



**Mental Health Services
Oversight & Accountability Commission**

**Research and Evaluation Committee
Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) Workgroup
Teleconference Meeting Summary
Date: September 22, 2023 | Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**MHSOAC
1812 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95811**

****DRAFT****

Committee Members:

Staff:

Other Attendees:

Sharon Ishikawa* Gustavo Loera* Mari Radzik* Eleanor Castillo Sumi*	Melissa Martin- Mollard Kai LeMasson Kali Patterson	No members of the public addressed the Committee
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*Participated remotely.

All Committee Members present.

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call

Melissa Martin-Mollard, Director of the Research and Evaluation Division, welcomed everyone to the fourth meeting of the Research and Evaluation Committee MHSSA Workgroup. She called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. She reviewed the meeting agenda. Today’s meeting objective was to provide expert guidance to the Commission regarding MHSSA evaluation planning and implementation.

Kai LeMasson, Senior Researcher, reviewed the meeting protocols, called the roll, and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

Agenda Item 2: Action – April 19, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Committee Member Loera made a motion to approve the April 19, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Sumi.

Vote recorded with participating members as follows:

- Approve: Committee Members Ishikawa, Loera, Radzik, and Sumi

Agenda Item 3: Information – MHSSA Evaluation Planning

Dr. Martin-Mollard stated Commission staff will summarize feedback received at the April 19, 2023, MHSSA Workgroup meeting and provide an update on planning for the

evaluation of the MHSSA. She asked that feedback be sent to staff on the WestEd Community Engagement Plan for the Development of the MHSSA Evaluation Plan, which was included in the meeting materials.

There were no questions from Committee Members and no public comment.

Agenda Item 4: Information – Universal Screening Policy Project

Dr. Martin-Mollard asked Commission staff to present the new Universal Screening Policy Project to help Committee Members to better understand the current landscape of screening practices in schools, and the barriers and opportunities for statewide implementation of universal behavioral health screening in California schools.

Kali Patterson, Research Scientist Supervisor, Policy Research Lead, MHSOAC, provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of the background, goals, and opportunities of the Universal Mental Health Screening of Children and Youth Project Plan Proposal, which was included in the meeting materials. She stated early identification and intervention leads to better outcomes, lessens severity, and prevents suffering. The Commission has been asked to identify and report information and recommendations to the Legislature related to universal mental health screening for children and youth in California. The Commission's budget includes \$200,000 to support project goals and activities including research and review, outreach and engagement, and report development and dissemination.

Ms. Patterson introduced the first speakers and asked them to share the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative's (CYBHI's) preliminary findings and recommendations for universal screening.

Melissa Stafford Jones and Michael Lombardo

Melissa Stafford Jones, Director of the CYBHI at the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS), and Michael Lombardo, Education Advisor to CYBHI, provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of the CYBHI's preliminary draft research on screening and assessment considerations as of August, 2023. Ms. Jones stated an important part of the CYBHI is meeting children and youth where they are. Thinking about how to increase equitable access to behavioral health services and supports as part of the health/education integration effort is at the core of the CYBHI.

Ms. Patterson introduced the next speakers and asked them to share information on the TK-8 Universal Screening Program in San Diego County.

Karena Haro

Karena Haro, Community Schools Coordinator, San Diego County Feaster Charter School, provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of the background, challenges, and lessons learned from the Mental Health Universal Screening Program at Feaster Charter School for TK through 8th grade. She stated the Columbia Suicidality Severity Rating Scale (CSSRS) is used to address high needs.

Cheyenne Leon

Cheyenne Leon, School Counselor, San Diego County Feaster Charter School, continued the slide presentation and discussed the demographics of Feaster Charter School, screening

tool components, and logistics of the screening. She stated the Charter School partners with Campus Clinic to provide a universal health screener to all children ages 12 and older. All students who screen positive for anxiety and/or depression are contacted by Campus Clinic and offered mental health services on-site on an ongoing basis.

Ms. Haro stated the best advice she can give for other schools is that partnerships are essential. The county has been working on building these relationships and partnerships for years and shifting the mindset to thinking about how to work together to help every student.

Ms. Patterson introduced the next speakers and asked them to share information on the Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE) school screening pilot program.

Mandy Corbin

Mandy Corbin, Assistant Superintendent, SCOE, stated SCOE has been building a partnership with UCLA to collaborate to screen children since 2018. She provided an overview of the SCOE PsySTART Rapid Triage Assumptions Program.

Tyson Dickenson

Tyson Dickenson, Director of Behavioral Health and Wellbeing, SCOE, provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of the Stepped Triage to Care Model that supports students in the aftermath of crisis or disaster, and where the SCOE PsySTART Rapid Triage Assumptions Tool fits in. He noted that PsySTART is not a typical universal screener but is a universal situational screener used post-disaster/crisis.

Merritt Schreiber, Ph.D.

Merritt Schreiber, Ph.D., Clinical Child Psychologist, UCLA Department of Pediatrics, continued the slide presentation and discussed pediatric acute trauma risk, resilience, and care. He stated the PsySTART Tool is designed not in terms of universal screenings to identify depression or mental health emergencies, but to pick up risk that is specific to an acute event, like the recent wildfire and flood events in Sonoma County. The PsySTART Tool is less stigmatizing, requires less training to administer, and does not ask individuals to disclose their private thoughts and feelings. This metric is easily used across disaster systems of care and can be accessed on any online electronic platform.

Agenda Item 5: Adjournment

The meeting was interrupted by technical difficulties and adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m.