

State of California

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION

MHSSA Collaboration Teleconference Meeting Summary
June 5, 2024

MHSOAC
1812 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Staff Presenting:

Riann Kopchak, Chief, Community Engagement and Grants
Cheryl Ward, Health Program Specialist
Michele Nottingham, Health Program Specialist
Lester Robancho, Health Program Specialist

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began with a video taken at the One House Bakery in Benecia. It was an example of how an organization with all its moving parts can create something wonderful with everyone working together toward a common goal. A strong partnership and sense of cooperation is integral to success.

Cheryl Ward, Health Program Specialist, called the Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) Collaboration teleconference meeting of the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC or Commission) to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the 14th quarterly meeting. She reminded everyone of the purpose and goals of these meetings and stated the focus of today's meeting is the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI), the Statewide Multi-Payer School-Linked Fee Schedule, and other resources.

Announcements and Updates

Ms. Ward gave the announcements as follows:

Updated Student Mental Health Implementation Guide

- The updated Student Mental Health Implementation Guide has been posted on the web page in the Resources section. The Guide now has updated links and new resources including a section on youth engagement. This new section includes information on peer-to-peer mental health supports and starting a peer-to-peer program.
- Resource materials regarding peer-to-peer programs are now available in the meeting materials from the March Collaboration meeting.

Updated MHSSA Grant Summaries

- The updated individual county MHSSA Grant Summaries have been posted on the web page in the Resources section. The Grant Summaries now include all Phase 3 grantees.

MHSSA TA Technical Coaching Teams

- Technical Assistance (TA) Contracts are almost all fully executed, with three out of four complete and one being routed for signatures.
- These grants are at different stages and have unique needs. Many of the MHSSA programs are in the latter years of the grant, and grantees may have thoughts of how the TA teams will be relevant and beneficial. The TA teams can assist grantees in many areas such as sustainability. Even after grant terms end, the TA team will remain available to provide guidance.
- The TA Coaching Teams are in the initial stages of onboarding. Grantees should have received an updated Monthly Check-in Template by now and should use the Monthly Check-in Reports as a tool to determine areas of need for TA. Two questions have been added: the first is to get a sense of the volume of each TA category, and the second allows space for the grantee to further explain their specific TA needs.

Ms. Ward introduced the lead for each of the TA categories and asked them to say a few words:

- Denise Cabanilla from Imperial County, Partnership Development (not present)
- JoNell Wallace from Tehama County, Data Collection
- Ali Murphy from Placer County, Program Implementation
- Miriam Belopolsky, from Imperial County, Sustainability

MHSSA Funding RFA-004

- RFA-004 is offering a total of \$25 million over a duration of three years to cover four categories of funding, including marginalized and vulnerable youth, universal screening, sustainability, and other priorities.
- RFA-004 was released on May 16th.
- The Intent to Apply and Questions were due May 23rd.
 - The Intent to Apply was requested but is not mandatory. An application can be submitted without the Intent to Apply.
- Questions and Answers were posted on May 31st.
- Final Application is due June 28th by 3:00 p.m.
- Awardees will be announced on July 26th.

Summer School Services and Resources

Riann Kopchak, Chief of Community Engagement and Grants, asked everyone to share in the Chat Section about services or resources available for students during the summer when schools are closed.

- Barry Harwell wrote that schools are strongly encouraged (almost required) to continue operations on campus during summer months and other school breaks. Summer activities and drop-in times are scheduled for students who need support and Boys and Girls Clubs are partnered with when a school cannot accommodate the request.
- Charlie White wrote that one thing Nevada County is looking at is using grant-funded BCBA and RBT staff during the summertime to support families with children receiving services through behavioral health.
- Terri Alford wrote that clinicians in Tuolumne County are providing Telehealth and phone sessions to students who want to continue services in the summer. The Mental Health Navigator is providing Tier 1 SEL activities to students in the summer programs.
- Heather Nemour wrote that San Diego County is sharing Soluna and Brightlife Kids with LEAs to share with parents over summer.
- JoNell Wallace wrote that Tehama County is operating over the summer. It is partnering with the extended learning programs and community providers. Groups and individual services are being facilitated.
- Stephanie Hess wrote that Amador County Unified plans to have their high school wellness center open during a good portion of the summer, offering activities for all high school students in the district as well as scheduling wellness appointments. The outreach team is also looking at how to stay connected with students and families during the summer.
- Emma Swett, Nexus Youth & Family, wrote that Amador County partners with the Summer Meal Program in the school district to reach students and families.
- Carolin James wrote that Siskiyou County is putting up yard signs around the county with QR codes for support sites like CalHope (Soluna/BrightKids) Be Well Line, Cal Youth, Teen Line, and links to resources. Events will be held throughout the summer, and the Y and a local art studio will be partnered with for summer activities.
- Sheila Kruse wrote that Calaveras County continues serving children with clinical mental health services during the summer break months, either on campus or in other confidential locations.
- Stephannie Ramirez wrote that Imperial County's School-Based Mental Health Specialists/Therapists leave for summer break; however, the county links and refers students who need ongoing support with behavioral health and creates individualized safety plans for the summer, along with plans to resume school-

based mental health services if needed come fall. The county coordinates tabling and resources with behavioral health to maintain a presence during summer school and provides local community mental health resources, Soluna, and BrightLife Kids resources.

