

# State of California

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION

MHSSA Collaboration Teleconference Meeting Summary  
December 4, 2024

MHSOAC  
1812 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95811

### Staff Presenting:

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

### Announcements and Updates

The meeting began with a video made by students showcasing the city of Berkeley's Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) program and the grand opening of the Wellness Center at the Berkeley Technology Academy (BTA). The city of Berkeley will present on this program later in today's meeting.

Cheryl Ward, Health Program Specialist, called the 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 16<sup>th</sup> quarterly meeting. She reminded everyone of the goals of these meetings.

Tom Orrock, Deputy Director of Program Operations, introduced Will Lightbourne, Interim Executive Director, and asked him to say a few words.

Interim Executive Director Lightbourne stated mental health work in the school environment is a top priority for Administration. The work that the Commission and MHSSA partners have pioneered is foundational to what will unfold in the next few years. He announced that the Commission elected Mayra Alvarez and Alfred Rowlett as the new Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission for 2025.

Ms. Ward stated the MHSSA Request for Applications (RFA) 004 – Round 4 contracts have been awarded. She encouraged awardees who are awaiting board approval to move through the process as soon as possible to fully execute the contracts before the end of the month. She noted that the reporting process for this grant has been greatly simplified. Report templates will be sent once the contracts are fully executed.

Ms. Ward stated the Statewide Technical Assistance Coordinator Notice of Intent to Award was posted on the Commission website on November 25<sup>th</sup>. More information will be provided at the completion of the procurement process. A January 1<sup>st</sup> start date is

planned. Commission staff will provide technical assistance and project management support for MHSSA grantees, including the MHSSA Technical Coaching Teams.

### **Technical Coaching Teams (TCTs) Status and Next Steps: *Technical Assistance (TA) Leads from Placer COE, Imperial COE, and Tehama Department of Education***

Sara Smith, Assistant Superintendent, Tehama County Department of Education, asked meeting participants to describe in the Chat Section how they feel or felt after leaning on someone for support or wisdom. Responses included feeling relieved, grateful, relaxed, seen, heard, unburdened, comforted, more confident, at peace, supported, connected, saved, loved, reenergized, happy, safe, and that I matter.

Ms. Smith provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of the purpose and goals of the Statewide Coordinator, the tiered support delivery model, and the four content areas: data collection, partnership development, program implementation, and sustainability of the Imperial, Placer, and Tehama County Technical Coaching Assistance Grant Program. Members of the Grant Program team provided additional detail on the four content areas. Ms. Smith stated grantees requesting technical coaching will be connected to a Technical Coaching Team Member working with the Statewide Coordinator to build the capacity for excellent student mental health programs throughout the state.

Ms. Smith asked meeting participants to fill out a Technical Assistance Needs Assessment on how to be more targeted and sensitive in the four content areas and preferred ways to be engaged to assist the team in building out the tiered system of support.

There were no questions or comments from meeting participants.

### **Grantee Presentation City of Berkeley: *Rosina Keren, LCSW PPSC, Coordinator of Mental Health Services, Berkeley Unified School District and Jonathan Maddox, MFT, FYC Program Supervisor, Berkeley Mental Health***

Jonathan Maddox, Program Supervisor of Family, Youth, and Children Services, city of Berkeley, provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of the goals, program impact for Tiers 1 through 3, mental health screening tool, and strategic planning. He stated the MHSSA team is in the process of developing a district-wide strategic plan based on recommendations from the initial needs assessment.

Rosina Keren, Coordinator of Mental Health Services, Berkeley Unified School District, continued the slide presentation and discussed who the school district serves, mental health community partners, grant deliverables, program successes, the Wellness Center at BTA, and sustainability. She stated the city of Berkeley is one of only three city/school district perfect overlaps, which provides a unique opportunity. This grant allowed the city and school district to improve their collaboration.

Ms. Keren noted that one of the largest successes of the grant program is the collaboration between the school district and children's mental health. The team meets regularly to increase the easy access to services and service provision. A meeting was facilitated between school district administrators and senior city leaders regarding mental health resources, specifically exploring the possibility of collaborating around the fee schedule. She asked meeting participants to send her an email sharing successful ways they have found to implement the fee schedule.

Carol Perez, Care Navigator, city of Berkeley, continued the slide presentation and discussed her care navigator role, which was created as part of the MHSSA grant program. Her work includes creating and implementing a screening tool to collect clinical and demographic information. She stated a peer navigation program pilot was added this year in two elementary schools to help develop a process to ensure that students who are identified for mental health services in elementary school continue to receive those services when they get to middle school.

There were no questions or comments from meeting participants.

**Grantee Presentation on School-Based Peer Leadership Programs:  
*Jenn DeAngelo, Prevention Coordinator, and Nora Hana, PPSC,  
Director Prevention Programs and MHSSA Comprehensive Health,  
San Joaquin County Office of Education***

Jenn DeAngelo, Prevention Coordinator, San Joaquin County Office of Education, provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of the core focuses and trainings of the Youth Mental Health Development Academy (YMHDA). She stated local and national experts conduct trainings on a regular basis for students.

Nora Hana, Director, Prevention Programs and MHSSA Comprehensive Health, San Joaquin County Office of Education, provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of the Annual Peer to Peer Summit. She stated the day-long summit is held at the county offices; 200 to 250 students attend the summit each year to learn how to be a peer helper at their campuses.

There were no questions or comments from meeting participants.

**Adjourn**

Ms. Ward stated the next meeting will take place on March 5, 2025.

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