

Schools and Mental Health Project



Project Goals

- Improve the early recognition and treatment of children's mental health needs in school settings
 - Reduce school failure – underachievement, absenteeism, school disconnection, etc.
 - Increase social and emotional competence, self-regulation.
 - Reduce the need for more intensive services and supports down the road.
- Increase wellness and resilience in all students



Disparities in Outcomes

- Chronic Absenteeism:
Native Americans 2.0x more likely, African Americans 1.7x more likely
- Suspension/Expulsion:
African American males 3.6x more likely
 - Highest suspension disparity occurs in grades K-3; African American boys are 5.6x more likely
- School Safety:
Latino, African American, & LGBTQ students are less likely to feel safe at school than other students
- Depression:
Among 7th graders, Latino, African American & LGBTQ youth are more likely to report chronic sadness & hopelessness
 - The rates for LGBTQ youth are 2-3x higher



Process

- Outreach and engagement with diverse communities across California
- Develop a shared understanding of the barriers, challenges, and solutions
- Use what we have learned to develop policy recommendations to present to the Commission



Stakeholder Engagement

Key aspects of the project involve engagement with diverse communities across the State:

- Public Hearings
- Subcommittee Workgroup Meetings
- Site Visits
- Focus Groups
- Key Informant Interviews



Question

What do you think is the role of the Commission, given the tools we have at hand, to address student mental health and reduce disparities?



Next Steps

- Draft report by end of 2018
- Present to Commission in early 2019



Contact information:
Kai.Lemasson@mhsoc.ca.gov

