



# January 2023 Progress Report



Master Plan for  
Kids' Mental Health





# Table of Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Putting Our Kids First</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>The Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative</b>
2	Centering the Needs of Youth and Families
3	Initiative Structure
<b>4</b>	<b>Our Progress</b>
4	Workforce Training and Capacity
6	Behavioral Health Ecosystem Infrastructure
10	Coverage Architecture
10	Public Awareness
11	Initiative-Wide

## Putting Our Kids First

The [Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative \(CYBHI\)](#) is a \$4.7 billion, five-year initiative to reimagine and transform the way California supports children, youth and families. **Over its first 18 months, the CYBHI has taken important steps toward reimaging and transforming the way California serves the behavioral health needs of our kids and families.**

The CYBHI is the centerpiece of Governor Gavin Newsom's [Master Plan for Kids' Mental Health](#), a historic, multi-year effort that brings together investments across disciplines and uses a "whole child" approach to address the factors that contribute to kids' mental health and well-being.

When he launched the Master Plan for Kids' Mental Health in August 2022, Governor Newsom stated, "the Master Plan for Kids' Mental Health is premised on a very simple belief: every single kid deserves to have their mental health supported. That's the California Way - putting our kids first."

Shifting our systems toward equity and centering them on the needs of youth requires true integration. Creating a seamless system in which there is no wrong door for young people and families will take partnership and collaboration between all the systems that serve them.

To build a system that focuses on well-being and prevention while also meeting the urgent and emergent behavioral health needs of our youth, we must take a new perspective on how we provide support. Ensuring we meet kids where they are - most notably in schools - requires building deep partnerships with schools and education systems.

This endeavor, which Governor Newsom called, "the most significant overhaul of our mental health system in state history," will not be easy. But if healthcare, behavioral health, education, social and family services, community-based organizations and many others can unite their efforts, then lasting, systemic change is possible.

**This report outlines the progress the CYBHI has made to date and the efforts we are currently engaged in as of January 1, 2023.**

To learn more about the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative and stay up-to-date on our efforts, visit the [CYBHI homepage](#).

## The Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative

The CYBHI works across systems, sectors and disciplines, centering the needs of young people and uniting the efforts of the agencies and organizations that serve them. By breaking down silos between health programs, education and social services, it aims to help every Californian aged 25 and younger to receive the mental, emotional and behavioral health support they need, when, where and in the way they need it most.

This requires a different approach. One that catalyzes greater alignment and coordination among those that support the well-being of our kids – from behavioral health providers to schools, community-based organizations, parks and many others – so that our best approaches become the norm for California’s youth.

**Our progress to date has set a strong foundation that will be critical to the success of the work moving forward, from meeting the goals of the Initiative to ultimately achieving the impact that’s needed for our kids.**

## Centering the Needs of Youth and Families

As an equity-focused and youth-centered initiative, the CYBHI is designed for and with children, youth and families. Their voices inform every phase of our work, from design to implementation and evaluation. We are setting universal goals for all children with targeted strategies for youth who are disproportionately impacted by behavioral health challenges. We have focused our partner engagement efforts to address equity by engaging with BIPOC, LGBTQ+ and low-income and underserved youth. We are also using data to understand key inequities and drive our approach. Additionally, the CYBHI has also formed an Equity Working Group made up of experts and community members from around the state to help us embed and advance equity in the design and implementation of the Initiative.

## Partnership and Engagement Overview

As of January 3, 2023

The CYBHI is designed to meet the needs of young people, families and other stakeholders. We are engaging in extensive outreach, interviews and listening sessions to ensure that our work is shaped by their voices, insights and experiences.



Source: CalHHS, DHCS, DMHC, HCAI, CDPH, OSG

We will continue to conduct extensive outreach to ensure the voices and expertise of children, youth and families, as well as those involved in supporting their overall well-being, guide our efforts.

## Initiative Structure

The CYBHI is managed by the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS) and works in partnership with CalHHS departments and offices, other state agencies, community-based and educational organizations and a wide range of partners.

