



Celebrating an Unprecedented Reform Landscape and How Youth Can Redefine the Provider Class

Presented by

Alex Briscoe (he/him) Principal, California Children's Trust; Jevon Wilkes (he/him) Executive Director, California Coalition for Youth; Nghia Do (he/him) Student, Advocate, Youth Advisory Board Member with California Children's Trust; Aria Rani Sindledecker (she/her) Student, Advocate, Youth Advisory Board Member with California Children's Trust

**Thursday, May 11
10:30am - 11:30am
Merrill Hall**

The state's unprecedented investment in children and youth represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reimagine our mental health system centered on equity and justice. California's bold action acknowledges a growing national consensus that the mental health crisis among children has become a national emergency. Key to achieving the state's vision is creating a workforce that engages people with lived experience and expertise as peer providers, develops social models that rely on mutual aid, and works toward racially aligned service delivery. It is up to all of us to move these strategies from the margins to the center—and the career pathway starts with the growing Peer-to-Peer programs in middle and high schools.





Youth Perspectives: Eliminating Mental Health Stigma in Educational Systems

Presented by

Ana Agredano (she/her) Program Coordinator, Peer; Angel Carrasco (they/them)
Program Assistant, Peer

**Thursday, May 11
10:30am - 11:30am
Fred Farr**

In this roundtable discussion, we will be hearing the voices of youth and transitional age youth on sustainable solutions and practices educational systems could incorporate to work towards eliminating mental health and recovery stigma among young people.

Youth perspectives are imperative to bring into discussion as we bridge the gap between mental health, recovery, policy, stigma, and equity. We hope attendees will exit this discussion with a rejuvenated sense of hope for change, unity, and community.





Hearing the Voices

Presented by

Susan Morris Wilson (she/her) Advocate/CA Behavioral Health Planning Council;
Christine Marie Frey (she/her) Mental Health Advocate/Brain XP

**Thursday, May 11
10:30am - 11:30am
Marlin**

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) strongly emphasized the concept of stakeholder engagement when passed and implemented in 2004. MHSA includes a definition of stakeholders as does the CA Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC 5848). Counties are required to demonstrate a partnership with their constituents and stakeholders that includes meaningful stakeholder involvement on mental health policy, program planning and implementation, monitoring, quality improvement, evaluation and budget allocations. This workshop will discuss a system that can "hear the voices" of the wide variety of stakeholders, including youth, as the mental health and substance use systems do the work they are required to do.





Positive Spins

Presented by

David Perez (he/him) Training Coordinator

Thursday, May 11
10:30am - 11:30am
Sanderling

DJ culture has exploded into the mainstream in the last decade. Equipment, resources, and music are more accessible than ever. We see young people everywhere immersed in their headphones. There have been many studies that show how music influences the brain and affects emotion. What if we use DJing as a way to tap into the creativity of young people, build their confidence, and provide a different method of self-care?

Let's explore that together!





Equipping Frontline Staff for Trauma Informed Care

Presented by

James Freeman (he/him) Trainer

Thursday, May 11
10:30am - 11:30am
Triton

The quality of a residential, school, or community environment depends on the quality of interactions within the setting. This session explores what gives programs the best chance at partnering with youth and families for success in their personal and therapeutic goals. Participants will examine how leaders can support direct care staff to make their unique contribution to the quality of care and the development of a trauma-informed environment. Participants will learn how to increase trauma-informed interactions between staff and young people and family members in order to achieve the settled, healing, trauma-informed culture they want in their program.





"I Am a Peaceful Warrior" Strategies for Transformation, Advocacy and Compassion

Presented by

Dr. Michael Vallejo, professor, The University of La Verne; Beth LaVallee, Training Manager; Eric Kenneth, Student/Facilitator

**Thursday, May 11
10:30am – 12:00pm
Curlew**

Educators provide consistent support through critical life stages, but what happens when they burn out? Being able to effectively advocate for others requires energy, passion, and the ability to walk your talk. In the spirit of hope and advocating to empower today's youth, attendees of this session will be imparted with action-driven and community-centric skills, that align with positive psychology and provide a renewed perspective to energize them in their mission to guide and inspire youth. Additionally, student-to-youth advocate, Eric Kenneth will share his "Unbreakable Story" of how he overcame trauma and now helps adolescents through tough transitions.





