In July, San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) and San Mateo Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) were awarded $6 million dollars over 4 years as part of the Mental Health School Services Act Grant (MHSSA). This grant will provide 12 districts, (Bayshore, Jefferson Elementary, Jefferson Union, Pacifica, San Bruno, Hillsborough City, Burlingame Elementary, Cabrillo Unified, San Mateo Foster City, San Carlos, Sequoia Union and Ravenswood) with Tier 1 Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Curriculum, Community Resiliency Model (CRM) Training from the Trauma Resource Institute for all district staff and data analysis in partnership with American Institute for Research (AIR), as well as Tier 2 interventions for specific districts.

January 2021 proved to be an exciting month for the San Mateo County Office of Education and the 12 districts participating in the MHSSA grant. We were able to launch some of our Tier 2 intervention under the MHSSA grant which includes; Care Solace, a mental health care navigation agency to all of the districts across San Mateo County in partnership with Peninsula Health Care District and Sequoia Health Care District. Reports of utilization and successful linkage to providers have been pouring in, showing the extreme need for this service at this time. Furthermore, Bayshore School District and Jefferson Elementary District were able to increase their wellness/school counseling staff this semester to help students have more access to counseling, support and resources. To learn more about Care Solace, visit: https://home.caresolace.com/.

The County Office of Education received over 7 pallets of Social Emotional Curriculum to be distributed among the districts that chose from Second Step, Committee for Children or Caring School Communities, and The Center for Collaborative Classrooms. Along with the delivery of the physical curriculum, district received training and support on how to implement the material.

Meanwhile, for the districts that chose Connect with Kids, they began working on what their online platform would look like, reviewing SEL content and establishing a branded look for their site.
January also brought a chance to get a few more of the districts trained in the Community Resiliency Model, along with mental health agencies that help serve the participating districts. Future dates have been set in the next few months for the roll out of the CRM training to even more schools and districts.

In February, the American Institute for Research worked closely with all 12 districts to gather their baseline data, explore ways to collect ongoing data and work with them on inputting it into the Data Dashboard that we look forward to launching shortly.

Best regards,

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