The Initiative focuses on four key strategic areas:

- Workforce Training and Capacity
- Behavioral Health Ecosystem Infrastructure
- Coverage Architecture
- Public Awareness

The CYBHI's work in these areas has been divided into 20 separate workstreams. Each workstream is managed by one or more CalHHS departments or offices that have deep connections to the issues and people it involves. These include:

- Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
- Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI)
- Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC)
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
- Office of the California Surgeon General (CA-OSG)

The following graphic outlines the four strategic areas and the 20 workstreams they encompass.

Workforce Training and Capacity	Behavioral Health Ecosystem Infrastructure		Coverage Architecture	Public Awareness	
Wellness Coach Workforce (HCAI)	School-Linked Partnership and Capacity Grants (DHCS)	Student Behavioral Health Incentive Program (DHCS)	Enhanced Medi-Cal Benefits – Dyadic Services (DHCS)	Public Education and Change Campaigns (CDPH)	
Trauma-Informed Training for Educators (CA-OSG)				ACEs and Toxic Stress Awareness Campaign (CA-OSG)	
Broad Behavioral Health Workforce Capacity (HCAI)	Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (DHCS)	Youth Suicide Reporting and Crisis Response (CDPH)		Statewide All-Payer Fee Schedule for School-Linked Behavioral Health Services (DHCS/DMHC)	Targeted Youth Suicide Prevention Grants and Outreach Campaign (CDPH)
Early Talents (HCAI)					Parent Support Video Series (DHCS)
Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform and Next Generation Digital Supports (DHCS)		Mindfulness, Resilience and Well-being Grants (DHCS)	Youth Peer-to-Peer Support Program (DHCS)		
Healthcare Provider Training and e-Consult (DHCS)					
Scaling Evidence-Based and Community-Defined Practices (DHCS)					
CalHOPE Student Services (DHCS)					
Mindfulness, Resilience and Well-being Grants (DHCS)					
Youth Peer-to-Peer Support Program (DHCS)					

## Our Progress

The CYBHI is an ambitious effort launched by the State of California to fundamentally transform how the behavioral health system is structured, functions and operates. An initiative of this scale and magnitude will not change the system overnight. Yet, CYBHI's partners have made great progress across all four strategic areas: Workforce Training and Capacity, Behavioral Health Ecosystem Infrastructure, Coverage Architecture and Public Awareness.

The following provides a detailed account of the significant work achieved to move the CYBHI ahead.

### Workforce Training and Capacity

*"It's difficult to consider accessing services from people that don't really have the same cultural values as you, or have the same lived experiences as you because it makes it all much harder for them to understand..."*

#### – Youth

The CYBHI's Workforce Training and Capacity efforts focus on growing the workforce, and supporting young people's emotional, mental and behavioral health. Our goal is to create a more diverse workforce that is reflective of California through expanded recruitment and training and by increasing the capacity for prevention, treatment and recovery across many different points of access and care.

- **Broad Behavioral Health Workforce Capacity (HCAI):** Focused on building and expanding a culturally- and linguistically-competent workforce through education and training, in order to improve young people's access to high-quality behavioral health services. Progress to date includes:
  - **Psychiatric Education Capacity Expansion Grant (PECE):** In October

2022, HCAI approved \$37.6 million in grant awards for 15 organizations to support psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner training programs and psychiatry residency programs through the [Psychiatric Education Capacity Expansion Grant \(PECE\)](#) program. The awards will support the training of 703 psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner (PMHNP) students and 45 psychiatry residents and fellows. Of the 45 psychiatry residents and fellows, the program will support adding 26 psychiatry residents, 13 child and adolescent fellows and 6 addiction fellows.