Restorative Processes for Youth and Adult

Presented by

Seya Lumeya (he/him) Director of VORP at the Community Justice Center; Jaime Leyva (he/him) Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA) Program Director

Thursday, May 11
10:30am - 12:00pm
Scripps

This session will provide details on how one of the restorative justice programs at the Community Justice Center in Fresno is saving lives, time and money. In a collaborative effort of Fresno County's Juvenile Court, Probation Department, District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office and the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP), young people charged with misdemeanor and certain felony offenses engage in a restorative process with their families and the victims of their offenses. Most youth diversion programs provide services pre-court or post adjudication. However, VORP is the only youth program in the state of California that provides a restorative approach to crime while the juvenile is going through the Court. In 2016, UC Berkeley Law School published a five-year research study which found the program to be very effective. By both quantitative and qualitative measures, the VORP program has been found to be a highly successful and cost effective program that significantly reduced recidivism, put more money into the hands of victims, and meet the needs of victims as well as young people and their families.





Director of Parent and Caregiver Engagement

Presented by

Nancy Netherland (she/her); Ashley Monterrosa (she/her) advocate, educator, member of the California Children's Trust Youth Advisory Board; Jade Davis (she/her) Program Assistant, advocate, member of the California Children's Trust Youth Advisory Board; Nghia Do (he/him) student at Stanford University, advocate, member of the California Children's Trust Youth Advisory Board

**Thursday, May 11
1:30pm - 2:30pm
Merrill Hall**

Caregivers are the earliest and best advocates for children, and have the lived experience and expertise to inform how and where system changes can occur to ensure access. Caregivers can and need to shape policy and procedures. Equally important, caregivers have a central role in making sure the systems of care recognize the agency and expertise of their children and youth even prior to their legal rights to consent to their own care. This session will be a robust discussion amongst youth and caregivers on the importance of having their voices at the table to reimagine mental health delivery.





EPSDT Funding Choices: A Critical Barrier to Care

Presented by

Patrick Gardner (he/him) Attorney

Thursday, May 11
1:30pm - 3:00pm
Fred Farr

California's discretionary EPSDT funding allocations under 2011 Realignment have severely limited access to specialty mental health services in counties that received proportionately less state funding. Hundreds of thousands of youths have not received adequate care because they resided in these "underwater" counties. This workshop will show why and how this happened, and explore equitable funding options for Medi-Cal specialty mental health services that ensure all eligible youths are adequately served.





How Many Ways Can I Love Me

Presented by

Adriane Miles-Patterson (she/her)

Thursday, May 11
1:30pm - 3:00pm
Marlin

We will deal with CASEL SEL foundations in relationship skills, self-awareness, social awareness, and social awareness. Handouts and discussions about what was successful about the session. We will also address student needs in a shared space that helps students build bridges. The presentation will support the conference vision by demonstrating a creative way to build community among female students by setting boundaries, identifying interests, and identifying vulnerabilities that can be exploited (sex trafficking characteristics).





Bring Change to Mind - Youth as Advocates for Change

Presented by

Jessie Bucci (she/her) California Program Associate

**Thursday, May 11
1:30pm - 2:30pm
Sanderling**

Advocating for Change - Bring Change to Mind (BC2M) equips teens with the language and confidence to talk about mental health related topics. Utilizing resources provided by BC2M, teens are empowered to talk about mental illness in a well-informed way. With BC2M, advocacy for changing conversations within schools and communities regarding mental health is encouraged.





