Dollars & Cents: Public Funding to Sustain School-Based Mental Health Services

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Housekeeping

Webinar will be recorded and slides will be shared

If you can’t hear the audio, try changing your audio settings and call-in using your telephone

To ask questions, please use the Q&A function. I will answer questions at the end.
Objectives

1. Identify federal, state, and local funding streams that can support the full continuum of mental health services in schools.

2. Understand major funding sources such as Medi-Cal & Mental Health Services Act (MHSA).

3. Identify strategies for utilizing available funding streams and creating new partnerships.
Who's here?

*As of this morning

LEA/SELPA
Local organization or provider
State organization
Foundation
Other
What funding sources are you familiar with?

**As of this morning**

- Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services
- Medi-Cal Mild/Moderate Mental Health
- Mental Health Services Act
- Educationally-Related Mental Health Services
- LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program
- Local Control Funding Formula
- None of the above
Overarching principles

• Schools shouldn’t be creating mental health services on their own
  • There are considerable resources in the community & county to help

• School mental health services meet the educational and health care needs of students

• A student should not have to be in special education to receive mental health services in school settings
Overarching principles

• Funding can be used for various school-based services; but there are strategic ways to use funding to support a comprehensive system

• The goal is to sustain services in all three tiers for a comprehensive school-based mental health
Tier 3
Longer-Term Intensive Interventions

Tier 2
Short-Term Targeted Interventions

Tier 1
School-Wide Interventions

- Educationally Related Mental Health Services
- Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health
- Medi-Cal Mild/Moderate Mental Health
- LEA Billing Option Program
- Local Control Funding Formula
- Title 1
- Mental Health Services Act
County Specialty Mental Health Services

- County Mental Health Plans (typically run by county departments of mental/behavioral health)
- Medi-Cal youth w/ covered diagnosis and/or “services are necessary to correct or ameliorate a mental illness”
- Must contract with the county – school staff, community-based organizations, SBHCs
- Intensive, long-term clinical interventions

Mild/Moderate Mental Health Services

- Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans
- All Medi-Cal youth enrolled in a managed care plan
- Must contract with the managed care plan – community-based mental health providers, SBHCs
- Shorter term brief interventions
Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)

- Revenues from 1% income tax on millionaires; distributed directly to the counties
- MHSA-funded programs are intended to enhance, rather than replace, existing programs.
- 5 funding categories
  - Community Support Services
  - Prevention and Early Intervention
- County mental health programs must submit three-year plans and annual updates, with a listing of programs funded

Great for schools!
Mental Health Services Act

What's New

- MHSA Statewide Early Psychosis Learning Health Care Network Innovation Project
- MHSA Housing - Community Services and Supports Housing Program
- MHSA FY 2018-19 Plan Update
- MHSA Revenue and Expenditure Report for FY 2016-17
- MHSA Housing - Special Needs Housing Program Amendment and Mental Health Technology Solutions Project
- MHSA Community Input Form - MHSA Steering Committee/Public Forum Flyer - Comments will be accepted through October 15, 2017
- Webinar of California’s Interagency Council on Veterans Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Sub-Workgroup
- MHSA Orientation - July 13, 2015
- 855-OC-LINKS Behavioral Health Services Information and Referral Line (855) 625-4657 TDD (714) 834-2332
- Know the Signs - www.suicidespreventable.org

MHSA Components
Tier 1
School-Wide Interventions

Tier 2
Short-Term Targeted Interventions

Tier 3
Longer-Term Intensive Interventions

Schools
- LEA Billing Option Program
- Local Control Funding Formula

County MH
- Medi-Cal Speciality Mental Health
- Medi-Cal Mild/Moderate Mental Health
- Mental Health Services Act

Title 1
- Educationally Related Mental Health Services
School Funding

- **ERMHS**
  - Educationally related mental health services
  - State and federal restricted funds to SELPAs
  - Special education students
  - Mental health services identified in a student’s IEP

- **LEA Billing Option**
  - Local Education Agency Billing Option Program
  - Reimbursement program for schools
  - Medi-Cal eligible students
  - Covered services include psychology, counseling, and psychosocial assessments
## Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF)

**Per student funding for public schools; districts must submit funding plans that demonstrate how funds will be used to support students.**

- All K-12 students; targeted funding for low income, foster youth, or English-Language Learners.
- LCFF funds almost every service provided by public schools; funds can be used to support school mental health infrastructure and services.

## Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

**Title I – similar to NCLB**

- Title IV – consolidated 49 separate grant programs into flexible block grant

**Schoolwide programs where 40% of students are low-income**

- Very flexible – counseling, school climate, bullying/violence prevention, training for staff
Strategies & next steps

1. Know your population of free and reduced lunch (similar to Medi-Cal).

2. Assess your current services and gaps. Create a mental health profile that communicates the needs and access issues facing students.

3. School districts: commit to building your infrastructure as you reach out to potential partners.

4. Identify potential partner organizations. Who in your community is also serving your students?

5. Think through how outside services will be coordinated with district services.
Contact Information & Resources

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More information on our website: http://www.schoolhealthcenters.org/healthlearning/mentalhealth/

Discussion & Questions