- **Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs:** HCAI distributed \$10.25 million between August and October 2022 through scholarship and loan repayment awards to increase the number of behavioral health professionals providing direct care in California's health profession shortage areas. To date, these programs have provided 302 people with scholarships and loan repayment support. A fourth round of awards will be made in January 2023, and another application cycle will begin in Spring 2023.
- **Peer Support for Transition-age Youth:** In July, HCAI awarded \$11.5 million in Peer Personnel Training & Placement grants - \$9.5 million of which was funded through CYBHI - to support the development of the peer workforce trained to address the needs of child and youth consumers (0-25 years of age) with a focus on recruiting and training 18 to 25-year-olds and 16 to 17-year-olds who will



turn 18 by the time they meet the DHCS certification requirements for peer support specialists. Twelve organizations were awarded an average of \$1 million to recruit, train and place 2,515 peer support specialists across 37 counties.

- **Behavioral Health Career Pathways:** In September, HCAI awarded more than \$40 million in Health Professions Pathway Program (HPPP) grants - \$23 million of which was funded through the CYBHI - to support efforts such as career pipeline programs, summer internships for undergraduates and post undergraduate fellowships for students from underrepresented regions and backgrounds who are interested in behavioral health careers. HPPP's Spring 2023 cycle will include a special focus on supporting youth transitioning out of the foster, justice and unhoused systems.
- **SUD Workforce:** In December, HCAI launched the first Substance Use Disorder (SUD) workforce grant funding application and began developing substance use disorder training for non-behavioral health professionals working with children and youth. The SUD Earn and Learn Grant Program will provide \$23 million to fund grant agreements with SUD Earn and Learn organizations that provide education and paid job experience for students earning their SUD certification. HCAI is also developing an SUD Training to educate non-behavioral-health professionals about early detection and to equip them with resources for referring the youth to appropriate care. Settings for administering the training could include youth mentorship programs, foster and

homeless organizations with non-clinical staff and other community-based organizations serving children and youth.

- **Community-Based Organization (CBO) Behavioral Health Workforce Grant Program:** This grant opportunity supports CBOs to recruit, retain, train and educate the behavioral health workforce employed by CBOs throughout California. It will allow CBOs to provide scholarships, stipends, and loan repayments, as well as offering recruitment and retention support for behavioral health employees. The application cycle closed on November 30, 2022, and HCAI will announce awards in early 2023.
- **Social Work Education Capacity Expansion:** This new grant opportunity supports educational institutions developing new Bachelor of Art in Social Work (BASW) and/or Master of Social Work (MSW) programs, and it serves to expand MSW programs. The application closed in November 2022, and HCAI will announce awards in early 2023. HCAI received 16 applications for MSW Expansion, four applications for MSW new programs and three applications for BASW new programs.
- **Justice- and System-Involved Youth:** HCAI will include a special focus on justice- and system-involved youth within the Spring 2023 cycle of the Health Professions Pathway Program (HPPP) grants. This new segment of HPPP will focus on providing comprehensive wraparound supports, including income and rent support (in addition to existing supports, such as AB 12), academic enrichment, career development, mentorship and advising to support

currently or recently system-involved students in attaining behavioral health careers. HCAI also began developing a behavioral health training for non-behavioral health-professionals working within the foster, justice, and homeless systems. The purpose of the training is to provide basic behavioral health awareness and skills for non-clinical staff and to improve cross-system awareness of the various behavioral health channels.

- **Wellness Coach Workforce (HCAI):** In September, HCAI published the framework for a new certified position that is being created to increase our state's overall capacity and grow a larger and more diverse behavioral health workforce. The **Wellness Coach** role (formerly known as the Behavioral Health Coach role) is designed to support young people where they are, in schools, community-based organizations settings and many other environments. The design process for the Wellness Coach role involved extensive reviews of relevant research. Efforts included interviews with more than 50 state government partners, industry leaders and experts from existing behavioral health programs nationwide, and six months of workgroups, including members of the health care workforce, training providers, education workforce, parents and youth. HCAI is currently working with the California State University and Community College systems to develop a training and education program. Training of Wellness Coaches is expected to begin in 2024 with coaches in the field in 2025.
- **Trauma Informed Training for Educators (CA-OSG):** The Office of the California Surgeon General (CA-OSG) is developing a voluntary training for childcare providers,

educators and school personnel focused on supporting students who have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and toxic stress. CA-OSG has established a contract with WestEd to develop the program, which is being designed with input from an Expert Review Panel including experts on toxic stress, child and adult learning, and youth mental health. Beta testing will take place in Spring 2023 with trainings publicly available in the summer.

