



Mental Health Services
Oversight & Accountability Commission

Research and Evaluation Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 12, 2022

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Welcome

COMMISSIONER STEVE CARNEVALE, VICE CHAIR



Agenda

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| 9:00 AM | Welcome |
| 9:10 AM | Action: Approval of February 16, 2022, Meeting Minutes |
| 9:20 AM | Information: Status Report on the Commission's Research and Evaluation Portfolio |
| 9:40 AM | Information: Commission's Evaluation of the MHSSA |
| 10:20 AM | BREAK |
| 10:30 AM | Discussion: Breakout Groups (Continuation of Agenda Item #3) |
| 11:30 AM | Breakout Group, Reporting Session |
| 11:50 AM | Wrap-Up |
| 12:00 PM | Adjourn |

Agenda Item #1

Action: Approval of Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONER STEVE CARNEVALE, VICE CHAIR



Public Comment



Vote



Agenda Item #2

Information: Status Report on the Commission's Research and Evaluation Portfolio

COMMISSIONER STEVE CARNEVALE, VICE CHAIR
TOBY EWING, PH.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Status Report on the Commission's Research and Evaluation Portfolio

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Toby Ewing, PhD, Executive Director

Research and Evaluation Committee Update

Commissioner Steve Carnevale, Vice Chair



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Agenda Item #3

Information: The Commission's Evaluation of the Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA)

TOM ORROCK, MA, MFT, CHIEF OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND GRANTS
LATONYA HARRIS, PHD, RESEARCH SCIENTIST



Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA)

Background

- Included in 2019 Trailer Bill, Senate Bill 75
- Establishes mental health partnerships between county behavioral health departments and school districts, charter schools and county offices of education
- Received 38 applications from 40 counties, and 18 grants were awarded in 2020, totaling \$75 million over four years
- Grants awarded include personnel, administration and program costs

MHSSA

Additional Funding

The Budget Act of 2021 included \$195 million in funding to provide grants to all previous applicants as well as all other counties that did not have a grant.

55 MHSSA partnership grantees

RFA released in April to distribute remaining \$47 million in MHSSA funds.

MHSSA

Goals

- Establish and strengthen mental health partnerships
- Prevent mental illnesses from becoming severe and disabling
- Improve timely access to services for underserved populations
- Provide outreach to recognize early signs of mental illness
- Reduce stigma and discrimination around mental illness
- Prevent negative outcomes (suicide, incarceration, school failure, unemployment, prolonged suffering, homelessness, removal of children from homes, involuntary mental health detentions)

MHSSA Programs Survey

Survey sent to MHSSA grantees to learn about their programs

A total of 68 respondents completed at least some of the survey questions

Responses represented a total of 51 partnerships

Survey Results

Question: Indicate the activities/services (service model) provided within your MHSSA program

Assessments/ Screenings	53
Direct Services and Referrals/Linkage	60
Wellness Centers or full continuum	20
Crisis Support Services	34
Trainings (consumer and staff)	53
Social Emotional Learning (SEL)	28
Multi-Tiered System of Supports development (MTSS)	26
Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)	21
Infrastructure building or prevention, early intervention	32
Other (please specify)	8

Survey Results:

Question: Indicate the service model which best represents the primary focus of your MHSSA Program

Assessments/ Screenings	1
Crisis Support Services	4
Direct Services and Referrals/Linkage	34
Infrastructure building or prevention, early intervention	5
Multi-Tiered System of Supports development (MTSS)	4
Other (please specify)	4
Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)	1
Social Emotional Learning (SEL)	4
Trainings (consumer and staff)	5
Wellness Centers or full continuum	6
Other (please specify)	4

MHSSA

Learning Collaborative

- MHSSA Collaboration Group
- Quarterly meetings include all participating MHSSA grantees
- Meetings are interactive
- Share information, lessons learned, successes and barriers

Guiding Evaluation of the MHSSA Discussion

- Opportunity for Research and Evaluation Committee to provide guidance for a MHSSA evaluation
 - What are MHSSA evaluation challenges and opportunities
 - Discuss key questions in breakout groups
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Key Considerations

- The Commission is charged with assessing the impact of the MHSSA on school mental health outcomes and reporting to the Governor and Legislature.
- What is the most effective way to address that opportunity?
- What information would support practitioners' and policy-makers' ability to address students' mental health needs?
- How do we best fulfill the Commission's analysis and reporting opportunity?