Survivance and Healing Amid Multiple Challenges: The Power of Narratives, Storytelling and Relational Practices for Social Justice

Presented by

Matthew R. Mock, PhD (he/him) Professor of Psychology Berkeley, CA

**Thursday, May 11
1:30pm - 3:00pm
Triton**

As a nation of increasing cultural diversity, we remain in continuous periods of dynamic mental health and health care transformation. At the same time, recent years have surfaced the racial trauma and divides that some, especially ethnic and racial individuals, communities, face continuously. Ethnically diverse and disempowered individuals, families and communities have encountered racial traumas and systemic injustices in the past as well as in present day. Yet they have survived, and some have even thrived. Our survivance and healing amid multiple challenges for children, youth and families have been more evident with recent events. The power of narratives, storytelling and relational practices for social justice has become more evident in current contexts.

There has been research and documentation of the importance of indigenous and historical, ancestral cultural practices as sources of in-community survivance, strength as well as resilience. These indigenous lessons including storytelling and remembrances can be deeply meaningful and effective sources of healing as community-defined evidence, or practice-based evidence which may well eventually become evidence-based practices. We need to deeply understand and appreciate these age-old practices. This engaging workshop will present innovations in survivance and resilience-building as well as understanding the impact of trauma along innovations for the youth, family and child system to promote improved outcomes.





Collective Healing Through the Movement Arts

Presented by

Susan Andrien (she/her) Clinical Director; Mike Lee (he/him) Deputy Director of Programs; Tesfaye Miche (he/him) Martial Arts and Somatics Director

**Thursday, May 11
1:30pm - 3:00pm
Curlew**

The movement arts provide opportunities to engage in community, increase feelings of belonging and mitigate the impact of toxic stress. Participation in the arts have been proven to lead to increased academic performance, improved attendance rates, and positive attitudes about school, reduction in disciplinary infractions as well as increased self-discipline, self-efficacy, pro-social behavior, empathy, and community identity. We will provide and experiential workshop that introduces you to Healing Through Movement Groups, including the framework that supports this innovative intervention in schools and community youth serving agencies.





BASES Learning Center - Committing to Student Success

Presented by

Aaron Benton (he/him) SELPA Director; Melanie Quave (she/her) Principal

**Thursday, May 11
1:30pm - 2:30pm
Scripps**

Attendees will learn about the journey taken by the Butte County community in creating BASES Learning Center, a uniquely designed SELPA-operated school that serves students with intensive social emotional challenges. The BASES Principal and SELPA Director will reflect on the development of the program, their learnings, key successes, and pitfalls to avoid. Attendees will walk away with practical information and materials designed for use with this student population.





Legacy Hope Dealers

Presented by

Michael Baldwin (he/him) Executive Director; Alex Bequette (he/him) Program Director; John Elwess (he/him) Formerly Incarcerated Mentor; Amelia Rodriguez (she/her) Mentor; Neri Cruz Marquez (she/her) Youth; Sarah Smith (she/her) Formerly Incarcerated Mentor; Sammy Provencio (he/him); Aydah El (he/him) Youth; Modesto Police Officer (To Be determined)

Friday, May 12
9:00am - 10:30am
Fred Farr

Legacy Alliance Hope Dealers brings youth, law enforcement, individuals with lived experience, mental health providers, and incarcerated community members together to create social change and a cultural shift that affects all involved as well as the surrounding community. The trauma informed, culturally responsive approach within our process allows for each individual to feel safe, heard and valued while stretching them beyond their comfort zone.





Connecting Restorative Justice and SEL

Presented by

Beatriz Alcazar (she/ella) Social Worker; Ryan Virden (he/him) Consultant

Friday, May 12
9:00am - 10:30am
Scripps

Restorative Justice has become a buzz word in schools and organizations. Implementation often fails to incorporate an equity and social-emotional learning lens. This presentation will highlight the importance of re-thinking how we bring restorative justice practices into our organizations. We discuss the incorporation of relationship development, student social-emotional capacity development and equity when it comes to restorative practices through story-telling and narrative experiences.





Cultivating Hope and Positivity: Practical Brain Based Strategies

Presented by

Liz Perez-Cordero (she/ella) Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Certified Professional Coach, Behavioral Health Services Manager for Monterey County

**Friday, May 12
9:00am - 10:30am
Curlew**

Hope is associated with many positive outcomes, including greater happiness, better academic achievement, and even lowered risk of death. It's a necessary ingredient for getting through tough times, of course, but also for meeting everyday goals. We will review the science of hope and practical strategies to build a more hopeful lifestyle. There is no single formula, but there are things we can do to help cultivate hope even in the face of the immense challenges we continue to face as individuals and organizations.