- **Early Talents (HCAI):** HCAI contracted with The Child Mind Institute to develop and implement the Early Talents Program which will help attract and support the early career development of a diverse group of high school students across the state who are considering professional careers in behavioral health.

## Behavioral Health Ecosystem Infrastructure

*"First we need system integration - there is so much duplication of effort, missed opportunities and barriers."*

### - Parent

The CYBHI's Behavioral Health Ecosystem Infrastructure focuses on developing and transforming the infrastructure that supports the behavioral health of our children, youth and families. This is to increase equitable access so that there is no wrong door for children, youth and families.

- **Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform (DHCS):** DHCS is making progress toward implementing the new Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform (BHVSP), which will launch in January 2024. The BHVSP will



provide virtual behavioral health services and educational content to all California children, youth and families, regardless of payer, and it includes key functions such as screening for mental health or substance use disorders; pre-clinical coaching and counseling services available by chat, text video, phone; and connecting users, as-needed to off-platform clinical services in the community.

DHCS conducted extensive engagement to inform the planning and design of the BHSVP, including engaging with youth and convening a think tank of experts over several months to help inform the key functionalities of the BHVSP. In July 2022, DHCS also released a Request for Information and received 82 responses from vendors that provided invaluable information about design, functionality and scope. DHCS is currently conducting a robust vetting of potential partners to serve as the vendor(s) for implementing the BHVSP. DHCS anticipates selecting and announcing the vendor(s) in the first quarter of 2023.

- **Next-Generation Digital Supports (DHCS):** DHCS is establishing a contract with The Child Mind Institute (CMI) for \$75 million to implement Next-Generation Digital Supports. This includes digital support tools that can improve the ways in which behavioral health services and supports are delivered to children, youth and families. DHCS and CMI will work collaboratively to ensure that, as applicable, these next-generation technological tools can be shared via the CYBHI virtual services platform.

- **Healthcare Provider Training and e-Consult (DHCS):** DHCS is vetting potential partners to support the launch of statewide e-Consult system. The e-Consult system will provide remote and real-time consultation support with behavioral health clinical experts, along with training on resources and use of virtual services platform to pediatric, primary care, and other health care providers. DHCS expects to select the e-Consult partner in the first quarter of 2023.
- **Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (DHCS):** DHCS announced \$480.5 million as part of its Round 4 grants in December 2022, funding 54 projects. The funding will help improve California's behavioral health continuum serving vulnerable populations, including those at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Addressing historic gaps in health care delivery, these investments will ensure care can be provided in the least restrictive settings by enhancing and establishing a wide range of options including community wellness/youth prevention centers, outpatient treatment for substance use disorders, school-linked health centers and outpatient community mental health clinics. They will allow alternatives to incarceration, hospitalization, homelessness and institutionalization by better meeting the needs of vulnerable populations who face the greatest barriers to access.
- **Scaling Evidence-Based and Community-Defined Evidence Practices (DHCS):** With input from a wide range of partners, DHCS considered more than 100 potential practices for scaling and to select a limited number of evidence-based practices (EBPs) and/or community-defined

evidence practices (CDEPs) to scale statewide based on robust evidence of effectiveness, impact on racial equity and long-term sustainability. By scaling EBPs and CDEPs throughout the state, DHCS aims to improve access to critical behavioral health interventions, including those focused on prevention, early intervention and resiliency/recovery, for children and youth, with a specific focus on children and youth from Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and LGBTQIA+ communities. During Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023, through six competitive grant funding rounds, DHCS intends to award grants totaling approximately \$429 million in the following focus areas:

- Round 1: Parent/caregiver support programs and practices (December 2022)
- Round 2: Trauma-informed programs and practices (January 2023)
- Round 3: Early childhood wraparound services (February 2023)
- Round 4: Youth-driven programs (March 2023)
- Round 5: Early intervention programs and practices (March/April/May 2023)
- Round 6: Community-defined programs and practices (April 2023)

On December 1, 2022, DHCS released a Request for Application (RFA) seeking grant proposals for the first round of EBP/CDEP grant funding, which is focused on scaling up parent and caregiver support and training services to parents, caregivers and children and youth. The application deadline for this round of funding is January 31, 2023.

