



**An Overview of Findings**

# **EDC Children Services**

**Submitted by Behavioral Health Commission  
Children's Services Ad Hoc Committee**

# **EDC Behavioral Health Service**

**Behavioral Health is a part of a larger System of Care that provides mental health treatment services. Our services are carved out of the available Medi-Cal funded system to only address individuals who have been diagnosed with a serious mental illness (SMI - adults) or who have a severe emotional disturbance (SED - children and youth). In addition, a wide array of services is provided through MHSA funding.**

# The System

## *What are its components?*



**Entry**

Access



**Treatment**

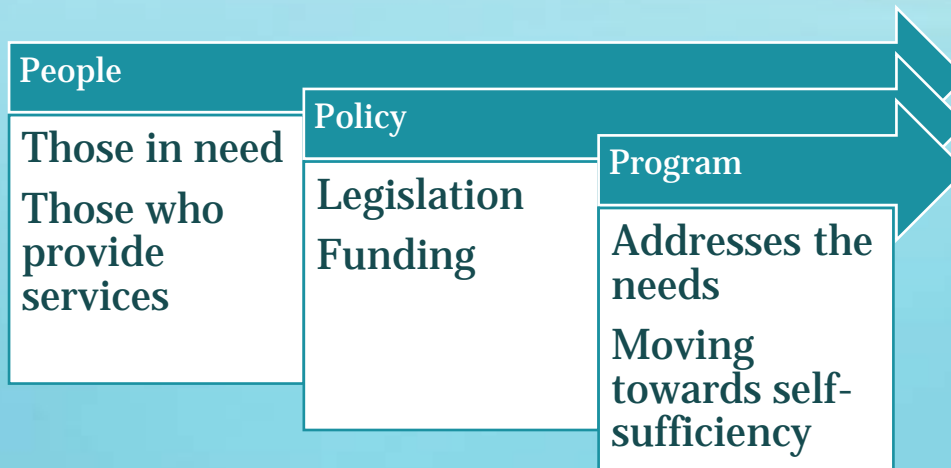
Services



**Resiliency**

- Funding □ Policy
- Program □ Partners

## *What drives it?*



# Entry Gap

*How do I access the system?*

Schools

Community  
Hubs

Hospital

Child Welfare  
System

Another County

# Entry Gap

Lack of awareness of direct lines to help navigate the system

Access line (530) 621-6290 and 1-800-929-1955

Crisis line

West Slope (530) 622-3345

Tahoe (530) 544-2219

*New Mandate! Development of Family Urgent Response System  
targeted for Foster Youth and former Foster Youth*

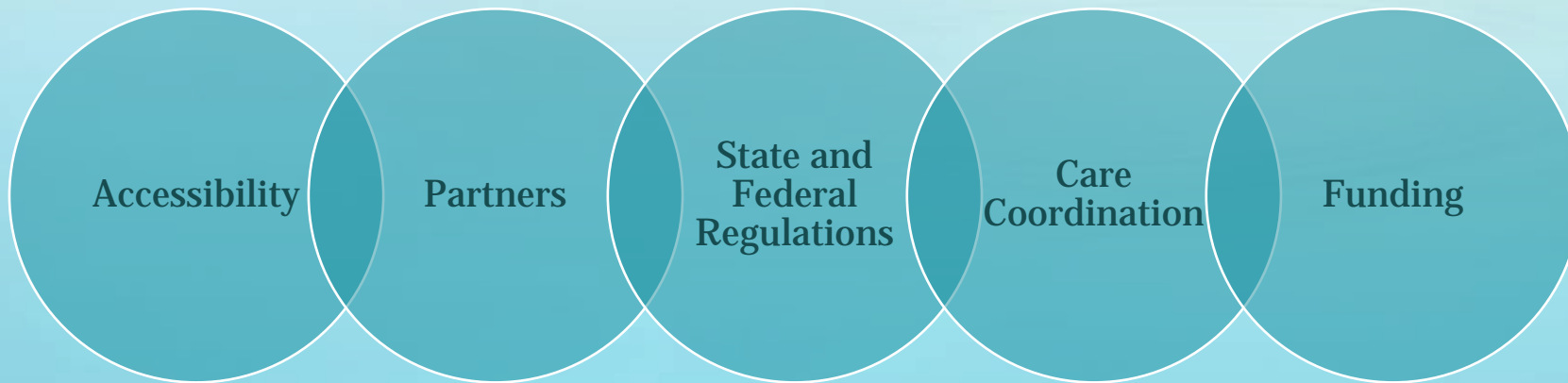
Currently being developed through interdepartmental effort  
between Probation, Child Welfare Services, and EDC  
Behavioral Health Team

