

Mental Health, Specialized Treatment, & Family Engagement Workgroup Summary

Subcommittee members:

Al Mance (Co-Lead) - Public Defender's Office
Megan Low (Co-lead) - Alameda County Bar Association
Vamsey Palagummi - Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission
Juan Taizan - ACBH
Emily Young - Delinquency Prevention Network

Subject Matter Experts:

Jessica Fort - ACPD
Corrine Lee - ACPD
Joshua Paulos - ACBH
Kelvin Potts - Positive Communication Practices
Shane Thomas - ACPD
Dr. Monique Khumalo

The Mental Health, Specialized Treatment, & Family Engagement workgroup has been meeting consistently since the end of June. The workgroup's co-leads have also been meeting weekly with Impact Justice to develop meeting agendas and discuss priorities for the week. In early August, Alameda County Behavioral Health (ACBH) presented a proposal of services for youth in the SB 823 program and members had the opportunity to provide their feedback.

Also since early August, Dr. Monique Khumalo has been supporting the workgroup as a subject matter expert in developing the workgroup's plan. Overall, workgroup members have been very receptive to Dr. Khumalo's recommendations and have been actively providing their input during meeting discussions and offline in between sessions. To ensure consistency across workgroups, the Mental Health and Core Programming & Facilities leads met September 1 to discuss how Dr. Khumalo's therapeutic milieu proposal will be incorporated into core programming. Following this meeting, at the September 2 workgroup meeting, Dr. Khumalo presented a draft of the plan that includes the workgroup's feedback and main priorities. The workgroup's feedback will be incorporated into the final plan.

The main themes that have been covered during the workgroup and which are included in the current plan proposal, are outlined below:

- The integration of mental health into a more comprehensive service delivery system that includes all program services to be provided to the youth on the unit
- The creation of an entire therapeutic milieu led by Probation and fortified by the consistent integrated participation of a Licensed Mental Health Professional and a credible messenger who are assigned to the unit
- Individualized assessments of the youth's needs will inform the development of a rehabilitation plan focused on the youth's level of functional capacity or desire for greater wellness
- A positive youth justice framework as a potential theoretical framework for service provision
- A comprehensive framework for Family Engagement where the development of supportive relationships is the goal
- The implementation of culturally responsive and culturally congruent services
- Areas of consideration for specialized treatment (gender specific services, sex behavior treatment programs, and treatment for youth with serious and persistent mental illness)