- **Student Behavioral Health Incentive Program (DHCS):** In January 2022, DHCS began the implementation of SBHIP, which seeks to address behavioral health access barriers for Medi-Cal students by increasing access to preventive, early-intervention and behavioral health services from school-affiliated behavioral health providers. The program is implemented in phases, with 2022 focusing on building relationships between local education agencies and Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans (MCP) to support a behavioral health needs assessment of local student populations, including local partners conducting needs assessments and developing project plans. To date, the program has engaged:

- 23 health plans (23 of 24 total plans in Medi-Cal managed care) that cover all 58 counties.
- 57 county offices of education.
- 307 local education agencies.
- 58 county behavioral health departments.

In the first six months of 2023, DHCS will review the individual needs assessments (NA) submitted by MCPs and their collaboration partners. The NAs informed the selection of targeted interventions and priorities for each county. DHCS is also evaluating 145 project plans, crafted by MCPs as a direct result of the NA findings, detailing the steps that will be taken by the participating MCPs to implement the targeted interventions, all of which are designed to provide students with greater access to behavioral health services. Once a project plan is approved by DHCS, the MCPs and their collaboration partners will

begin putting the interventions into action during the first six months of 2023.

- **School-Linked Partnership and Capacity Grants (DHCS):** In 2023, DHCS will award \$550 million in one-time grants to strengthen school-linked behavioral health services and provide California public K-12 (~\$400 million) and institutions of higher education (~\$150 million) with resources to support institutional readiness for the statewide all-payer fee schedule by providing resources to schools for expanding provider capacity, developing critical partnerships and building the necessary infrastructure. DHCS continues to engage with key partners from the education and health sectors to refine the grant design.
- **CalHOPE Student Services (DHCS):** DHCS executed a contract with the Sacramento County Office of Education to implement the CalHOPE Student Support program. Through the program, more than 6,000 school staff across all 58 California County Offices of Education and their local districts have participated in [CalHOPE's Student Support Communities of Practice](#), which provide support and training to build the capacity of schools statewide to practice Social Emotional Learning (SEL). Additionally, [CalHOPE Schools](#) is providing schools, educators, students and families with no-cost, evidence-based resources that support healing, hope and inspiration. From a single sign on, users can access three video resources - [A Trusted Space: Redirecting Grief to Growth](#), [Angst: Building Resilience](#) and [Stories of Hope](#), including access to associated curricula and support materials.

- **Mindfulness, Resilience and Well-being Grants (DHCS):** Leveraging the CalHOPE Student Support program, DHCS is partnering with the Sacramento County Office of Education to distribute \$65 million in grant funding to K-12 schools to promote wellness and mindfulness programs to support teachers and students. The grants aim to support the adoption and equitable access of evidence-based mindfulness, resilience and well-being tools, resources and programs for teachers, youth, parents and families.
- **Youth Peer-to-Peer Support Programs (DHCS):** DHCS is contracting The Children's Partnership to support the development and implementation of high school peer-to-peer programs and training. The \$10 million pilot program will focus on developing statewide standards and promoting high quality peer-to-peer mental health support programs for youth.
- **Youth Suicide Reporting and Crisis Response (CDPH):** The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) will pilot a new approach of designating youth suicide and youth suicide attempts as a reportable event to trigger local-level crisis response and resource connections. CDPH is in the first phase of development on the \$50 million, three-year pilot program for data reporting and county departments, schools, CBOs and other partners to implement crisis response and support after a youth suicide or youth suicide attempt. The first phase of development focuses on data gathering, research and analysis, with the selection of pilot counties anticipated by February 2023.

