



## **CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE 2022 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA PRIORITY POLICY, LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET ITEMS**

These priorities are developed through CA Alliance member committees and are approved by the Board of Directors. They reflect the primary areas of advocacy for 2022 and are built from our more comprehensive [2022 Policy Platform](#). The CA Alliance’s commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion is embedded in these efforts as we attend to the design of legislation, and the implementation of resulting policy and regulations.

### **WORKFORCE**

#### **1) Advocate for and support efforts to expand the children’s services and behavioral healthcare workforce**

- Provide scholarships for master’s level students committing to work in community-based organizations (CBOs)
- Influence and/or advance legislation to reduced administrative burden related to documentation, address contractual issues
- Advocate for rate structure that ensures adequate pay for staff in community-based organizations
- Influence state funding and disbursement that supports CBOs and their employees
- Advance the budget requests and regulatory solutions outlined in CA Alliance’s [“Proposal to Address Urgent Workforce Needs in Children’s Mental Health”](#)

### **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

#### **1) CalAIM**

- Ensure that finance structure is adequate, and develop opportunities for providers
- Ensure timely access to care and improve health outcomes for foster and probation youth
- Ensure that all children and youth eligible for specialty mental health services through Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) have access to services that are medically necessary
- Provide policy feedback through workgroups, policy letters, stakeholder opportunities

#### **2) Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI)**

- Influence key areas of the CYBHI impacting CA Alliance member organizations
- Develop strategies for integrating CYBHI efforts with other state and local initiatives and funding

#### **3) Influence policy, best practices and expansion in school-based mental health services**

- Advocate for school-based mental health services that are available to all students through partnerships with community-based organizations (CBOs)
- Participate in coalitions engaged in technical assistance in the development of school-based mental health
- Advocate for funding of CBOs in partnership with Local Education Areas (LEAs), County Offices of Education (COEs), County Behavioral Health Departments (MHPs) and Managed Care Plans (MCPs)

#### **4) Increase engagement with commercial insurance groups and managed care organizations to expand members access to working with these groups**

- 5) **Advocate for funding of CBOs in partnership** with Local Education Agencies (LEAs), County Offices of Education (COEs), County Behavioral Health Departments (BHDs) and Managed Care Plans (MCPs), including specifically in the rollout of the California Community Schools Partnership Program

#### **FAMILY-BASED SERVICES**

1) **Ensure stability of Foster Family Agencies**

- Advocate for Foster Family Agency (FFA) cost of living increase (COLA) through budget request for two years until new rate structure is developed

2) **Sponsor legislation and budget request to fund Family Finding and Engagement**

3) **Ensure legally sound implementation of the Private Adoption Agency Reimbursement Program**

4) **Advocate for expansion of high fidelity Wraparound services**

5) **Increase individualized programs for foster youth with unmet complex care needs**

#### **RESIDENTIAL/CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICES**

1) **Family First Prevention Services Act and Continuum of Care Reform Implementation**

- Sponsor legislation to create Children’s Crisis Residential Programs (CCRP) through Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF)
- Resolve Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)/Institution of Mental Disease (IMD) Issue
  - Adequately fund transition of STRTPs identified as IMDs
  - Actively participate in 1115 Waiver request for STRTPs

2) **Ensure stability for STRTPs**

- Sponsor budget request for COVID relief to STRTPs
- Advocate for reduced regulatory burdens and system barriers
- Advocate for adequate resources for STRTPs
- Alleviate documentation burden for STRTPs

3) **Influence the implementation of the Crisis Continuum of Care pilots to ensure access to much-needed crisis services for children and youth**

#### **EDUCATION**

1) **Special Education Funding Information and Policy**

- Ensure that Alliance member agencies are briefed regularly on proposed changes to California’s special ed funding and governance structure and ensure that children and youth in nonpublic schools are treated equitably in proposed changes to the funding allocations
- Ensure the changes to special education funding and governance structures are inclusive of all students, including foster youth, transitional aged youth and those served in nonpublic schools

2) **Engagement in Statewide Education Initiatives**

- Ensure that there is robust statewide data reflecting the work of Alliance member agencies
- Ensure that information on statewide education initiatives are shared with member agencies, and that the Alliance facilitates opportunities for members to engage
- Ensure member engagement in statewide initiatives as appropriate (i.e. Community Schools Investment Partnership)
- Ensure broad representation in CDE initiative studying California nonpublic schools

### **3) Coalition Building**

- Facilitate connections at the State and Local levels to ensure innovative partnerships between members and education stakeholders.

## TRANSITION AGE YOUTH

### **1) Build capacity of Transitional Housing Programs (THPs) serving Transition Age Youth (TAY)**

- Co-sponsor legislation to augment existing THPs and expand eligibility requirements for TAY
- Monitor implementation of regulations for THPs and advocate as needed
- Advocate for supplemental rate increases for both THP-NMDs and THP-Plus to address increasing cost of housing and program implementation

### **2) Addressing Homelessness Among Former Foster Youth**

- Supporting efforts to create accessible housing navigation services and affordable housing opportunities for TAY
- Advocating for the inclusion of youth-specific set-asides in all existing and proposed State allocations to support unhoused community members
- Bring youth focus to coalitions aimed at supporting those experiencing homelessness
- Sponsor pilot program aimed at curtailing the rate of LGBTQ+, youth of color, and former foster youth that fall into homelessness

## PREVENTION

### **1) Advocate for expansion of community-based supports for families**

- Co-sponsor budget request to fund Family Resource Centers
- Advocate for financing structure that ensures providers are fully reimbursed through a process that integrates MediCal and Title IVE funds through County agency collaboration

### **2) Promote Appropriate Implementation of the Families First Prevention Services Act (Part 1)**

- Monitor and provide input as the Office of Child Abuse Prevention revises California's Five-Year State Prevention Plan, as well as subsequent interactions with County Child Welfare Agencies regarding their County Prevention Plans

- Advocate for models used by Alliance members to be included in the federal Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse and the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare

**3) Encourage Desirable Rollout of the California Community Schools Partnership Program**

- Monitor and provide input as the California Department of Education administers the first round of applications and awards for Planning and Implementation Grants
- Advocate for the greatest possible collaboration between Local Education Agencies and Community Based Organizations to provide robust support to children and families