Youth Optimal Care Pathway Discussion with AAP-CA3's Strategic Behavioral Health Initiative (SBHI)

Virtual Input Session - Zoom

Tuesday, August 12th, 2025

Today's Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions

- Recording

- Purpose of Today's Session

- Overview of Youth Optimal Care Pathways (Youth OCP)

- Discussion
  - If additional thoughts/questions surface afterwards, please email: Engage.BHS@sdcounty.ca.gov

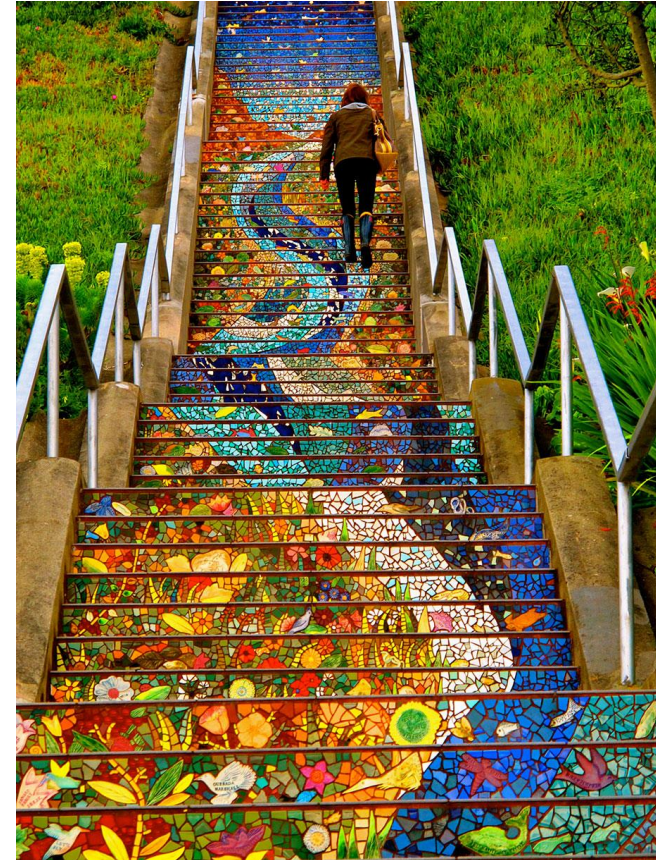- Next Steps/How to Remain Connected?

Welcome

- Thank you for dedicating time & knowledge with us today!

- Appreciate the coordination to make today possible

- Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Welcome & Introduction

Purpose of Today's Session

- Why We're Here

- Honoring Previous Work

- Framing Our Approach

AAP-CA3 SBHI Achievements

- Resource mapping of child & youth ecosystem related to behavioral health continuum of care

- Reports, Policy Scans, and Publications

- Incorporation of best practices

- Raising visibility on challenges and providing recommendations on research-based solutions

- Development of the SBHI Framework

County of San Diego Board Memo

- Access and Capacity Challenges: Systemic barriers, workforce shortages, and limited infrastructure have created unequal access to behavioral health services, leading to delays and unmet needs in underserved communities.

- The Optimal Care Pathways (OCP) Model will quantify service gaps and optimize care delivery.

- Emphasis on early intervention, prevention, and culturally responsive services.

Development of Youth OCP Framework (Part 1)

1. Creation of a Children, Youth, and Transition Age Youth (TAY) Behavioral Health Continuum Framework
   - Collaboratively develop framework for ages 0-25 to improve behavioral health services.
   - The framework will address gaps in care, align with policy changes, and integrate with the Optimal Care Pathways (OCP) Model.

2. Key Deliverables
   - Interim Report: Immediate strategies, resourcing plans, and a development roadmap within six months.
   - Final Report: Comprehensive framework with recommendations for implementation and sustainability within 18 months.