- Nora Hana wrote that San Joaquin County students who are part of the grant program are being trained in Never A Bother and will be leading this campaign at their schools and districts.
- Michael Paynter wrote that Santa Cruz County will continue to serve students and families in the summer, helping both with direct behavioral health services and navigating to additional resources in this area and more as needed. The county will also train staff this summer to open several Wellness Centers, likely in all but the month of July.

Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) and the Statewide Multi-Payer School-Linked Fee Schedule Presentation

Ms. Ward introduced the speakers and asked them to give their presentations.

1. Sohil Sud, M.D., Director of CYBHI

Dr. Sud asked everyone to subscribe to the CYBHI Newsletter. He reviewed the CYBHI for Schools document, which came out a month ago. He stated the goal of the document was to distill many of the resources that are now available into one document that is easier to navigate. The document is separated into categories based on roles. He highlighted resources and services available within each role.

2. Michael Lombardo, Education and Human Services Advisor

Mr. Lombardo asked everyone to indicate their role and level of knowledge of CYBHI from 0 to 5 in the Chat Section. Responses varied from 0 to 5.

He provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of school-based mental health funding, strategies for funding including CYBHI, state of the state of multiple mental health funding sources, models California schools are currently using to implement mental health supports, and the fee schedule for the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and how it may support MHSSA activities.

Mr. Lombardo asked everyone to answer the following questions:

- How is your agency currently funding integrated mental health programs? The main responses were MHSSA, SBHIP, MHSA, and grants.
- What activities and services are you currently doing in MHSSA? The responses were counseling and therapy – 52%; screening – 28%; case management – 17%; and group psychoeducation – 3%.
- Within the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Framework, where would you indicate you do most of your services? The responses were Tier III – 48%; Tier I – 30%; and Tier II – 22%.

Mr. Lombardo continued his slide presentation and discussed CYBHI workstreams and how CYBHI components fit into the MTSS Framework.

Due to technical difficulties, Mr. Lombardo's presentation was cut short.

Ms. Ward stated Mr. Lombardo will send his full video presentation to staff who will then post it on the website.

Grantee Presentation re Statewide Multi-Payer School-Linked Fee Schedule

Ms. Ward introduced the speaker and asked her to give her presentation.

1. Jill Barnes, M.Ed., Senior Program Manager, Napa County Office of Education

Ms. Barnes provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of the partnership timeline and structure, collaborative vision, fee schedule requirements and communication, priorities, and next steps of the Napa County Schools Mental Health Collaborative. She asked everyone to share in the Chat Section a strength they are grateful a partner brings. Responses included expertise in behavioral health, expertise in the education field, the ability to see the big picture, a clear understanding of the needs of schools and students, understanding of clinical expertise, braided funding, grant tracking, a sense of humor, willingness to share resources, and perseverance.

Discussion

A grantee asked about the challenging aspects of developing the collaborative partnerships.

Ms. Barnes stated timelines can be challenging, both the tight project timelines and juggling schedules. The heart for the work is there but the logistics can be challenging.

A grantee asked about other roles in LEAs the county connected with and used to facilitate partnerships.

Ms. Barnes stated the smaller LEAs are often unable to come to the monthly collaborative meetings. She stated she set up individual conversations and one-on-one meetings, or traveled to sites. She recommended considering what will achieve the face time needed with that person and creating a document stating the issue needing to be discussed that they can quickly sign.

WestED Update

Ms. Ward stated WestEd will provide a brief update on the evaluation planning process and will administer a brief survey. She asked the representatives from WestEd to give their update.

Nicole Tirado-Strayer, Co-Director, WestEd, asked members of the Youth Advisory Group to say a few words.

Michael Jarcia, from Los Angeles County, introduced himself.

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Ms. Tirado-Strayer provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of the Youth Advisory Group roadmap, phase 1 of the evaluation, and the California school mental health funding landscape.

Ms. Tirado-Strayer stated, in this last six months of planning, WestEd will now focus attention on identifying evaluation metrics and design. Recruitment materials have been shared with MHSSA grantees, who have been asked to distribute those materials to help reach diverse voices across California. The application window for the Youth Advisory Group is this Friday.

Ms. Tirado-Strayer asked everyone to complete a brief survey to identify initiatives and funding streams at the county, district, and school levels they are aware of.

Adjourn

Ms. Ward thanked everyone for their participation and stated the next meeting will take place on September 4, 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.