

The Quorum

May 2022

An Update on California Pediatric Behavioral Health Policy Legislation and Initiatives

Our Chapter's top policy priority is behavioral and mental health. Since it's been a few months since this was discussed in the newsletter, this month's Quorum will review ongoing behavioral health legislation our Chapter is advocating for, and various other CA based behavioral health policy initiatives.

In March was the formation of the AAP-CA2 Behavioral Health Committee. Committee members reviewed legislation and wrote support letters (see below) for the behavioral health bills we're focusing on. Members also received email updates on bills and requests to speak at committee hearings. As we proceed through the legislative session, we will continue to need members to advocate for legislation at the committee level (upcoming hearings scheduled for June 1st). Lastly, please note that all bills supported by our chapter are listed and updated weekly on our website under the advocacy->legislative priorities tab.

AAP-CA2 Supported Behavioral Health Legislation

[AB 58 \(Salas\) Pupil Health: Suicide Prevention Policies and Training](#)

Description: Requires that local education agencies (LEAs) update their suicide prevention training materials and encourages LEAs to provide suicide awareness and prevention training to teachers annually beginning with the 2024-25 school year.

Status: Two-year bill. Passed Assembly floor vote on 1/24. In Senate, referred to Sen Ed on 5/4, hearing date pending.

[Support Letter](#)

[AB 552 \(Quirk-Silva\) Integrated School-Based Behavioral Health Partnership Program](#)

Description: Authorizes community behavioral health programs and local education agencies to establish partnership programs to provide prevention, early intervention, and access to behavioral health services for pupils with serious emotional disturbances or substance use disorders.

Status: Two-year bill. Passed Assembly floor vote on 1/31. In Senate, referred to Sen Ed and Health on 5/4. Senate Ed hearing date scheduled for 6/1.

[Support Letter](#)

AB 1969 (Gipson) Pupil Health: Peer-to-Peer Mental Health Program

Description: Would provide funding to community-based organizations to support peer-to-peer mental health programs within schools. Trainings would emphasize trauma informed care practices and would be specifically geared towards schools without other mental health services.

Status: Introduced in the Assembly 2/10, referred to committees on health and education. Currently in Assembly Education, hearing date pending.

[Support Letter](#)

SB 387 (Portantino) Pupil Health: School Employee and Pupil Training: Youth Mental and Behavioral Health

Description: Would require local education agencies to ensure that 75 percent of its classified employees who have direct contact with pupils at school have received specific youth behavioral health training.

Status: Two-year bill. Passed Senate floor vote on 1/24. In Assembly, referred to Asm Ed, hearing date pending.

[Support Letter](#)

SB 1019 (Gonzalez) Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans: Mental Health Benefits

Description: Would require a Medi-Cal managed care plan to conduct annual outreach and education to its enrollees regarding the mental health benefits that are covered by the plan, and to also develop annual outreach and education to inform primary care physicians regarding those mental health benefits.

Status: Passed Senate Health on 4/6, placed on Appropriations suspense file 4/25.

[Support Letter](#)

CA Behavioral Health Policy Initiatives

Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI): The CYBHI was announced in July 2021 with a \$4.4 Billion investment to enhance, expand, and redesign the systems that support behavioral health for children and youth. Specific focuses of the program are: 1. To increase the behavioral health workforce (\$1 billion reserved for this), 2. Raise awareness of behavioral health and wellbeing via public health campaigns, and 3. Create a virtual platform to provide mental health screenings, a 24-hour crisis warm-line, and connection to services. The behavioral health virtual services platform is set to launch in 2024.

Source: <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/home/children-and-youth-behavioral-health-initiative/>

ACEs Aware: Since 2019 the Office of the California Surgeon General (CA-OSG) and the California Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) have led ACEs Aware, a statewide initiative to train clinical teams to screen children and adults for ACEs in primary care settings and to treat the impacts of toxic stress with trauma-informed care practices. ACEs Aware is now moving to a new home within the University of California system via the UCLA-UCSF ACEs Aware Family Resilience Network (UCAAN). UCAAN will continue the development of ACEs Aware to reduce the impact of toxic stress among California's children.

Source: <https://cthc.ucsf.edu/ucaan/>

CalHOPE: CalHOPE was formed to address the exacerbated mental health crisis during the COVID-19 pandemic and is a crisis counseling assistance and training program. Services for families include community networking and support and connection to resources. Funding comes from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the program is run by CA-DHCS.

Source: <https://www.calhope.org/Pages/aboutus.aspx>

The Quorum is a monthly policy spotlight. For any inquiries, please email Chapter 2 legislative and policy analyst, Karinne Van Groningen, at KVanGroningen@mednet.ucla.edu

Past Issues:

April 2022: [The Expanded Child Tax Credit](#)

March 2022: [Threats to the Health of Transgender Youth](#)

February 2022: [The CA Legislative Vaccine Work Group](#)

January 2022: [The Legislature is Back in Session](#)

December 2021: [An Update on School Based Vaccine Mandates](#)

November 2021: [The Pediatric Mental Health Crisis](#)