

Child Mental Health Work Group

Statutory and/or Budget Language

\$107,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and \$107,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 are provided solely for the office to support the children and youth behavioral health work group created in chapter 130, Laws of 2020 (child. mental health wk. grp).

Purpose

The purpose of these funds is to support the convening of the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group's School-based Behavioral Health & Suicide Prevention (SBBHSP) Subcommittee. The purpose of the SBBHSP Subcommittee is to Advise the CYBHWG on creating and maintaining an integrated system of care through a tiered support framework for preschool through twelfth grade school systems that can:

- Rapidly identify students in need of care and effectively link these students to appropriate services
- Provide age-appropriate education on behavioral health and other universal supports for social-emotional wellness for all students, and
- Improve both education and behavioral health outcomes for students.

The SBBHSP does this by submitting policy recommendations for consideration by the CYBHWG each fall.

Description of Services Provided

Funds are used to Co-Chair and staff the school-based Behavioral Health and Suicide Prevention Subcommittee of the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group. The Subcommittee convenes monthly meetings of members which include youth and young adults, parents of P-12 students, behavioral health staff at schools/districts/ESDs, staff at behavioral health organizations that work in schools, and staff of advocacy organizations and academic centers of excellence focused on school-based behavioral health supports. This year, staffing and leadership work at OSPI included planning agendas for monthly meetings, facilitating bi-monthly meetings, recruiting and relationship-building with members (included students and family members with lived experience), seeking relevant speakers/presentation topics for monthly meetings, providing administrative and programmatic support for ongoing Subcommittee work, synthesizing recommendation information, coordinating with CYBHWG leadership and other CYBHWG subgroup leads, working with members to develop recommendation proposals, and representing the Subcommittee in front of the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group. In addition to regular monthly meetings, staff hosted four additional workforce workshops, including one specifically for youth and family members with



lived experience, and recruited, interviewed for, and onboarded a youth lead and a family lead to strengthen ongoing engagement with youth and family members.

Criteria for Receiving Services and/or Grants

Legislation offers funding for OSPI to convene the SBBHSP Subcommittee of the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group. This proviso does not include grants.

Beneficiaries in the 2023-24 School Year

Number of School Districts	N/A
Number of Schools	N/A
Number of Students	N/A
Number of Educators	N/A
Other	N/A

Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No

State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2024	\$107,000	\$94,229
2023	\$107,000	\$107,000
2022	\$107,000	\$79,991
2021	\$107,000	\$0

Number of Beneficiaries Per Fiscal Year (e.g. School Districts, Schools, Students, Educators, Other)

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2024	0
2023	0
2022	0
2021	0

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

This year, staff expanded the scope of SBBHSP's work on engaging youth and family members with lived experience. The SBBHSP Subcommittee now also serves as the advisory committee for Project AWARE.

Program Evaluation or Evaluation of Major Findings

The School-based Behavioral Health and Suicide Prevention Subcommittee creates and advances recommendations to the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group each fall. The Subcommittee drafted four new priority recommendations for the 2024 legislative session, which were due to the CYBHWG in October 2023. Through the spring and summer of 2024, the SBBHSP drafted four additional new priority recommendations, and one legacy recommendation (to continue SBBHSP recommendation mental health literacy work funded by the legislature last session) for this year, which were due to the larger work group on October 1st, 2024.

This year, staff moved the time/dates of regular subcommittee meetings based on the preferences indicated by members in the member recruitment survey at the beginning of the year. Instead of meeting on the first Friday of every-even numbered month from 9a-12p, the group met monthly on (roughly) the third Wednesday of each month from 3-5pm. The change in meeting time supports further engagement from youth and family members with lived experience during regular meetings. Staff also created new youth and family lead positions to further engage members with lived experience.

Staff consistently connected with the OSPI Government Relations team during and throughout the group's policy recommendation process, resulting in better coordination between SBBHSP and CYBHWG work and OPSI policy work related to school behavioral health.

Major Challenges Faced by the Program

Completion of recommendation efforts in the allowed time given the complex nature of the work remains a challenge, especially with the consolidation of co-chair responsibilities and primary staffing under one role. Through HB 1890 (2022), the Subcommittee has been able to offer stipends for participation in meetings to members with lived experience the last two years. These stipends have greatly increased parent/guardian, family members, and youth participation over the last two years. In addition, we received additional support from our new youth and family leaders. However, maintaining active engagement, given the time and length of Subcommittee meetings, and dedicating the necessary staff time to fully engage the youth and family leads was a challenge.

There was a delay in member recruitment that delayed the initiation of work.

Future Opportunities

Subcommittee staff will continue to work toward recruiting more regionally, demographically, and professionally diverse members to fill gaps in member representation in the upcoming second year of the group's two-year membership cycle. Staff will also work to engage members in the identification of ideas for inviting more diverse voices across the state to present information to the group. Staff will continue to explore creative ways to encourage and

incorporate the voices of youth and family with lived experience seeking school-based behavioral health supports into Subcommittee decision-making, including meeting proactively with youth and family leads to ensure members with lived experience have more of their voice represented in the planning of meeting agenda.

Subcommittee staff will work toward hosting regular annual in-person engagement opportunities, the first of which is planned for Nov. 8, 2024, in Tumwater. The goal for 2025 is to host an in-person engagement event on the east side of the state.

Staff will work to engage the group in priority topics from 2024 that weren't represented/addressed in the SBBHSP's recommendations for the 2025 session by inviting relevant experts working on those priority topics across the state to present at meetings next year.

For the group's 2024 recommendations, members were encouraged to submit policy proposals for the group to consider. However, the timeline for submitting proposals was too short, and advantaged groups with existing policy/advocacy shops. Staff plan to communicate recommendation timelines for next year further ahead of time and more clearly, to better enable members to participate in the generation of policy ideas.

Other Relevant Information

N/A

Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

[Click here to see a list of all OSPI grant recipients in the 2024 Fiscal Year.](#)

Program Contact Information

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