

State of California

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION

MHSSA Collaboration Teleconference Meeting Summary
September 4, 2024

MHSOAC
1812 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Staff Presenting:

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

Announcements and Updates

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 15th quarterly meeting. She reminded everyone of the goals of these meetings and stated the focus of today's meeting is to strengthen MHSSA partnerships, programs, and sustainability.

Ms. Ward provided an overview of the status of Request for Applications (RFA) 004, which offers a total of \$25 million over three years and covers four categories of funding: Marginalized and Vulnerable Youth, Universal Screening, Sustainability, and Other Priorities. A Notice of Intent to Award was posted on the Commission's website on August 12th and awardees were announced at the August 22nd Commission meeting. 20 contracts for Sustainability will go out this month; the other three categories should be finalized by the beginning of November.

Ms. Ward stated many MHSSA awardees are beginning to receive the Annual Fiscal Report template. Questions regarding the completion of this report should be directed to the grant monitor.

Ms. Ward stated MHSSA data submissions were due on August 30th. This is the data the Commission collects twice a year on students served and their demographics that are included in the MHSSA legislative reports.

Grantee Presentation re School-Based Mobile Crisis Program

Ms. Ward stated grantees will hear a presentation on Solano County's MHSSA-funded School-Based Mobile Crisis Services Project. She asked the representatives from Solano County to present this agenda item.

Kristian Skillman, Clinical Services Coordinator, Solano County Office of Education (COE), provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of the need, lessons learned and how they impact day-to-day operations, and outcomes of the School-Based Mobile Crisis Project. She showed a short video of members of the mobile crisis team sharing why they do this work. Lessons learned include the need for case managers so responders can focus on the specialty services they provide, the need for a system approach because a crisis is not isolated to the young person, and the need to use data to guide how to serve the community.

In response to a question in the Chat Section about the need for MOUs for each participating district, Camden Webb, Clinical Services Director, Solano COE, stated Solano COE has MOUs with all school systems they serve.

In response to a question in the Chat Section about the sustainability plan for the program, Mr. Webb stated the initial funding is sunsetting. The Solano COE is exploring sustainability for the project.

In response to a question in the Chat Section about how the Medi-Cal Mobile Crisis benefit has been used, Mr. Webb stated the team is in the process of exploring that. He noted that Medi-Cal is billed, but it is at the old rate.

Technical Assistance Team Presentation

Ms. Ward stated the purpose of the MHSSA Technical Coaching Assistance Grant is to establish a Technical Coaching Team (TCT) to assist MHSSA grantees statewide in four subject matter areas: data collection, partnership development, program implementation, and sustainability. She asked the TCT leads to give their presentations.

Sara Smith, Assistant Superintendent, Tehama County Department of Education (TCDE), MHSSA Technical Coaching Assistance Grant for Data Collection, provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of the purpose and goals of the TCT. She stated the TCT will provide direct consultation, webinars, and resources as a collective information hub, and will work with a Statewide Coordinator to develop a range of strategies to build the capacity for excellent student mental health programs throughout the state.

Denise Cabanilla, Director, Imperial County Office of Education (ICOE), MHSSA Technical Coaching Assistance Grant for Partnership Development, continued the slide presentation and discussed the delivery model and partnership development. She stated the delivery model is like the Multi-Tiered System of Support that many school districts follow. The delivery model to support MHSSA grantees and their projects includes a universal support tier to all grantees through surveys, webinars, and toolkits, a targeted support tier of consultation and small group coaching, and an intensified support tier of technical individual coaching. She stated the need for collaboration for sustainability and data collection supports.

JoNell Wallace, Mental Health and Wellness Coordinator, TCDE, MHSSA Technical Coaching Assistance Grant for Data Collection, introduced the Data Collection team.

Logan Smith, Project Consultant, TCDE, continued the slide presentation and discussed possible technical assistance topics to help with data collection, including strategies to

identify and engage partners, strategic planning through needs assessments, and tool kits.

