Early 2021 proved to be an exciting month for the San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) and all 23 school districts. We were able to launch Care Solace, a mental health care navigation agency, to all of the districts across San Mateo County in partnership with the 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. Learn more about Care Solace.

We are well underway with our Care Solace Services being offered throughout San Mateo County. Utilization data from our MHSSA districts has shown that the service is a needed addition.

The data has also shown that adults connected to the districts are most likely to reach out for services.
As we close up this school year, we look towards the MHSSA efforts that will start back up in the fall of 2021. We look forward to helping four of the MHSSA districts hire more Wellness Counselors who will assist in increasing the number of referrals that may come from implementing the Universal Screeners (which were provided by the grant) and help provide the targeted Social Emotion Learning Curriculum that the districts have selected.

Here at SMCOE, we are working with colleagues to develop a cloud-based data platform that will provide a county-wide view of mental health supports, gaps, and trends to help us better provide interventions to districts and county-wide.

We are looking forward to the 2021-2022 school year, Grant Year 2 of the MHSSA grant, and hopefully having all students back on campuses for in-person learning. Have a wonderful, relaxing, and recharging summer.

Molly Henricks
SYSTEM of Support Manager
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