Key Considerations

Legislative requirements (summary)*:

The Commission shall develop metrics and a system to measure and publicly report on the performance outcomes of services provided using the grants. The Commission shall provide status reports to the fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature to address, at a minimum:

- Successful strategies.
- Identified needs for additional services.
- Lessons learned.
- Numbers of, and demographic information for children and youth served.

Continued...

Key Considerations

And...

- Available data on outcomes including (but not limited) to:
 - **Linkages** to ongoing services
 - **Preventing mental illnesses** from becoming severe and disabling
 - **Improving timely access** to services
 - **Providing outreach**
 - **Recognizing early signs** of severe and disabling mental illnesses
 - **Reducing stigma** associated with mental illness diagnosis or services
 - **Reducing discrimination** against people with mental illness
 - **Preventing negative outcomes** (suicide and attempted suicide, incarceration, school failure or dropout, unemployment, prolonged suffering, homelessness, removal of children from their homes, and involuntary mental health detentions)

Challenges and Opportunity

What should the parameters be for a MHSSA Evaluation

- Legislation does not explicitly call for “evaluation”
- Evaluation may be the expectation
- The Commission has broad latitude to develop an “evaluation” strategy

The Commission has the opportunity to design data collection and reporting to provide the highest value information to further the goals of reducing mental health needs and improving access to care for students.

Challenges and Opportunity

Grantee partnerships are diverse

- 55 of 58 counties have received MHSSA grants, in varying stages of implementation; funds were released to counties in 3 phases from 2019 to 2022.
- Local partnerships have discretion in how they implement MHSSA services
 - School mental health infrastructure
 - Providing prevention-based services
 - Targeted or more intensive services, including referrals
 - Establishing partnerships with CBOs
 - Creating Wellness Centers
 - All of the above, and more

A data monitoring and evaluation framework and research questions will need to address the array of implementation strategies.

Challenges and Opportunity

MHSSA funds new and builds on existing partnerships

- MHSSA funds are designed to develop new and/or support existing school-mental health investments, partnerships, and services.
- MHSSA funds were intended to incentive partnerships among LEAs and behavioral health agencies; and to improve partnerships' ability to leverage existing funding.
- The impact of MHSSA may be related to partnerships' abilities to use additional funds and resources.

How can an evaluation recognize and adjust for both pre-existing collaboration and variation in partnerships' ability to invest other, non-MHSSA funds in student mental health opportunities.



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Challenges and Opportunity

MHSSA grants awarded in multiple phases; part of larger child and youth mental health initiative

- Investment in school mental health partnerships began prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commission received additional MHSSA funding as the pandemic spread and student mental health needs escalated.
- The Commission disseminated funds quickly with a goal of designing a data reporting and monitoring strategy as a follow up.
- The MHSSA is part of a broader Child and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative including more than \$4 billion in funding for mental health services and supports

Metrics and reporting strategies developed for the MHSSA can inform broader efforts to meet children and youth mental health needs.