Ali Murphy, Director of Mental Health, Placer County Office of Education (PCOE), MHSSA Technical Coaching Assistance Grant for Program Implementation, introduced the Program Implementation Team and reviewed several ways grantees can receive program implementation support, including frameworks to build efficient systems, implementation tools and resources, and consultation for challenges.

Miriam Belopolsky, School Counseling, ICOE, MHSSA Technical Coaching Assistance Grant for Sustainability, continued the slide presentation and discussed possible technical assistance topics to help with sustainability including aligning different funding streams, blending and braiding funding sources, and partnering with private insurance companies.

Ms. Belopolsky reminded everyone that the TCT members are also MHSSA grantees and are facing similar challenges and issues that other MHSSA grantees face. TCT members are thought partners who are available to share lessons learned and best practices for success. She noted that the other three subject matter areas – partnership development, data collection, and program implementation – impact the fourth area – the ability to sustain the MHSSA activities and services.

Ms. Ward stated the RFA for a Technical Assistance Statewide Coordinator will be released later this month. The goal for the Statewide Coordinator is to collectively develop a range of strategies to build the capacity for comprehensive student mental health systems.

Ms. Murphy asked grantees to take today's MHSSA Grantee Poll on what support looks like for them in one word to create a Word Cloud. She reviewed the Word Cloud results.

Ms. Wallace stated TCT members will be reaching out to MHSSA grantees through an MHSOAC LISTSERV to begin streamlining the technical assistance requests and moving away from using the Monthly Check-In Reports as a way to identify technical assistance requests, although the Monthly Check-in Reports will still be required. She stated grantees will receive two links: a needs assessment and a form to submit technical assistance requests.

WestEd Update

Ms. Ward stated WestEd, the MHSSA evaluation partners, 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.

Natalie Romer, Ph.D., Senior Program Associate, WestEd, provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of the evaluation planning process and moving from Phase 1 evaluation planning to implementation. She stated WestEd is currently in Phase 1, evaluation planning, which includes the Theory of Change and Logic Model, research questions, and community engagement. She asked Grantees to respond in the Chat Section to a poll on what the MHSSA story should include. She reviewed the responses and noted that many of the responses align with the planning process. She stated

community engagement during this phase has been essential to designing an evaluation that is feasible, valued, and useful.

Alexis Grant, Ph.D., Senior Researcher for Special Education, WestEd, continued the slide presentation and discussed recommendations that emerged from ongoing community engagement throughout the planning phase, such as to share stories of how we are “better together,” gather detailed information so the evaluation is useful, meaningful, and actionable, create opportunities to elevate youth voice within conversations about school mental health systems change, and contextualize the MHSSA within the broader school mental health funding landscape. She stated an advisory group was convened to provide in-depth perspectives that have been integrated into the evaluation plan.

Nicole Tirado-Strayer, Ph.D., Senior Research Associate, WestEd, continued the slide presentation and discussed the updated version of the MHSSA Conceptual Model and the emerging evaluation design. She described the processes for gathering information to tell the story of MHSSA implementation and impacts at county and school levels. She stated WestEd will be facilitating sensemaking sessions with grantee teams to identify key insights, challenges, and actionable strategies for future school mental health systems change efforts.

Dr. Romer stated WestEd is currently planning to do partnership case studies with 10 grantee teams in 12 schools to highlight the work happening across the state and school case studies, including a youth engagement component, to tell the story of implementation and outcomes focusing on local context and critical features of MHSSA-funded activities and services.

Dr. Tirado-Strayer asked everyone to complete a brief survey to give grantees an opportunity to provide input to support the final design phase of this work.

Dr. Tirado Strayer answered a question from the Chat Section about the timing for data gathering. She stated WestEd has been looking carefully at end dates for each grantee and is taking them into consideration and planning for engagement within the next month and a half.

Adjourn

Ms. Ward asked everyone to complete a brief survey on the performance of these collaboration meetings and what can be done better.

Ms. Ward stated all meeting materials including presentation slides will be posted on the website next week. She stated the next meeting will take place on December 4, 2024. She thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:00 p.m.