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FACT SHEET

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Family and Juvenile Mental Health Program

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), passed by voters in 2004 as Proposition 63, is funded through a 1 percent tax on personal income over \$1 million. It is designed to expand and transform California's behavioral health system to better serve individuals with, and at risk of, serious mental health issues, and their families. MHSA addresses a broad continuum of prevention, early intervention, and service needs as well as the necessary infrastructure, technology, and training elements that effectively support the public behavioral health system. The Judicial Branch receives an annual allocation of MHSA funds to help support the goals of the Act through staffing 6.0 positions that providing program support. This fact sheet provides information on current projects funded by the Judicial Branch's MHSA monies.

Collaboration on Mental Health Training

All education programs held by the Judicial Council's Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC) seek to incorporate mental health content, where appropriate, leveraging resources for mental health services in a variety of case types, encouraging coordination of intake across juvenile/guardianship/family law cases, and supporting problem solving calendars and courts that assist in resolving cases involving mental health issues. A key component of this project is the incorporation of feedback from courts and stakeholders to ensure that educational content provides relevant mental health content that meets the needs of court and court-connected professionals.

Mental Health Web Content

Through this project, staff are developing and expanding mental health related content on the [California Courts website](#). Information and resources for the public, judicial officers, court staff and partners are regularly added.

Education and Resources for Judicial Officers, Court Staff, and Stakeholders

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, recent education to help courts better serve litigants with mental health issues has been held online and available on demand.

Programming is designed to increase the knowledge and awareness of judicial officers, court staff, and justice system partners about court-related mental/behavioral health strategies, programs, and services for youth.

Resources for judicial officers including bench guides on supporting the behavioral health of youth in family court and probate guardianship are under development. The bench guides will include information about mental health needs of children and youth, why mental health matters in family court and probate guardianship, types of youth mental health needs including types of providers and services, accessing mental health care in California, substance use disorders and co-occurring needs, how judicial officer in family court and probate guardianship can promote mental health, and consent and confidentiality considerations.

Mental Health Youth Services Dashboard

The Mental Health Youth Services Dashboard (MHYSD) showcases the mental health needs of youth in California and highlights gaps in mental health services access and utilization for youth enrolled in the Medi-Cal program. When complete, this series of infographics will include data on California's youth population, delivery, and utilization of mental health services, including Managed Care Medi-Cal and Children's Health Insurance Program, gaps in utilization, services accessed by foster youth, and racial disparities affecting mental health outcomes.

Liaison to the Chief Justice's Work Group on Homelessness

The Work Group on Homelessness was created by Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, to evaluate how court programs, processes, technology, and communications might be improved to better serve people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness, and to consider how the judicial branch might appropriately work with the executive and legislative branches to reduce homelessness. The liaison supported working group activities focusing on juveniles as well as adults not involved in the criminal justice system. The final report of the Work Group on Homelessness was submitted to the Judicial Council's November 2021 meeting.

Substance Abuse Focus Grant Administration

The Collaborative Justice Courts Substance Abuse Focus Grant (SAFG) Program is a non-competitive grant program available to all local collaborative justice court programs that have a substance abuse focus and incorporate collaborative justice court principles. It has been funded annually through California's Budget Act since 1998. Collaborative courts receiving SAFG funds in fiscal year 21-22 included 24 adult mental health/dual diagnosis courts, 6 juvenile mental health/dual diagnosis courts, 5 homeless courts, 3 community courts, 2 girls' courts, and 22 veterans courts,

with similar numbers of behavioral health-related courts anticipated to be provided SAFG funding in the current fiscal year.

Veterans and Military Families

Continue to support development and implementation of a statewide strategic plan that will improve court responses for veterans and military families. This project includes developing and facilitating education focusing on the special needs of military families in a variety of case types as well as providing input on legislation, rules, and forms relevant to military families, such as the Notification of Military Status Form MIL-100, the revised version of which went into effect on January 1, 2021 and improved usability in non-criminal case-types.

Provide Subject Matter Expertise to the Juvenile Collaborative Justice Courts Subcommittee

The Juvenile Subcommittee of the Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee supports prevention and early intervention efforts to help youth involved in, or at risk of being involved in, the juvenile dependency or delinquency system. Issues the subcommittee is seeking to address include identifying a juvenile court model for mentally ill youth, examining ways in which to support stronger remote “school attendance” during the pandemic, considering new approaches to diversion programs for mental ill youth, and supporting local efforts to provide appropriate mental health screenings and medication assessments.

Support for Youth Courts

Youth Courts, also known as Peer Courts, are an alternative approach to the traditional juvenile justice system. These courts provide peer-based early intervention for at-risk youth. Work to help local courts implement and expand their Youth Court programs includes co-sponsoring and guiding the annual Youth Court Summit, being held online in 2022, and developing and promoting tools, such as the California Youth Courts: A Toolkit and Planning Guide, designed to help Youth Courts maximize their effectiveness by employing best and evidence-based practices.

California Department of Health Care Services and Department of Social Services CalAIM Foster Care Model of Care Workgroup

This workgroup will create a long-term plan for how children and foster youth receive health care services and provide an opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback on ways to improve the current system of care for children and youth in foster care. Goals of this group will include determining whether or not a new system of care should be developed, and will examine considerations for Former Foster Youth programs and those transitioning out of foster programs and services at age 26.

Family and Juvenile Mental Health Projects

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