## Coverage Architecture

*"It's extremely difficult to just.... find [a therapist] that meets your needs, 'from someone who is close to what makes you feel comfortable, and what will take your insurance.'"*

- Youth

Our Coverage Architecture efforts seek to expand coverage and access to critical behavioral health services so that all California kids have what they need to support their well-being.

- **Statewide All-Payer Fee Schedule for School-linked Behavioral Health Services (DHCS/DMHC):** DHCS and the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) will develop and maintain a school-linked statewide all-payer fee schedule to allow students (25 years or younger) to receive outpatient mental health and substance use disorder services at or near school-sites. The Departments will also develop a statewide school-linked provider network of behavioral health counselors for purposes of the fee schedule. This effort will bring together the healthcare and education sectors to reimburse for a predefined set of services for all children, regardless of payer status, in a school-linked setting.

DHCS and DMHC conducted initial listening sessions in Spring 2022 and convened a public workgroup in Fall 2022 to engage partners across sectors in dialogue about the policy and operational considerations for implementing the statewide fee schedule. The workgroup is composed of partners representing K-12 education, institutions of higher education, Medi-Cal managed care plans, commercial health plans, county behavioral health departments, behavioral health providers, associations, advocates, youth and parents/caregivers. More information about the

workgroup members can be found in this [overview](#) and on the DHCS CYBHI webpage.

- **Enhanced Medi-Cal Benefits - Dyadic Services (DHCS): Effective Jan. 1, 2023,** dyadic care services are a covered benefit under Medi-Cal. Dyadic services are preventive behavioral health services that are provided to young people and their caregivers. Covered services include behavioral health well-child visits, navigation and follow-up for referrals, psychoeducation, family training and counseling, and specified mental and behavioral health screenings for caregivers.

## Public Awareness

*"Growing up, no one ever spoke about mental health. When such issues are broached, they are often fraught with stigma- seeking mental health support can easily label someone as 'crazy,' signaling that 'something is wrong with [them]'* and even making them vulnerable to ridicule."

- Working Professional

Our Public Awareness efforts raise awareness and understanding of issues related to emotional, mental, and behavioral health by engaging communities and families using culturally- and linguistically-appropriate campaigns. Our goal is to create awareness without stigma of mental, emotional and behavioral health (MEB), including substance use disorders and wellness, by partnering with children, youth, caregivers, families and communities to co-design, reflect and share culturally-, linguistically-, and age-appropriate specific campaigns.

- **Public Education and Change Campaigns (CDPH):** In January 2023, CDPH will launch a \$33 million RFP to execute the first phase in a multi-year, \$100 million public awareness campaign for youth behavioral

health. In spring 2023, RFAs will be released to execute micro media education, awareness, and change campaigns totaling \$15 million for the five priority populations identified by California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP). An additional \$45 million will become available in FY2024-2025 and FY2025-2026 to fund future phases of the campaign.

- **ACEs and Toxic Stress Awareness Campaign (CA-OSG):** CA-OSG released an RFP in November 2022 seeking a partner to develop an awareness campaign for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and toxic stress, and the resources available for screening, treatment and prevention of toxic stress. The campaign, which is intended to launch in Spring 2023, will primarily target economically disadvantaged, LGBTQ+ and rural communities, communities of color, immigrants, refugees and justice- and welfare-involved youth. The RFP will be awarded in the first quarter of 2023.
- **Targeted Youth Suicide Prevention Grants and Outreach Campaign (CDPH):** CDPH is finalizing the selection of partners to develop a \$40 million multi-dimensional suicide prevention campaign focused on youth who are at greatest risk for suicide. The target groups and specified geographic areas of focus are being identified based on extensive data analysis to determine which groups face the highest risk. CDPH released a solicitation for a media/communications partner in December 2022, with vendor selection anticipated in February and campaign development to begin by March 2023. Additionally, CDPH established a contract with the Sierra Health Foundation to provide funding to CBOs that will enable the campaign's on-the-ground outreach

efforts. The process for CBOs to apply for funds is anticipated to begin in the first quarter of 2023.

- **Parent Support Video Series (DHCS):** DHCS initiated a \$15 million contract with The Child Mind Institute to produce a video series that will provide parents with resources and skills to support their children's mental health.

## Initiative-wide

*"We need to engage communities in building the solutions. They have to design, develop, and have ownership, or it will be just another "done unto you."*

- Youth

In addition to overseeing the Initiative's multiple workstreams and guiding overall strategy, the CYBHI has achieved the following milestones:

- **Partner and Community Engagement:** If systems continue to use the same siloed approaches, they will achieve the same results. Deep partner engagement is a foundational aspect of systems change. The CYBHI's outreach was both internal and external, extending throughout the state and across departments, agencies, sectors and communities.

We have conducted extensive outreach, convening 40 focus groups with children, youth and families and conducted seven community engagement sessions across the state. Our community engagement sessions engaged a diverse cross-section of young people, family members, and professionals from a variety of sectors in the behavioral health ecosystem including education and mental health.



In early 2023, the Initiative will release two papers based on input we have received to date. The Youth, Family and Community Voices Paper will synthesize the extensive feedback we have received from young people and families on their needs, their past experiences and what they want from an integrated system.

The Ecosystem Working Paper was created with the input of more than 100 cross-sector experts and outlines the collective impact strategies that will be required to create an integrated system that can equitably and effectively improve the well-being of our young people and families.

- **Mental Health Resource Hubs:** While the CYBHI's work to transform the systems supporting the mental and behavioral health of children, youth and families is a long-term endeavor, we also recognize that there are immediate needs that can't wait to be addressed. We created a [Mental Health Resource Hub](#) designed to help young people and the adults who care for them access vital information, tools and resources to support their mental health and well-being. We also developed special sections focusing on [Back-to-School Mental Health Resources](#), and [Suicide Prevention Resources for Youth](#). All of these resource pages incorporated links to CalHOPE and to the newly-launched 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.
- **Outcome Goals and Evaluation Partner:** With partners, including youth and parents, we are developing a five-year outcomes dashboard and goals, with a focus on advancing equity. In August, we released an RFP to identify an evaluation partner with deep knowledge in equity-centered

evaluation, reviews of mental health and substance use efforts and understanding of prevention, early intervention and mental well-being. Mathematica was selected in November 2022 to serve as the CYBHI evaluator and will help establish final outcome goals and provide objective analysis of the progress of the Initiative, as well as identify opportunities for more effective implementation and continuous improvements.

In 2023, the CYBHI will build on the engagement, planning, design and initial implementation work summarized in this report as we expand and advance the implementation of a wide range of workstream priorities. The above report includes key activities for the first 3-6 months of 2023, organized by workstream.

Selected highlights of our efforts in 2023 include:

- Continuing to build a larger and more diverse behavioral health workforce, including developing training programs for wellness coaches.
- Supporting the scaling of evidence-based and community-defined evidence practices through a series of grant opportunities.
- Continuing to design and build the virtual services platform.
- Developing and launching public information campaigns.
- Providing grants to support well-being, resilience and suicide prevention efforts for young people.
- Helping schools build their capacity and infrastructure to strengthen and expand youth behavioral health services.



It is also critical that youth, families, partners and subject matter experts are involved in every phase of our work. The CYBHI will continue to actively engage these groups throughout the entire process, from planning and design through implementation, evaluation and continuous improvement.

As we work to transform the system supporting the behavioral health of California's youth and families, we will continue to maintain an open, transparent and inclusive process. We look forward to sharing the CYBHI's future activities and progress on a regular basis.

# CYBHI

Children and Youth  
Behavioral Health Initiative



Master Plan for  
Kids' Mental Health