# **Entry Recommendation**

- Launch an awareness campaign focused on accessing the system

# Treatment Services

*What drives this system component?*



# Treatment Service Gaps

- What did we learn from contract providers
- Accessibility to services
- Funding
- Coordination of care
- Respite Care



# What did we learn from contract providers?

***New Morning*** - Substance and Drug Abuse program recently reinstated

- Need to get the word out
- Level of youth residential treatment availability a concern
  - Role of Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS)
- Lack of sober activities
- Build adult and peer mentoring program

## ***Tahoe Youth and Family Services***

- Shortage of qualified staff is hampering service delivery
- Coordination with Juvenile Detention Center
- Working with Probation's Mental Health Program Coordinator

## ***Sierra Child and Family Services***

- Community based mental health services for foster and adoptive families
- What would the agency like to see from the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC)
  - could be more active in pursuing and agendizing matters relating to children
  - BHC review and comment on legislation impacting children's services
  - Develop a Children Services Committee within the BHC
  - increased interaction with Child Welfare Services (EDC CWS) to identify gaps in services for foster children

## ***Stanford Sierra Youth and Family***

- High Fidelity Wraparound Model which the Child and Family Team (CFT) meeting process
- Flex funding for out-of-box treatment consistent with family mental health/wrap around objectives

## ***EDC Behavioral Health***

- Plays a major role in the interdepartmental and interagency coordination of care/services
- Oversees all contracted providers in quality of care and compliance with state and federal regulations

# **Accessibility to Services**

- Remote areas
- Out of County
- Latino Community
- Access Unit
- Connectivity and Telehealth issues during COVID-19

## **Remote Areas**

- Wellness Centers
- Telehealth therapy
- Getting qualified therapist

## **Out of County**

- How services are funded make immediate continuation of treatment services more difficult
- Foster and adopt children face challenges in continuum of care which validates need for presumptive transfer policy



# **Latino Community**

- Removing the stigma
- Broad range of outreach through contract providers
- Ongoing challenges

## **Access Unit**

- More robust coordination of care
- Better communication between service providers as youth transitions from one phase to another

# Funding

- Medi-Cal issues

A gap in mild to moderate treatment

CalAIM California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal Legislation

- Private insurance

Not having sufficient in network providers

- Medi-Cal not approved therapies

Flex funding resources for specific therapies

- System of care for treatment of physical health versus mental health  
Funding impacts

# Coordination of Care

- Schools  
Mental Health funding received through Educationally Related Mental Health services (ERMHS)
- Group homes  
Provide Wrap Around Services

# Respite Care

- Identified Need
- Current services available

# Treatment Service Recommendations

- Further identify the relationship between Youth and Family Commission and Behavioral Health Commission
- Support County staff in the development of a Respite Care program
- Provide an opportunity for contract providers to present to the full commission
- Support the development of a strategy to strengthen care coordination between agencies
- Develop a response to challenges in care coordination as youth transition from group home to assimilation to broader community
- Providing treatment services for mild to moderate through a more robust system of care
- Support staff and contract providers in identifying funding opportunities for specific therapies not generally covered by Medi-Cal

# **Transitioning to Self-Sufficiency**

*What is the plan?*

# Transitioning to Self-Sufficiency Gaps

- Patient Rights Advocate
- Care Coordination



# Transitioning to Self-Sufficiency

## Recommendations

- Development of an ombudsman program that works with the Patient Rights Advocate
- Better communicate the benefits the Access Unit provides
- Develop a communication strategy between agencies regarding services/resources available as youth transitions from one phase to another
- Increase awareness of adult programs should there be a need for system re-entry

# **System Resilience/Maintenance**

*What providing services during a pandemic has taught us?*