the pressures faced by young people, the stigmas around mental health and the power of finding support.

You can view the [presentation](#) and [a video of the webinar](#) on the [CYBHI website](#).

Upcoming Meetings and Participation Opportunities

February 24, 2023 – 12-1 p.m. – Youth at the Center Report Webinar

Please RSVP via the [registration page](#).

February 28, 2023 – 10-11 a.m. – California’s Children & Youth Behavioral Health Ecosystem Webinar

Please RSVP via the [registration page](#).

March 14, 2023 – 10 a.m.-3 p.m. – Behavioral Health Task Force Meeting

Meeting information and agenda will be available on the [Behavioral Health Task Force](#) web page. Register to join the March 14 [Behavioral Health Task Force Meeting](#).

March 29, 2023 – 3-5:30 p.m. – Equity Working Group

Please RSVP via the [registration page](#).

Stay Engaged

The CYBHI welcomes all input. 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 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 [Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative \(CYBHI\)](#) is a historic, five-year, \$4.7 billion initiative to reimagine and transform the way California supports children, youth and families. Managed by the California Health and Human Services Agency, 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

- 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](#)