



March Update



Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----------|
| A Message from CYBHI Director Melissa Stafford Jones | 2 |
| Current Funding Opportunities | 3 |
| Updates..... | 3 |
| DHCS to Provide \$100 Million in Grants for Children and Youth Behavioral Health Programs | 3 |
| Update on Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform for Children and Youth | 4 |
| CYBHI's Equity Commitment Featured in Capital & Main | 5 |
| CalHHS Resources on Recent Disaster Storms | 5 |
| Stay Engaged | 6 |
| About the CYBHI..... | 6 |
| Past Updates & Information | 6 |

A Message from CYBHI Director Melissa Stafford Jones

New [CDC data released last month](#) showed rising rates of poor mental health among young people. Young women and LGBTQ youth are particularly impacted, with a majority of both groups reporting persistent sadness or hopelessness.

In supporting youth well-being, the CYBHI and the Master Plan for Kids' Mental Health are built around an all-the-above approach. We are acting with urgency to implement and strengthen programs focused on immediate needs while also working to transform our behavioral health system, breaking down silos and integrating across systems to center youth and provide support as early as possible. These efforts are part of the Administration's [larger priority](#) to improve behavioral health for all Californians, across the continuum.

To make a lasting impact, we recognize the need for a combination of short-, mid- and long-term efforts that address urgent needs while recognizing that prevention is critical to crisis response. It's not about choosing between prevention and treatment or between immediate needs and transformational systems change. We can best help youth and families by recognizing the urgency of the problem and focusing on comprehensive solutions.

I recently had the privilege of testifying alongside department colleagues before a joint hearing of California's Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1 and Assembly Health Committee and before the California Senate Health Committee on the many areas in which the CYBHI is making progress in meeting the behavioral health needs of our young people, now and over the longer term. This Monthly Update highlights a few of these critical efforts, such as how we're supporting evidence-based and community-defined evidence practices centered on trauma-informed training and early-childhood wraparound services and the development of a new behavioral health virtual services platform.

All the CYBHI's immediate and long-term efforts are made possible through the collaboration of our partners. Thank you for your creativity and dedication as we work together to transform the behavioral health system serving California youth.

In Partnership,

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

Current Funding Opportunities

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](#).

RFA - EBP/CDEP: Round 2 - Trauma-informed Programs (DHCS)

Responses due April 10, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

In the second round of the Evidence-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](#).

Updates

DHCS to Provide \$100 Million in Grants for Children and Youth Behavioral Health Programs

On February 9, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) released a [Request for Application](#) for \$100 million in grants to expand trauma-informed programs and practices benefiting children and youth who may have existing or emerging mental health and/or substance use disorders, parents, and caregivers. These grants are the second round of funding from the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative's (CYBHI) [Evidence-Based Practices and Community-Defined Evidence Practices](#)

[Grant Program](#), and will be awarded based on robust evidence for effectiveness, impact on racial equity, and sustainability.

These grants are designed to:

- Increase early intervention and access to behavioral health services for children and youth.
- Mitigate the adverse effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences.
- Provide trauma-informed support and communication for caregivers and individuals.
- Increase the capacity of child-serving service systems to implement trauma-informed practices.
- Improve grief support for children and youth who have experienced trauma related to COVID, such as the death of a parent or loved one.

Applications for grants must be submitted by April 10, 2023, at 5 p.m. To apply, please use this [online form](#).

To learn more about the Evidence-Based Practices and Community-Defined Evidence Practices Grant Program, view these [Frequently Asked Questions](#) or visit the [DHCS website](#).

Update on Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform for Children and Youth

DHCS [announced](#) the plan to launch the **Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform** in January 2024.

The technology-enabled platform will offer equitable, appropriate, and timely behavioral health services, from prevention to treatment and recovery for children, youth, and families in California. It will provide support and resources, such as interactive digital education, self-monitoring tools, application-based games, and mindfulness exercises. It will also provide access to free, on-demand one-on-one coaching and counseling, accessible through a smartphone app, website, and telephone.

DHCS selected [Kooth](#) to support the delivery of the service for youth and young adults ages 13-25. Kooth will also integrate with other partners to provide a seamless user experience, including providing services and supports to children ages 0-12 and their parents/caregivers.

In partnership with DHCS, Kooth will engage in extensive user-testing, gathering feedback from youth, families, and partners to improve the platform's design, content, and functionality. Kooth will collaborate with other key partners, including schools,

primary care providers, and behavioral health experts, to raise awareness and promote adoption of the platform.

Along with the platform, DHCS is developing a statewide **e-Consult** service to enhance the capacity of pediatricians and primary care providers to provide behavioral health treatment to young people. DHCS has engaged with e-Consult experts throughout the state and will soon launch a workgroup to gather input from pediatricians, primary care providers, and behavioral health experts to inform e-Consult development.

To learn more about the Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform and the e-Consult service, visit the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative [webpage](#).

CYBHI's Equity Commitment Featured in Capital & Main

On March 10, news outlet Capital & Main featured CYBHI's equity work in their article [In the Middle of a Mental Health Crisis Among Youth, Words Matter](#). The story focuses on how the CYBHI's commitment to equity is shaping our efforts to reimagine the way California serves the mental health and substance use needs of children, youth and families. It highlights steps taken by the [CYBHI Equity Working Group](#), which crafted the initiative's [Working Definition of Equity](#) and an [Equity Framework](#). The Equity Working Group is developing a toolkit to support the incorporation of the definition and framework and providing thought partnership on how the CYBHI can use data to advance equity as part of its evaluation process.

The most recent meeting of the Equity Working Group took place on March 29. The [agenda](#) is available on the [CYBHI Web Page](#).

CalHHS Resources on Recent Disaster Storms

As communities across the state work to respond to the recent disaster storms in California, we understand the impact they can have on families and their mental health. That's why we want to make sure everyone has access to the resources they need to stay safe and healthy. We encourage our partners to share the following resources from the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS) with their communities, networks, and partners:

- [CalHHS Emergency Resource Guide](#)
- [CalHHS Emergency Resource Guide \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Guide to Disaster Assistance Services for Immigrant Californians](#)
- [Guide to Disaster Assistance Services for Immigrants \(Spanish\)](#)

Thank you for your partnership in keeping Californians safe during these difficult times.

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 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

- [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](#)