



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA

455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA
94102-3688
Tel 415-865-4200
TDD 415-865-4272
Fax 415-865-4205
www.courts.ca.gov

FACT SHEET

November 2020

Family and Juvenile Mental Health Program

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), passed by voters in 2004 as Proposition 63, is funded through a 1 percent tax on personal income over \$1 million. It is designed to expand and transform California's behavioral health system to better serve individuals with, and at risk of, serious mental health issues, and their families. MHSA addresses a broad continuum of prevention, early intervention, and service needs as well as the necessary infrastructure, technology, and training elements that effectively support the public behavioral health system. The Judicial Branch receives an annual allocation of MHSA funds to help support the goals of the Act through staffing 6.0 positions that providing program support. This fact sheet provides information on current projects funded by the Judicial Branch's MHSA monies.

Collaboration on Mental Health Training

All education programs held by the Judicial Council's Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC) seek to incorporate mental health content, where appropriate, leveraging resources for mental health services in a variety of case types, encouraging coordination of intake across juvenile/guardianship/family law cases, and supporting problem solving calendars and courts that assist in resolving cases involving mental health issues. A key component of this project is the incorporation of feedback from courts and stakeholders to ensure that educational content provides relevant mental health content that meets the needs of court and court-connected professionals.

Incorporation of Youth Voices

Recognizing that the perspectives and ideas of young people should be included in trainings related to their needs, this project is developing guidelines on how to best include youth in the planning process for CFCC-based education, and allow youth to serve as expert speakers, where appropriate.

Mental Health Webcontent

Through this project, staff are developing and expanding mental health related content on the [California Courts website](#). Information and resources for the public, judicial officers, court staff and partners is regularly added.

Education for Judicial Officers, Court Staff, and Stakeholders

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, recent education to help courts better serve litigants with mental health issues has been held online. Upcoming programming is anticipated to include the following webinars:

- Working with Litigants With Mental Health Issues
- The models behind the Homeless Court Blueprint
- Juvenile Psychotropic Medication
- Judicial Considerations for Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Accessing Medi-Cal/CalAIM
- Using the Psychotropic Medication Second Opinion Program
- Understanding Mental Health Services Funding, Eligibility Requirements, and Availability (This will be a follow up to the [MHSA Funding Webinar](#))
- Empowering Self-Help Staff to Work with Clients Struggling Emotionally or Cognitively
- The Effects of Covid-19 on Youth Homelessness

Liaison to the Chief Justice's Work Group on Homelessness

The newly formed [Work Group on Homelessness](#), created by Chief Justice Tani Cantí-Sakauye, is charged with studying and recommending ways the judicial branch can further assist people experiencing homelessness or facing the possibility of losing their homes. The liaison will support working group activities focusing on juveniles as well as adults not involved in the criminal justice system.

Substance Abuse Focus Grant Administration

The Collaborative Justice Courts Substance Abuse Focus Grant (SAFG) Program is a non-competitive grant program available to all local collaborative justice court programs that have a substance abuse focus and incorporate collaborative justice court principles. It has been funded annually through California's Budget Act since 1998. Collaborative courts receiving SAFG funds in fiscal year 19-20 included 36 adult mental health/dual diagnosis courts, 7 juvenile mental health/dual diagnosis courts, 5 homeless courts, 3 community courts, 5 girls' courts, and 20 veterans courts,

with similar numbers of behavioral health-related courts anticipated to be provided SAFG funding in the current fiscal year.

Veterans and Military Families

Continue to support development and implementation of a statewide strategic plan that will improve court responses for veterans and military families. This project will include developing and facilitating education focusing on the special needs of military families in a variety of case types as well as providing input on legislation, rules, and forms relevant to military families, such as the Notification of Military Status Form MIL-100, the revised version of which will go into effect on January 1, 2021 and will improve usability in non-criminal case-types.

Provide Subject Matter Expertise to the Juvenile Collaborative Justice Courts Subcommittee

The Juvenile Subcommittee of the Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee supports prevention and early intervention efforts to help youth involved in, or at risk of being involved in, the juvenile dependency or delinquency system. Issues the subcommittee is seeking to address include identifying a juvenile court model for mentally ill youth, examining ways in which to support stronger remote “school attendance” during the pandemic, considering new approaches to diversion programs for mental ill youth, and supporting local efforts to provide appropriate mental health screenings and medication assessments.

Support for Youth Courts

Youth Courts, also known as Peer Courts, are an alternative approach to the traditional juvenile justice system. These courts provide peer-based early intervention for at-risk youth. Work to help local courts implement and expand their Youth Court programs includes co-sponsoring and guiding the annual Youth Court Summit and Youth Court Roundtables, being held online in 2020 and early 2021, and developing and promoting tools, such as the recent California Youth Courts: A Toolkit and Planning Guide, designed to help Youth Courts maximize their effectiveness by employing best and evidence-based practices.

Girls' Court and Commercially Sexually Exploited Children

Program staff work to increase knowledge about courts specifically designed to meet the specific needs of girls who have a history of trauma or exploitation, and children of either gender who are survivors of Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC), or sex trafficking. This project created the Juvenile Collaborative Court Models: Girls' Court and CSEC Court briefing, and anticipated future products of this project include the release of a Girls' Court research study, a webinar entitled

Addressing Mental Health Needs in Juvenile Court: The Girls Court Experience, and a study providing the initial results of an evaluation comparing the outcomes of the Succeeding Through Achievement and Resilience Court in Los Angeles, helping underage survivors of sex trafficking, relative to those who went through traditional juvenile court.

California Department of Health Care Services and Department of Social Services CalAIM Foster Care Model of Care Workgroup

This workgroup will create a long-term plan for how children and foster youth receive health care services and provide an opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback on ways to improve the current system of care for children and youth in foster care. Goals of this group will include determining whether or not a new system of care should be developed, and will examine considerations for Former Foster Youth programs and those transitioning out of foster programs and services at age 26.

Contact:

Carrie Zoller, Supervising Attorney, Center for Families, Children & the Courts,
carrie.zoller@jud.ca.gov