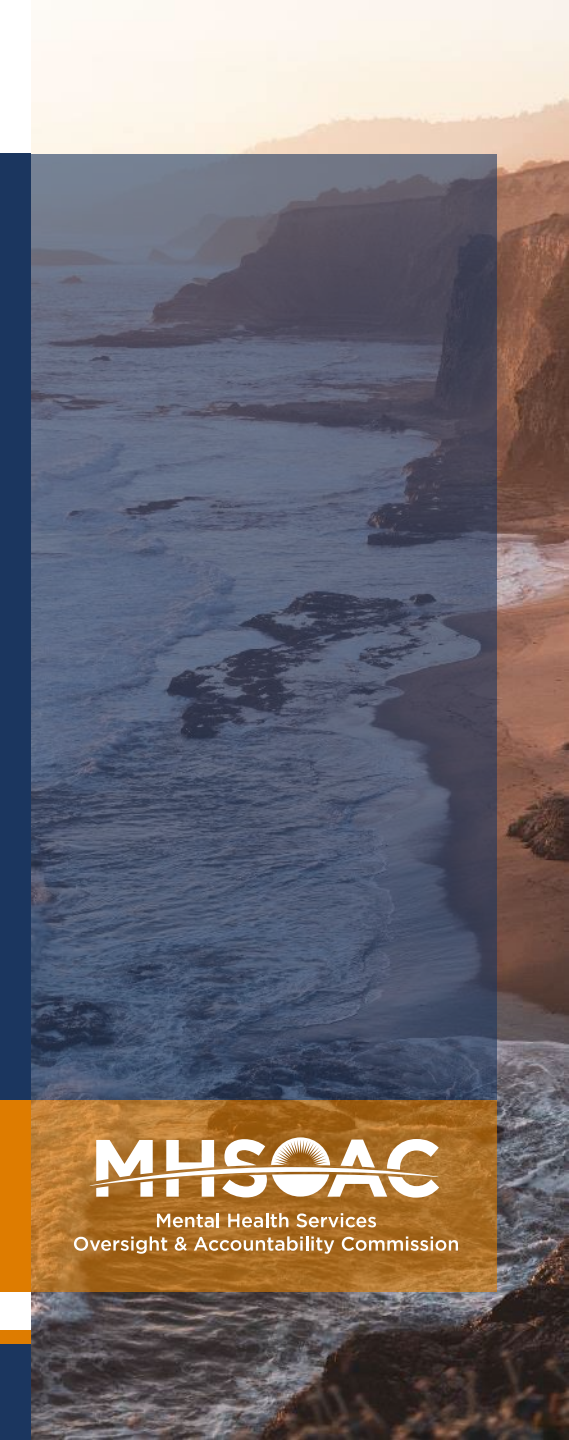
Key Questions

The Commission has been granted broad latitude in how it designs a reporting and analysis framework for the MHSSA.

What priorities should the Commission take into consideration as it pursues this work if it hopes to provide information and analysis that will be important to meeting the mental health needs of students?

Key Questions

Are there examples of evaluative strategies or reporting frameworks that lend guidance to this work, while recognizing the complexity of the Mental Health Student Services Act (phased implementation, variation across 54 programs, dependence on leveraging other funds)?



Key Questions

The Commission has multiple audiences for its data analysis and reporting activities: state policymakers focused on providing additional funding, local education and behavioral health partners working to design strategies to meet the needs of students, parents and community members who may be in the best position to support students' needs.

How can the Commission best weigh trade-offs among these diverse audiences and its capacity to meet their information needs?

Comments & Questions



BREAK



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Agenda Item #4

Information: Breakout Groups

(Continuation of Agenda Item #3)

MHSOAC STAFF FACILITATORS



Breakout Groups



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Breakout Room Discussion Questions

The Commission has been granted broad latitude in how it designs a reporting and analysis framework for the MHSSA:

1). What priorities should the Commission take into consideration as it pursues this work if it hopes to provide information and analysis that will be important to meeting the mental health needs of students?

Recognizing the complexity of the Mental Health Student Services Act—phased implementation, variation across 54 programs and dependence on leveraging other funds, etc.:

2). Are there examples of evaluative strategies or reporting frameworks that lend guidance to this work?

The Commission has multiple audiences for its data analysis and reporting activities, state policymakers focused on providing additional funding, local education and behavioral health partners working to design strategies to meet the needs of students, parents and community members who may not be aware of the scale of mental health needs among students yet may be in the best position to support their needs.

3). How can the Commission best weigh trade-offs among these diverse audiences and its capacity to meet their information needs?

Breakout Reporting Session



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Public Comment



Wrap-Up & Adjourn

COMMISSIONER STEVE CARNEVALE, VICE CHAIR



Thank you!