Hope & Advocacy in Any Space

Presented by

Dr. Ann Veu (she/her) Professional Learning & Innovation Manager; Victoria Soria, MS Ed. (she/her) Curriculum Coordinator

Friday, May 12
9:00am - 10:30am
Marlin

What better time than now to look at how our current systems support our communities and youth? In order to mobilize individuals to create change in any context, leaders need tools to assess the groups' readiness for change prior to the implementation of a program or initiative. In this interactive workshop, participants will learn about two drivers that create intentional and sustainable change, change efficacy and change capacity, and how to apply these levers to sustain hope, optimism and advocacy in their unique space.





Leadership in Trauma-Informed Care

Presented by

James Freeman (he/him) Trainer

Friday, May 12
9:00am - 10:00am
Triton

Now more than ever youth and family serving organizations need confident and effective leaders at every level to support the workforce and provide high-quality services in their communities. This workshop will explore key elements of quality leadership in trauma-informed organizations essential for individuals currently (or with potential for) roles as a lead, supervisor, manager, or director.

Participants will be introduced to the challenges of leading trauma-informed teams and organizations. The essential elements of trauma-informed leadership will be presented along with how motives and strengths shift in different contexts in which a leader is expected to navigate. Workshop participants will see the connection between quality leadership and the health and performance of the workforce.





Working Together: The Team that Puts Success First

Presented by

Janell Mercer, LMFT, (she/her) Clinical Supervisor; Alexander Schwarz, AMFT, (him/his) Clinician; Monica Elizalde (she/her) Mental Health Specialist; Glenda McCauley (she/her) Family Parent Partner

**Friday, May 12
9:00am - 10:00am
Sanderling**

This workshop will present the strategy we've used to make a strong and cohesive team, how we've learned and tapped into the different skills of each team member, and how it comes together to create a positive outcome with the youth and families we serve in our Success First/Early Wraparound Program at Victor Community Support Services in San Bernardino. We will dive deep into how our team approach impacts staff resiliency and reduces burnout and how our approach improves the quality of service and outcomes to youth and families in the community. This is a vital topic that will also explore how we manage change, such as turnover, programmatic changes, county changes, etc. It's our hope that participants will leave with a renewed sense of teamwork.





"I Am a Peaceful Warrior" Strategies for Transformation, Advocacy and Compassion

Presented by

Dr. Michael Vallejo, professor, The University of La Verne; Beth LaVallee, Training Manager; Eric Kenneth, Student/Facilitator

**Thursday, May 11
10:30am – 12:00pm
Curlew**

Educators provide consistent support through critical life stages, but what happens when they burn out? Being able to effectively advocate for others requires energy, passion, and the ability to walk your talk. In the spirit of hope and advocating to empower today's youth, attendees of this session will be imparted with action-driven and community-centric skills, that align with positive psychology and provide a renewed perspective to energize them in their mission to guide and inspire youth. Additionally, student-to-youth advocate, Eric Kenneth will share his "Unbreakable Story" of how he overcame trauma and now helps adolescents through tough transitions.





Honoring LGBTQ+ Intersectionality: An Experiential Approach to Allyship

Presented by

Dr. Dana Wyss (she/her) Clinical Training Specialist III; Vanessa Garcia (they/them)
Training Coordinator

Friday, May 12
9:00am - 10:00am
Toyon

This experiential workshop provides a space for participants to create an art piece that tells the story of their own gender and ally experience. Through this activity, participants will be encouraged to explore ways in which they can continue to grow their current allyship via self-discovery and discussion. Participants will be encouraged to dialogue about: historical and current gender sociopolitics, personal gender perspectives, and how these paradigms influence individual LGBTQ+ allyship and the LGBTQ+ community; and the importance of acknowledging intersectionality and personal culture when honoring someone's gender identity, expression, and attractions.

