

Senate Select Committee on Children with Special Needs



April 5, 2016

Alameda County California Children's Services Mental Health Initiative

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ALAMEDA COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

Goals/Objectives

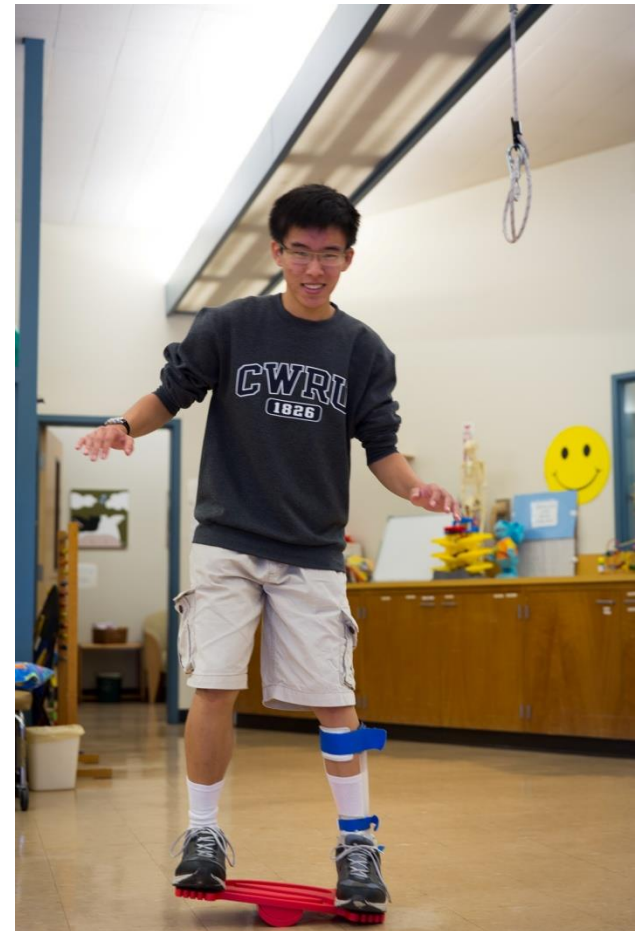
- Organize Coalition of Service System Stakeholders
- Improve Access to Mental Health Services for California Children's Services Clients & Families
- Improve Participation of Mental Health Providers in Serving California Children's Services Clients & Families

Structure & Stakeholder Participation

- 25-member Stakeholder Committee
- Strong Client/Family Representation
- Monthly 1 ½ hour Meetings
- Executive and Advisory Committees
- Individual Stakeholder/Agency Visits

Strengthened Care Coordination

- Discussed mental health issues & service access
- Increased visibility of CCS clients & families among providers
- Increased agency & family collaboration on behalf of CCS clients
- Provided awareness of services in the community
- Provided place to advocate for services for Children with Special Health Care Needs & their families



Service System Issues & Recommendations

- Assume California Children's Services clients & families will need mental health support
- Ask California Children's Services clients & families about their emotional well being/mental health needs regularly
- Include the family voice in the development of services
- Provide navigational support & advocacy as needed
- Align mental health and physical health around the value of addressing the whole child & their family as a system, not just their medical condition
- Share statewide and national existing care coordination champion models and fund replications
- Train the existing provider workforce to be knowledgeable about complex medical conditions, the impact on the family, child and their mental health
- Approach care coordination for children with medical complexity as an measurement of quality

Systems Barriers



- Lack of service coordination direction and leadership at the state level
- Mental Health Plans and providers do not have expertise serving children & youth with medical complexity & their families
- CCS Programs may not be trained to educate, identify and intervene with mental health needs
- Different Agencies serving clients Mild-Moderate & Moderate-Severe in many county mental health plans
- Poor outreach & education to clients and families regarding mental health warning signs and the availability of services to address them
- Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder and Physical Health Systems are siloed and driven partially by reimbursement regulations

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