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

Lisa Eisenberg, Policy Director
California School-Based Health Alliance

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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.
About California School-Based Health Alliance

CSHA is the statewide non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health and academic success of children and youth by advancing health services in schools.

Our work is based on two basic concepts:

• Health care should be accessible and where kids are, and
• Schools should have the services needed to ensure that poor health is not a barrier to learning

Visit our website at www.schoolhealthcenters.org
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 system.
Tier 1
School-Wide Interventions

Tier 2
Short-Term Targeted Interventions

Tier 3
Longer-Term Intensive Interventions

- Educationally Related Mental Health Services
- Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health
- Medi-Cal Mild/Moderate Mental Health

Schools

County MH

LEA Billing Option Program

Local Control Funding Formula

Title 1

Mental Health Services Act
Medi-Cal

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!
Behavioral Health Services

Our Services

Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services
We provide treatment services to individuals struggling with alcohol and/or drug abuse. Services include outpatient treatment, methadone treatment, day treatment, detoxification, residential services, and perinatal services. Click here to learn more about our alcohol and drug treatment services.

Mental Health Services
We provide a full array of culturally competent and linguistically proficient mental health services to individuals of all ages. Services include prevention and early intervention, outpatient services, case management services, crisis intervention and stabilization services, and inpatient psychiatric hospitalizations. Click here to learn more about our mental health services.
Tier 3
- Longer-Term Intensive Interventions
  - Educationally Related Mental Health Services
  - Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health

Tier 2
- Short-Term Targeted Interventions
  - Medi-Cal Mild/Moderate Mental Health

Tier 1
- School-Wide Interventions
  - Local Control Funding Formula
  - LEA Billing Option Program
  - Mental Health Services Act

Title 1

Schools

County MH
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
School Funding cont.

**LCFF**

Local Control Funding Formula

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.

**ESSA**

Every Student Succeeds Act

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 – For Schools

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. Do your homework! 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

Lisa Eisenberg, leisenberg@schoolhealthcenters.org

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

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