

**Sacramento County  
Children's System of Care Committee**

**MINUTES– TELECONFERENCE MEETING  
March 13, 2023, 2:00PM-3:30PM**

Members Present: Corrine Sako, Patricia Wentzel, Maria Padilla-Castro  
Members Absent: None  
Staff Present: Glenda Basina, Rhapsody Flores, Sheri Green  
Guests: Donielle Prince, Chris Williams, Nancy Brynelson, Clara Brown

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Conduct Agreement Acknowledgement**

Chair Sako commenced the March CSOC meeting at 2:01pm, introductions were made and the Conduct Agreement acknowledged.

**Presentation on Sacramento County Foster Youth – Donielle Prince**

Donielle provided background on herself; does mental health education work with NAMI with the national office and has been working with school-based mental health. Shared onscreen presentation on Community Advocacy for school-based mental health. A need for community advocacy. On children experiencing mental health condition, 60% of ages 12-17 experienced depressive episode and 50% mental health shows up at age 18. Goal is to make sure youth have access/resource to mental health and believes school is best place for it. Platform: Remove access barriers, earlier diagnosis/intervention, reduce burden on county systems intervening early to prevent poor academic, behavioral health and life outcomes, improve coordination of services. More coordination between school district, community based orgs (Special Ed Local Plan Area (SELPA), SCOE and BH). 1. Increase collaborative and cross-sector planning, 2. Maximize state/federal/private funds for health and mental health, 3. Ensure every child has access to evidenced based prevention and early intervention services (tiers 1 and 2), 4. Engage youth in planning, decision making-Important to know what resonates with the youth. 5. Increase the diversity of the BH/MH workforce. Recommendations: Collaboration & Cross-Sector Planning & Capacity Building. Now at implementation phase. AdHoc committee's recommendation is to create a steering committee - engage community and parents. Leverage public/private reimbursement for BH services. SCOE/County partnered to place more behavioral health workers directly on school sites. Ensure every child has access to evidence-based prevention/early intervention. County collect/publish data on investment in children/youth prevention supported by MHSA/other funds. County expands support for Tier 1 prevention services. Engage youth - any way to incentivize meaningful youth voice. Increase diversity in BH workforce; internship and opportunity to be paid to pursue certificates. Be attentive to diversity.

**COMMENTS:**

Member Padilla-Castro asked in chat how are our youth made aware that mental health services exist? How are services easily accessed by our youth/students? How is the stigma removed in order that students feel safe in asking for help? Donielle responded that SCOE is considering MH staff in every school.

Member Wentzel noticed a significant increase in sexual violence against girls contributing to emotional stress.

Chair Sako requested for Danielle to send slides and thanks Donielle for the presentation.

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### **Presentation on Sacramento County Office of Education's Programs and Services for Promoting Student Mental Health – Chris Williams/SCOE**

Chris spoke on school-based mental health; SCOE partnered with County. Program started 3 years ago. A lot of work with BH and school district and building on making schools the centers of wellness. 4 central tenets; relationships, collective impact, systems integration (health and education together), access to care. Prevention, improved health/academic. Experiences drives development. Relationships with caring adults. Schools federally qualified health center; no cost to students, parents, schools. It's grant funded. Clinicians hired by SCOE. Teacher mentoring, working with First 5. Started in 10 schools working to 40 schools this year and 80 schools in the next 2 years. Goal is to be in every school in the county. Successes, it works. Partnership with Yale. Forming coordination of services team (adult to navigate to resources), collaboration with County and meeting quarterly with stakeholders.

#### **COMMENTS:**

Chair Sako mentioned the difficulty in getting kids to Access services; no handoff, no coordination and kids languishing. Chris - Access meant for specialty mental health. Working on non-specialty (mild/moderate). Coordination of Care needs to happen, meet students where they are, do outreach with families and navigate.

Member Padilla-Castillo asked who's qualified to decide on which kid is/can be seen? Chris responded that this is trying to be worked on. Need to understand/interpret and navigate to resource. The system aren't accountable to each other. Working on a clear avenue. Rhapsody commented that anyone can make a referral to Access. In 2021 State described Access processes, and if something is not checked off from the list, doesn't meet criteria and gets sent to their managed care plan. With State CalAIM reform to get into MH services, caregiver can go to any FIT service, having an open door to be assessed. At this point, kids are getting turned away. There's a definite concern. Sheri is working with Access team on changes to make sure folks don't fall in the cracks.

Member Wentzel is glad to hear info from Rhapsody about being turned away. Helpful to know there will be some avenues for families to connect. Clinicians are stretched.

Chris invites everyone to Student Mental Health Collaborative quarterly meeting and subcommittees. Member Wentzel to share flyer about the meetings.

Member Padilla-Castillo stated that her comment was not to criticize staffing. Knows the work being done is wonderful. Need more staffing.

Chair Sako thanked everyone for presenting and looks forward to future collaboration.

Chair Sako looking at BH services for foster youth. CSOC committee to identify goals for these. Great idea to utilize networks for presentations and site visit to come with recommendations.

#### **Public Comment (3 minutes per person)**

Clara in Elk Grove first aid trainer cert for crisis and non-crisis in high school and have component to include youth.

#### **Adjournment next meeting Monday 4/24 2pm.**

Chair Sako adjourned the meeting at 3:36pm.