

Next Steps: A Vision for Advancing Children's Behavioral Health

The Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee (TCB) is taking necessary steps toward improving children's mental health. This document provides insight into TCB's upcoming projects, highlighting their significance and potential impact on children's mental health.

Drafting of Legislation Recommendations:

Legislative recommendations are crucial to TCB's mission of reforming policies and practices related to children's mental health. These recommendations provide a clear path for policymakers and stakeholders to bring about specific changes and advancements required in the legislative framework that governs children's mental health. Our recommendations are based on evidence-based practices and a commitment to equity to create a more just and compassionate children's mental health system. The legislative recommendations will be developed based on insights gathered from workgroups, previous publications, listening sessions, and research. (Submission January 2024)

Workgroups and Co-Chairs:

Workgroups will review the needs and develop strategies to improve children's behavioral health across the state. The workgroups must meet regularly to create a work plan. Each workgroup will recommend changes to align children's behavioral health programs with policy initiatives to improve outcomes for children with behavioral health needs and their families. Co-chairs are appointed, but membership is open to the public. In the upcoming weeks, anyone interested in being considered as a co-chair will receive an email with further instructions. Those who signed up for workgroups will receive email notifications with the next steps. (November 2023 - onwards)

Strategic Plan:

The strategic plan of TCB serves as a roadmap, delineating its actions and initiatives for the forthcoming years. This plan will result from a review of best practices, work by the workgroups, feedback obtained through statewide listening sessions, and the tasks outlined in legislation 23-90. It will establish clear objectives, measurable goals, and strategic priorities, thereby providing a blueprint for TCB's vision of a just and equitable children's mental health system. (December 2024)

Statewide Listening Sessions:

Our TCB Tri-Chairs are eager to listen to the community's concerns to build a more comprehensive, inclusive, and effective strategic plan and legislative recommendations for the work of TCB. Our statewide listening sessions serve as a platform for stakeholders, including youth, parents, guardians, advocates, and professionals, to voice their opinions and concerns. We highly value the feedback and concerns of all participants as we strive to create a more inclusive and responsive mental health system for children. We want to acknowledge the valuable contributions of previous listening sessions. We are taking a prudent approach to avoid duplicating efforts. By working together, we can achieve a more promising future for our children and the community, and we remain committed to our mission of providing the best mental health services possible. (November 2023 – March 2024)

One-Day Level-Setting:

TCB values promoting a shared understanding of our work among all members. To achieve this, TCB is organizing a One-day Level-Setting. The aim is to bring together stakeholders for knowledge exchange, discussions, and collaborative problem-solving. By fostering a learning culture, TCB aims to enable informed decisions and innovations in children's mental health. To ensure that the event is comprehensive and practical, we will form a group of experts to help us create the curriculum and decide on the topics to cover. (December 2023)

Orientation Manual:

TCB is developing an orientation manual to ensure that all stakeholders are well-informed and have a clear understanding of TCB's legislative mandate, committee membership, operational structure, and workplan. (November 2023 – January 2024)