

Behavioral Health Services Children, Youth and Families Council - Overview



History: On December 12, 1995, the County Board of Supervisors supported recommendations to transform the Children's Mental Health System. A Children's Mental Health Services System of Care Steering Committee was established, a Public, Private and Family partnership. In 2004, this committee evolved into the Children's Mental Health Services System of Care Council, a four-sector partnership:

Public: This includes, but is not limited, to entities that represent local government: San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA): Behavioral Health Services, Behavioral Health Advisory Board, Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities, Public Health Services, Medical Care Services, Child and Family Well Being (CFWB) Department, Office of Child Safety, CFWB Department - Office of Child and Family Strengthening - First 5 San Diego, and it also includes the County's Public Safety Group - Juvenile Probation Department, and Juvenile Court.

Private: Includes the Children, Youth and Families (CYF) System of Care contracted providers. They are also organized with the Mental Health Contractors Association, Alcohol and Drug Providers Association, Fee-For-Service (FFS) Network, Healthcare - Pediatricians, Managed Care Plans, and the San Diego Regional Center.

Family: Youth and families who have lived experience receiving or who have received services from agencies serving children, and/or parents/caregivers of individuals that are receiving or have received services from agencies serving children.

Education: Representatives are usually also part of the Public Sector but represent Education. Constituencies represented in the Council are the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA), School Districts, Regular Education-Pupil Personnel Services, School Boards, Special Education, and the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE).

The Council serves in an advisory capacity to the Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Director, Dr. Luke Bergmann, and operates according to its by-laws adopted in March 2006 and last revised December 19, 2023.

BHS Staff to the Council: Yael Koenig, BHS Deputy Director

BHS Administrative Support: Edith Mohler, Darwin Espejo, and Rhonda Crowder.

Children, Youth and Families Council – History of the Vision, Mission, and Principles:

In 2010, the principles were updated and refined to complement the Live Well, San Diego! initiative (Currently, Live Well vision). In 2016, the Trauma Informed principle was added. In 2017, an Ad Hoc Sub-Committee started working on adding the Persistence principle and completed further refinements to align with the BHS Ten Year Roadmap [Board Letters: January 26, 2016 (06) and July 19, 2016 (07)]. A CYF Council System of Care Principles document was unveiled on May 14, 2018.

Council Vision: Wellness for children, youth and families throughout their lifespan.

Council Mission: Advance systems and services to ensure that children and youth are healthy, safe, lawful, successful in school and in their transition to adulthood, while living in nurturing homes with families.

Council Principles:

1. **Collaboration of four sectors:** Coordination and shared responsibility between child/youth/family, public agencies, private organizations, and education.
2. **Integrated:** Services and supports are coordinated, comprehensive, accessible, and efficient.
3. **Child, Youth, and Family Driven:** Child, youth, and family voice, choice, and lived experience are sought, valued, and prioritized in service delivery, program design and policy development.
4. **Individualized:** Services and supports are customized to fit the unique strengths and needs of children, youth and families.
5. **Strength-based:** Services and supports identify and utilize knowledge, skills, and assets of children, youth, families, and their community.
6. **Community-based:** Services are accessible to children, youth and families and strengthen their connections to natural supports and local resources.
7. **Outcome driven:** Outcomes are measured and evaluated to monitor progress and to improve services and satisfaction.
8. **Culturally Competent:** Services and supports respect diverse beliefs, identities, cultures, preference, and represent linguistic diversity of those served.
9. **Trauma Informed:** Services and supports recognize the impact of trauma and chronic stress, respond with compassion, and commit to the prevention of re-traumatization and the promotion of self-care, resiliency, and safety.
10. **Persistence:** Goals are achieved through action, coordination, and perseverance regardless of challenges and barriers.

Membership: Limited to 25 voting members, the Council represents the Family/Youth, Public, Private and Education sectors; members are appointed by the Behavioral Health Director/designee to serve a two-year term that may be renewed.

Council Members are expected to:

1. Attend monthly Council meetings. If unable to attend, the designated alternate is expected to attend.
2. When meetings are held in person, sit at the Council members' table. When a member is absent, the alternate representative will sit at the table.
3. Align meeting discussions and presentations to the CYF System of Care (SOC) Principles, Live Well San Diego vision, and the values written in the County General Management System Reimagined: Integrity, Belonging, Equity, Excellence, Access, and Sustainability: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/cao/gms.html>
4. Indoctrinate incoming members into the Council.
5. Inform constituents of BHS activities related to children, youth and families, and promote discussion and input.

Council - 25 active seats:	
Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) (1 seat)	Behavioral Health Services (BHS) (1 seat)
Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities (1 seat)	CFWB Department Office of Child Safety (1 seat)
Public Safety Group (PSG)/Probation (1 seat)	Juvenile Court (1 seat)
Public Health Services (PHS) (1 seat)	CFWB Department – Office of Child and Family Strengthening First 5 San Diego (1 seat)
Medical Care Services (MCS) (1 seat)	Special Education (1 seat)
School Board (1 seat)	Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPA) (1 seat)
Regular Education-Pupil Personnel Services (1 seat)	San Diego Regional Center for Developmentally Disabled (1 seat)
Managed Care Plans (1 seat)	Alcohol and Drug Service Provider Association (ADSPA) (2 seats)
Mental Health Contractors Association (MHCA) (2 seats)	Fee-For-Service Network (1 seat)
Healthcare/Pediatrician (1 seat)	Caregiver of child/youth served by the public health system (1 seat)
Family and Youth (1 seat)	Youth served by the public health system-through age 25 (2 seats)

Council Committees and linked Committees/Groups:	
Executive	Outcomes
Family and Youth Sector (Youth Family Support Partners)	Annual Youth Mental Health Well Being Celebration
Education Sector (Ad Hoc)	CYF Change Agents Developing Recovery Excellence (CADRE)
Private Sector (Ad Hoc)	Training Academy
Early Childhood	

Regular Reports to Council:	
All active Council Committees	Cultural Competence Resource Team (CCRT)
Private Sector inclusive of: Mental Health Contractors Association (MHCA) Alcohol and Drug Service Provider Association (ADSPA) Managed Care Plans (MCP) Regional Center	Public Sector inclusive of: PSG / Probation / Juvenile Court PHS / MCS / CFWB BHAB
Education Sector	Family and Youth Sector
Transition Age Youth (TAY) Council	

**Council General Meeting Schedule
(Meeting dates and times subject to change)**

- **When:** Second Monday of each month.
 - **Time:** 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.
 - **Where:** Virtual meetings – Meeting link obtained through Darwin Espejo.
 - To be added to email distribution list, contact Darwin Espejo at Darwin.Espejo@sdcounty.ca.gov or call 619-606-8733
- Additional Council information, including all approved meeting summaries, are posted in the Council website:
https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/bhs/mental_health_services_children/CYFBHSCouncil.html