Development of Youth OCP Framework (Part 2)

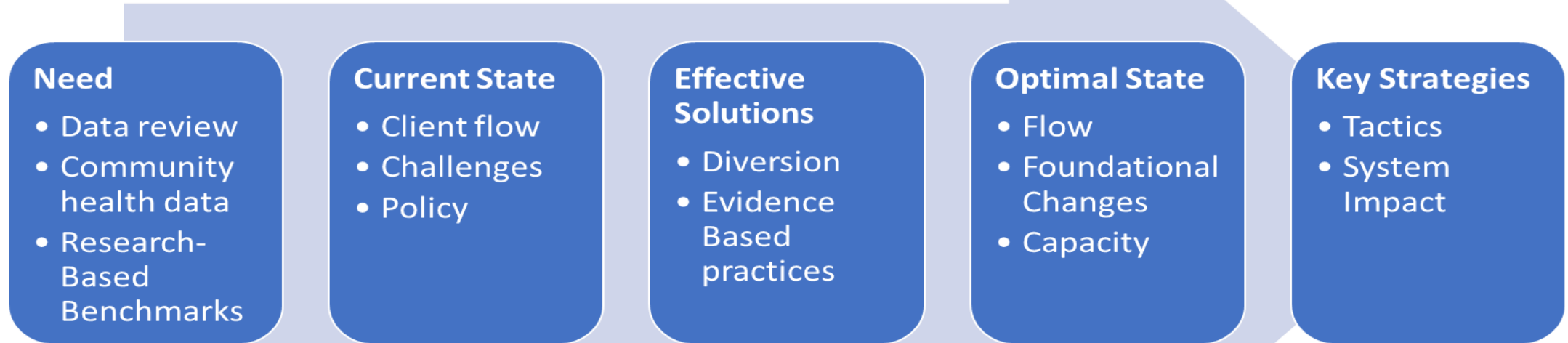3. Optimizing Medi-Cal Payments
   - Identify opportunities to improve reimbursement models for Medi-Cal-covered behavioral health services.
   - Ensure sustainability and efficiency in payment structures for service providers.
   - Ensure that funding mechanisms align with the key service improvements outlined in the Framework.

What is the "OCP" Model?

- The Optimal Care Pathways (OCP) model guides investments in behavioral health services
- Quantifies optimal service utilization across the continuum of care
- Prioritizes clinically appropriate, community-based care in the least restrictive setting
- Utilizes research, best practices

Need
- Data review
- Community health data
- Research-Based Benchmarks

Current State
- Client flow
- Challenges
- Policy

Effective Solutions
- Diversion
- Evidence Based practices

Optimal State
- Flow
- Foundational Changes
- Capacity

Key Strategies
- Tactics
- System Impact

Virtual Discussion

- BHS welcomes Alicia Holmes
- 50 minutes to cover 4–5 questions
- Use of Mentimeter

Discussion Questions

From SBHI Framework & Recommendations	Discussion Item
Strategy 5: Prevention and Early Intervention	What **prevention** opportunities would you prioritize for us to collectively advocate for adoption at the State level?
Strategy 1: Access to Care Strategy 6: Specialty Populations	Which parts of the care continuum are more vulnerable to payer roadblocks?
Strategy 1: Access to Care Strategy 2: Payment Reform Strategy 3: School-Based Care	Are you aware of any Community Based Organizations (CBOs) that have adopted a hub-like model with shared administration similar to an integrated practice association? What other technical/operational needs among CBOs that still need resolution for them to achieve successful outcomes in such a model?
Strategy 3: School-Based Care	What barriers/concerns are you aware of among school districts that have yet to adopt the Fee Schedule? How can we encourage more districts to opt in?

Wrap Up

Next Steps

Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Housing Council Input Session

This virtual input session will take place at the BHS Housing Council on Thursday, August 7 from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm. If you're interested in being invited to share your thoughts, please email Engage.BHS@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Youth Optimal Care Pathways Discussion with American Academy of Pediatrics, California Chapter 3 (AAP-CA3)

On Tuesday, August 12 from 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm, BHS will host a virtual input session with members of the AAP-CA3 - Strategic Behavioral Health Initiative. If you're interested in being invited to share your thoughts, please email Engage.BHS@sdcounty.ca.gov

Youth Optimal Care Pathways Discussion with NAMI Caregivers & Families

NAMI Caregivers & Family members are encouraged to participate in a session to share their experiences supporting youth in accessing behavioral health resources on Wednesday, August 13, 6:00pm-7:30pm. Click here to register.

SCAN ME

Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

Planned Engagement Activities

Past Engagement Materials

Contact Us: **Communication & Engagement Unit:** Engage.BHS@sdcounty.ca.gov