

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
PREVENTION SERVICES DIVISION**

**School Partnership Initiative:
Community Schools**

January 24, 2019

Background

On January 15, 2019, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved Motion 22-B along with an amendment to the initial motion. The initial motion instructed The Director of the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to identify potential funding sources of up to \$10 million in funding to the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) for enhancing mental health and well-being as well as addressing the prevention of mental illness among students, staff and others within LAUSD.

The amended motion instructed the Director of Mental Health, in coordination with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) and the Auditor-Controller (A-C), to develop a countywide plan to provide school based mental health services, including but not limited to, prevention and early intervention services, education, support, and outreach.

In response to both the original and amended motion, DMH, in collaboration with LAUSD, LACOE, the Chief Executive Office (CEO), and the A-C, is proposing to enhance school based mental health services countywide by providing supportive services, training, and coordination at selected school sites using the Community Schools Initiative (CSI) model focused on:

1. Developing trauma informed schools;
2. Developing community partnerships that reinforce mental health supports; and

The following describes the proposed Community Schools Initiative for both LAUSD and LACOE.

Program Description

Community schooling is an evidence-based school improvement framework that provides a model for addressing these priorities. It recognizes the role of family and community as key stakeholders who can work with educators to address external factors that influence student achievement, such as family circumstances, traumatic events, poverty, health, cultural differences, student engagement and others. Additionally, community schooling represents a site-based strategy of schools partnering with community agencies and allocating resources to provide an integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement.

There are four pillars that appear in most community schools: integrated student supports, expanded learning time and opportunities, family and community engagement, and collaborative leadership and practice. Using public schools as hubs, community schools offer a range of supports and opportunities to achieve the following results:

- Students attending school consistently;
- Students actively involved in learning and participating in their communities;
- Families increasingly involved with their children's education;
- Students succeeding academically;
- Healthy students - physically, socially, and emotionally



Successful community schooling relies on Community School Coordinators and Parent Liaisons. These school based positions will serve as a liaison with multiple Los Angeles County offices and agencies and assist the school community in understanding the community school framework, navigating the process of developing community schools, identifying resources, and fostering partnerships with county agencies and community-based organizations. The 10 coordinators and parent liaisons will engage in a professional learning community that will share, learn, and support one another. School coordinators will lead the work on assessing which services are most needed and will work with the school principal and agencies to bring identified services to the campus.

This initiative will co-locate several County resources at district sites. Some of the strategic county partners are:

- Child Support Services
- Children and Family Services
- Community Development Commission/Housing Authority
- Health Services
- Mental Health
- Parks & Recreation
- Probation
- Public Health
- Public Libraries
- Public Social Services

Target Population

For LAUSD, the target population to be served will be determined based on data from LAUSD identifying at-risk communities and school sites.

For LACOE, the target population to be served includes Children, youth and families residing in the following 10 pilot districts:

- Antelope Valley Union High
- Azusa Unified
- Bassett Unified
- Centinela Valley Union High
- Compton Unified
- Inglewood Unified
- Lynwood Unified
- Montebello Unified
- Paramount Unified
- Pomona Unified

The pilot districts for LACOE were identified based on an analysis of data included in *Measure of America's Portrait of LA County and LACDPH's Education and Health in LA County Report*, such as education index, underrepresented students, high school graduation rates, graduates with A-G requirements, student suspension rates, chronic absenteeism, and violent crimes.

MHSA Component Funding

Prevention and Early Intervention, Prevention component.

Intended Program Outcomes

The goal of community schooling is to improve the academic, emotional, and physical well-being of participating students so they improve their educational outcomes. Four key goals:

1. Increased academic performance based on reduced number of fails received



2. Decreased dropout rates
3. Reduced suspensions
4. Increased family engagement
5. Increased social connectedness

Estimated Budget (MHSA)

Establishing the Community School projects with both LAUSD and LACOE involves providing training to school staff and the hiring of full-time Community Schools Coordinators and part-time hourly Parent Liaisons. For LAUSD, the estimated budget over 3-years is up to \$10 million; for LACOE, the estimated budget over 3 years is \$8.2 million.