

CBHA is Making Moves! Youth Mental Health First Aid, Workforce, and More

Greetings behavioral health colleagues!

The Legislature has only been in Session for two months and so much is happening in the behavioral health community! CBHA is proud to share what we have been working on since the Session commenced.

CBHA staff organized a successful [Advocacy Day](#) last month where we met with 37 legislative offices to educate them about our legislative proposals which are detailed later in this message.

Last week, we hosted our second [Mental Health First Aid Summit](#) in Los Angeles where over 100 attendees gathered to discuss the cutting edge approaches in Mental Health First Aid training. Presenters from the National Council of Behavioral Health, California Department of Education, and Patrick Mulvaney, local Sacramento chef, discussed how to utilize mental health first aid with various populations across our state.

CBHA staff also hosted the [Annual Membership Retreat](#) of the [California Access Coalition \(CAC\)](#), a group conceptualized 24 years ago by Rusty Selix. The retreat, sponsored by the [California Life Sciences Association](#), provided an educational forum for the CAC members. Eighteen-member organizations were represented, and the retreat was kicked off by Kassy Perry who provided a historical review of the CAC and Adrienne Shilton from the Steinberg Institute who gave a tribute to Rusty Selix. The audience enjoyed [informative presentations](#) from myriad of groups including: the California Board of Pharmacy, DHCS, the California Pharmacists Association, and WellSpace Health. We were proud to see presentations from staff at CBHA member organizations HealthRight 360 and Tarzana Treatment Centers during the CAC retreat.

State of the State

Earlier this month, Governor Gavin Newsom gave his State of the State Speech. Of note was his focus on the social determinants of health. Specifically, he highlighted impacts on the California environment including natural disasters, transportation, energy and water. He also focused on social issues including aging, immigration, healthcare and school climate. Governor Newsom spoke extensively on homelessness and the intersection with mental illness calling this relationship a “public health crisis.” To this end, he announced the creation of a *Commission on Homelessness and Supportive Housing* that will be led by Darrell Steinberg. He also shared plans to create an *Alzheimer’s Prevention and Preparedness Task Force* led by Maria Shriver.

Indeed, Governor Newsom has set high goals for his term. We look forward to the announcement of the “Mental Health Czar.” Additionally, in recognition of the providers who are trained to treat mental health *and* substance use disorders, we have recommended that the Administration consider renaming this position to the “[Behavioral Health Czar](#).” We are also encouraged by the appointment of Dr. Nadine Burke Harris to the position of California Surgeon General. CBHA staff attended the [California Legislative Black Caucus State of the State event](#) yesterday where the Surgeon General spoke.

Workforce

Recently, two reports about the behavioral health workforce were published. The first is the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development’s (OSHPD) [Five-Year Plan](#). As you may be aware, OSHPD is statutorily required to prepare the Five-Year Plan to address the workforce needs in the state. CBHA member agencies and staff have participated in the stakeholder process for the plan.

The second publication is by the California Future Health Workforce Commission. The Commission spent nearly two years examining the behavioral health care workforce shortage in California. The [report](#) includes recommendations addressing the workforce shortage by 2030.

Legislation

CBHA is excited to share about our budget and legislative proposals!

[Youth Mental Health First Aid](#): Our Youth Mental Health First Aid proposals continue to gain momentum. We have a strong coalition of co-sponsors including CBHDA, Children Now, and Lady Gaga’s *Born This Way Foundation* (BTWF) who are advocating for funding for a school-based pilot program to train school personnel in Youth Mental Health First Aid. Assemblymember [Dr. Joaquin Arambula is championing this proposal](#). Just yesterday, the [California Health Report published an article](#) about our efforts.

The coalition is also sponsoring [SB 428](#) which will require individuals who are fulfilling their teaching credential to take a course in Youth Mental Health First Aid. Senator Dr. Richard Pan and Senator Anthony Portantino are the authors of the legislation and Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula and Senator Scott Weiner are co-authors.

Earlier this month, CBHA and CBHDA staff presented the Youth Mental Health First Aid proposals to the State Superintendent of Instruction’s School Mental Health Policy Workgroup. The group voted unanimously to support the proposals and recommend that the Superintendent of Instruction, Tony Thurmond, join in supporting the proposals!

Workforce, Education and Training Trust Fund

We also have proposals that address the behavioral health workforce shortage. CBHA is collaborating with the California Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC) and the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (CAMFT) to sponsor a budget



proposal, and Senator Anna Caballero is championing the proposal. Our request is for \$70 million dollars to create a funding source for the efforts that are detailed in OSHPD's statutorily mandated [Five-Year Plan](#). The co-sponsors presented the proposal today to the Senate Budget Committee's [Subcommittee on Health and Human Services](#). Please watch the hearing [here](#).

[SB 539](#) (Caballero) was introduced last week and will identify additional funding sources for the Five-Year Plan including 25% of the growth funds of MHPA dollars and an option for counties to direct funds subject to reversion to a statewide Workforce, Education and Training Trust Fund.

We invite our colleagues to share your support of our budget proposals and bills. For information on how your organization can be a part of our growing coalition of support, please contact the CBHA office.

We look forward to providing you with additional updates as the Legislative Session progresses.

In service,

Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Ph.D.
Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs