



Mental Health Services  
Oversight & Accountability Commission

# Presentation to the Assembly Budget Committee

April 17, 2023

# Commission portfolio



allcove™ Youth Drop-In Centers

Anti-Bullying

Behavioral Health Disaster Planning

CalHOPE

Community Empowerment

COVID-19 and Emerging Issues

Criminal Justice Prevention

Early Psychosis Intervention Plus

Full Service Partnerships

Impacts of Firearm Violence

Innovation and Innovation Incubator

Mental Health Wellness Act

Peer Empowerment

Prevention and Early Intervention

School Mental Health

Stigma Reduction

Suicide Prevention

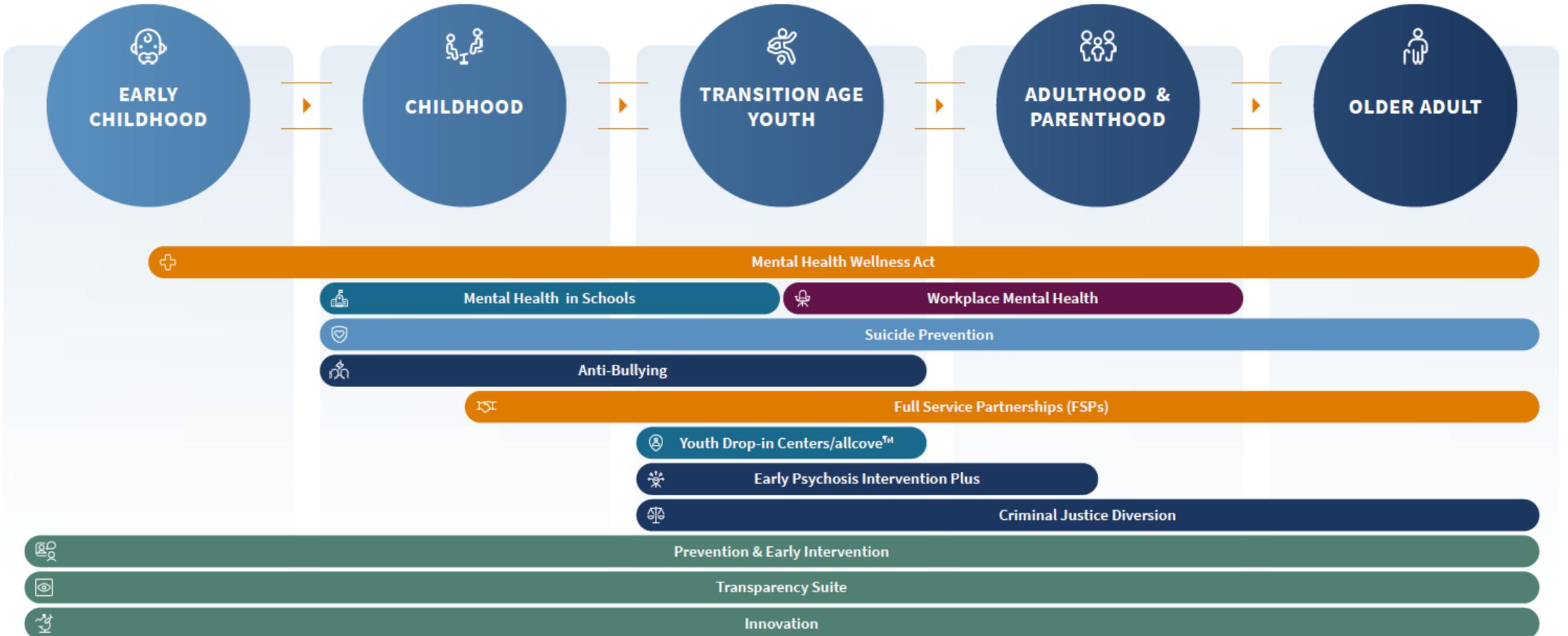
Transparency Suite

Workplace Mental Health

Youth Empowerment

# Initiatives support Californians at all stages of life

Shown below are key programs funded by the Commission across the lifespan.  
This illustration does not encompass all Commission initiatives and programs.



# School Mental Health

## Opportunity

Elevate schools as centers of wellness

The Commission is supporting schools as centers of wellness to ensure all children and youth have access to mental health services and supports, expand mental health literacy, and address stigma, funded with \$225 million from the 2019 Mental Health Student Services Act (SB 75), the 2021 Budget Act, and the Federal American Rescue Plan.

## Key accomplishments

- 57 county behavioral health departments, serving 440 out of 1,021 school districts, 2,100 schools
- Engaged 50 county offices of education/superintendents of schools
- Invested more than \$300 million to support school mental health initiatives
- 500 new mental health staff in schools funded by MHSSA
- Established youth-driven wellness centers in schools
- Partnerships are tailored to the unique needs of counties, districts, and school sites
- Expanding school-based suicide prevention efforts
- Working with LEA and community health leaders to develop school mental health accountability system
- Partnering with the CYBHI building school mental health accountability strategy

# Suicide Prevention

## Opportunity

Accelerate strategies to prevent suicide and suicidal behavior

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth, and the COVID-19 pandemic has increased suicide risk for both youth and adults. Veterans have a 57% higher risk for suicide. Suicide is preventable. The Commission is providing technical assistance and training and supporting state infrastructure to reduce suicide risks and deaths with \$2 million in Commission funding.

## Key accomplishments

- Partnered with the Legislature to draft a historic suicide prevention plan
- Partnered with CDPH to relaunch California's Office of Suicide Prevention
- Delivering training sessions on suicide risk screening
- More than 1,400 school personnel have received Commission-supported training
- Established a suicide prevention learning collaborative serving 35 counties
- 72 county innovation projects have focused on suicide prevention, stigma reduction, and reducing disparities
- Sponsored convening on 988 in partnership with CHHS, OES, local agencies, and CBOs
- Delivering training to local agencies on suicide postvention strategies

# Full Service Partnerships

## Opportunity

Improve FSP programs to reduce incarceration, homelessness, and hospitalization

California faces unprecedented rates of homelessness, hospitalization, and justice involvement. California's investment in Full Service Partnerships (FSPs) – a “whatever it takes” approach – is not meeting needs among those with severe and persistent mental health challenges. The Commission has invested in understanding what's working, what's not working, the scale of the challenge, and strategies to strengthen FSPs and the outcomes they deliver. FSPs represent a minimum \$1.6 billion investment in MHSA funding.

## Key accomplishments

- In partnership with philanthropy and county behavioral health departments, the Commission launched a multi-county collaborative supported by MHSA innovation funding
- Partnered with the Legislature to require biennial reporting on FSP outcomes
- Built the data infrastructure to link service information to justice involvement and hospitalization
- Created public-facing dashboard to share information on FSP outcomes
- Launching new initiative to strengthen county investments in FSPs

# Substance Use Disorder Services

## Opportunity

Strengthen access to addiction services as part of California's behavioral health system

Californians face unacceptable delays in accessing drug treatment services that are effective, responsive, and outcomes-based, contributing to overdose deaths from fentanyl and chronic homelessness. Estimates report 50% to 75% of chronically homeless individuals have a substance use disorder. The Commission is working to elevate understanding and access to services.

## Key accomplishments

- Sponsored AB 2265 to established presumptive eligibility for MHSA care for persons with SUD needs
- Sponsored AB 638 to clarify MHSA PEI funds can be used for addiction services
- Developing Mental Health Wellness Act proposal to scale effective SUD services across county behavioral health systems
- Partnered with philanthropy, business, and community leaders to support *Hiding in Plain Sight*, a PBS national initiative on stigma reduction, behavioral health literacy, and awareness of mental health needs, including addiction
- Sponsoring screenings statewide of *Hiding in Plain Sight* with educators, youth leaders, and others to elevate awareness of behavioral health needs, including SUD needs

# Early Psychosis Intervention Plus

## Opportunity

Ensure every Californian has an effective response to early psychosis

One in 10 Californians who experiences a first episode of psychosis receives best available care. The absence of that care results in high rates of homelessness, hospitalization, incarceration, and premature death. Some 30% of California's homeless population has unaddressed psychosis or a related disorder. The Commission built an early psychosis learning health care network in partnership with researchers, providers, and counties.

## Key accomplishments

- Leveraged innovation funding to expand access to best available care
- Supporting seven early psychosis programs in 14 counties across the state with funding from the 2019 Budget
- Partnered with public and private research universities to establish technical assistance and training capacity
- Funded data reporting system to monitor the effectiveness of care and related outcomes
- Under CYBHI, will release additional funding to further expand access to effective services
- Partnering with the private sector to improve access to commercial insurance funding for best available care
- Calculating return on investment and costs of unaddressed or inadequately address psychosis

# Criminal Justice Prevention

## Opportunity

Reduce criminal justice involvement of mental health consumers

An estimated 31% of justice involved Californians have unmet mental health needs, and the percentage of state prisoners with mental health challenges has increased by 77% over the past decade. The Commission is working upstream to prevent justice involvement, reduce costs, and improve outcomes.

### Key accomplishments

- Launched the Innovation Incubator with \$5 million in one-time funding from the 2017 Budget to reduce justice involvement
- Developed multi-county learning collaboratives to reduce justice involvement
- Partnered with federal agencies to identify national best practices and bring to California
- Leveraged nearly \$30 million in county innovation funding to support a range of projects
  - Expanding use of Psychiatric Advance Directives to improve response to mental health crises
  - Launched Crisis Now academy to scale evidence based practice across California
  - Strengthening county capacity to map the mental health-criminal justice nexus
- Established data infrastructure to track justice involvement, documenting 69% reduction in criminal justice involvement for FSP participants

# allcove™ Youth Drop-In Centers

## Opportunity

Launch, adopt, and scale evidence-based model for youth

The majority of mental health challenges begin in ages 14-25, yet our service delivery system is often unapproachable, especially for youth. allcove™ is a globally recognized mental health model brought to California by the Commission. Initial funding for allcove™ came from innovation spending.

## Key accomplishments

- Adapted the model to California
- Facilitated youth leadership to design the brand, look, and feel of the sites
- Commission holds allcove™ trademark to create a consistent, evidence-based experience statewide
- Launched 2 sites, 4 sites in development
- Secured eligibility for allcove™ in \$429 million in in CYBHI EDP/CDEP funding
- Established a technical assistance center
- Building integrated data reporting system to monitor outcomes
- Partnering with DHCS and DMHC to secure all payer financing

# Workplace Mental Health

## Opportunity

Leverage workplaces and employers to support mental health goals

Consistent with its call for population-based strategies to support mental health, the Commission partnered with the Governor and Legislature (SB 1113) to establish voluntary standards for workplace mental health, including recommendations to leverage private insurance to access high-quality mental health care, reducing reliance on public sector programs.

## Key accomplishments

- Established first-in-the-nation voluntary standards for mental health in the workplace
- California joins the U.S. Surgeon General and World Health Organization to elevate workplace mental health
- Partnering with private sector leaders to expand awareness of the value of workplace mental health
- Exploring opportunities with the Governor and Legislature to implement recommendations to improve workplace mental health for public employees
- Working to establish center of excellence on workplace mental health, targeting all employers with an emphasis on entry level, low wage, and high risk occupations such as farm workers

# Transparency Suite

## Opportunity

Support accountability through clear and compelling information

The Commission developed and displays relevant and timely information to support public understanding and accountability of mental health funding, public programs and services, and outcomes achieved. The Commission persistently explores avenues to improve access to actionable data and to develop data visualization tools that improve public understanding of California's public mental health system, its challenges, and opportunities.

## Key accomplishments

- [mhsoac.ca.gov/transparency-suite/](https://mhsoac.ca.gov/transparency-suite/) provides best available data on MHSA funding and outcomes
- Highlighted unspent funds and challenges enforcing MHSA fiscal reversion, leading to fiscal reforms
- Elevated awareness of unspent innovation funding, increasing county use of innovation funds by X%
- Supporting community engagement to understand public information needs for MH accountability
- Developing improved outcome reporting strategy with focus on justice involvement, hospitalization, homelessness, access to care, and disparities

# Anti-Bullying

## Opportunity

Support youth affected by bullying

The Commission is supporting youth who have been bullied and are at risk of being bullied with a peer-to-peer online support space and social media campaign, using \$5 million in one-time funding from the 2021 API Equity Budget.

### Key accomplishments

- [rightourstory.com](https://rightourstory.com) allows youth to share their stories of bullying and messages of support
- Stories are shared on social media
- A private, moderated forum board creates space for youth to support each other
- Planning for a “day of action” at middle schools throughout the state next month

# Innovation

## Opportunity

Enhance the impact of strategic innovations in California

The MHSA requires innovation as a strategy for continuous improvement. Innovation investments in the public mental health system have supported transformational change, improving access to and quality of care, and outcomes achieved. Innovation spending represents 5% of MHSA funds, but less than 1% of overall public mental health investments.

## Key accomplishments

- Since 2016, the MHSA has supported more than 200 innovation projects with a \$700+ million investment
- To strengthen county use of innovation dollars, the Commission sponsored an Innovation Summit in partnership with philanthropy, the private sector, and county leaders
- The Commission leverages county innovation funds to support multi-county learning collaboratives to explore high-priority challenges, scale best practices, and disseminate lessons learned

# Innovation Creates Change

## Opportunity

Enhance the impact of strategic innovations in California

MHSA innovation funds have supported transformational change at a local level in high priority areas:

- Reducing disparities – racial and ethnic, LGBTQ+, immigrant and refugees, older adults
- Improving trust between community behavioral health programs and disadvantaged, underserved communities
- Reducing justice involvement
- Addressing homelessness
- Improving prevention and early intervention
- Supporting mobile response and street medicine
- Behavioral health disaster response
- Access to digital mental health services and supports, and more

# Additional programs

Anti-Bullying

Behavioral Health Disaster Planning

CalHOPE

Community Empowerment

COVID-19 and Emerging Issues

Impacts of Firearm Violence

Mental Health Wellness Act

Peer Empowerment

Prevention and Early Intervention

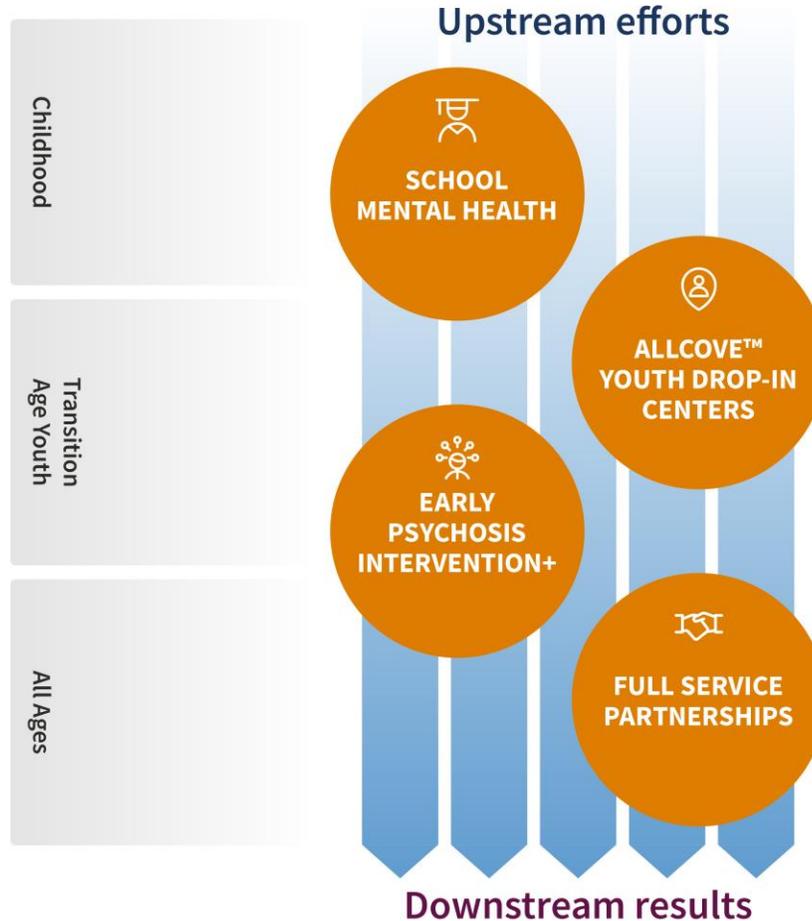
Stigma Reduction

Youth Empowerment

# Focusing Efforts Upstream

The earlier we reach Californians at risk, the better. By working upstream — focusing on prevention and early intervention (PEI) efforts — we will reduce the need for Full Service Partnerships (FSPs) and mitigate other negative outcomes.

This will save money, resources, and most importantly, human lives.



## High-impact initiatives:

Support youth and peer empowerment, address racial equity and disparities

Analyze data, communicate opportunities

Introduce literacy, promote understanding and destigmatization

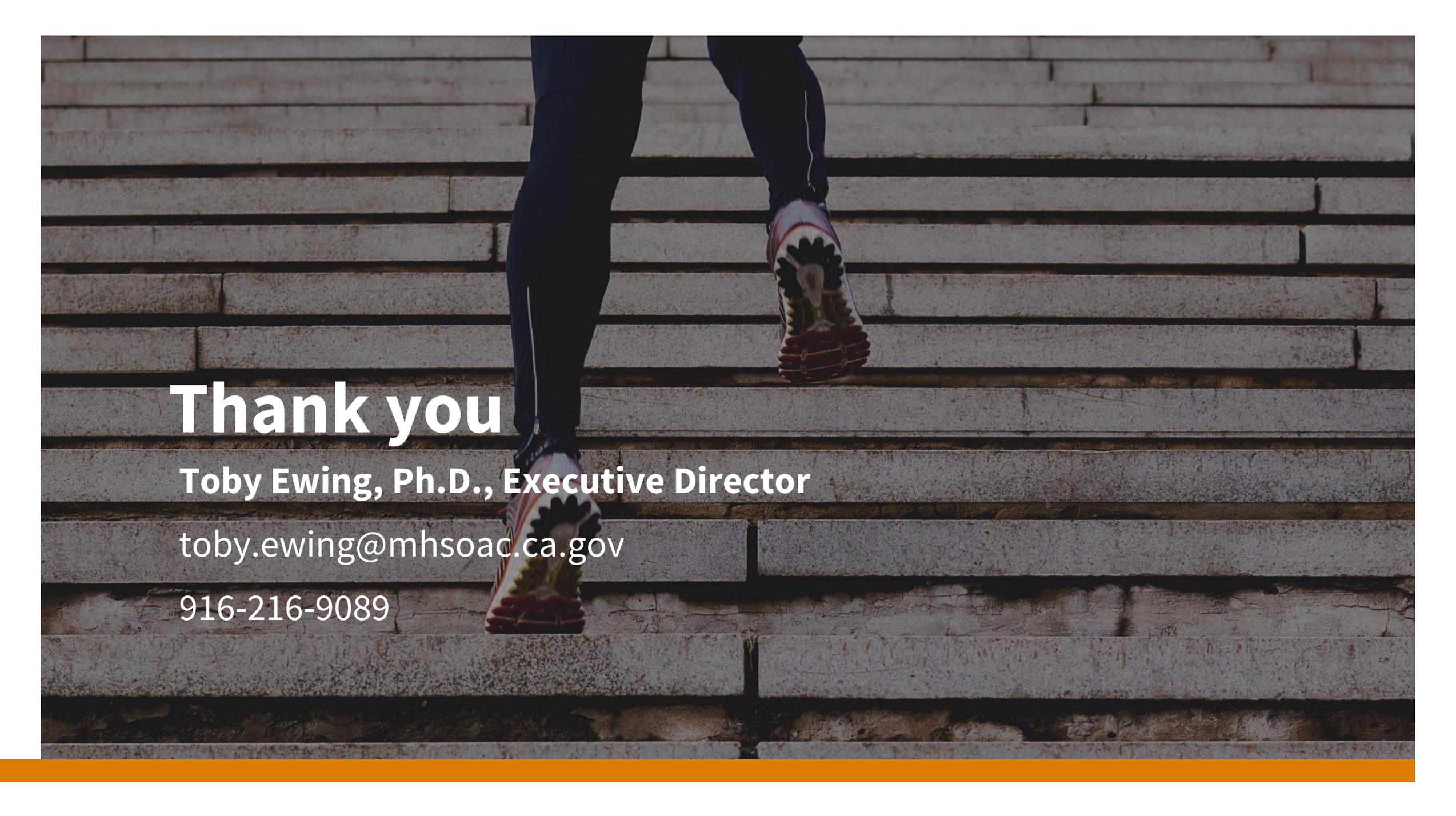
Identify signs of early psychosis, intervene, provide mental health care

Ensure support, deliver mental health care, provide housing, job training and placement

REDUCED HOMELESSNESS

FEWER HOSPITALIZATIONS

LESS INCARCERATION

A photograph showing the lower legs and feet of a person climbing a set of wide, light-colored stone stairs. The person is wearing dark blue leggings and white athletic shoes with red and black accents. The background is a blurred view of the stairs extending upwards.

# Thank you

**Toby Ewing, Ph.D., Executive Director**

[toby.ewing@mhsoac.ca.gov](mailto:toby.ewing@mhsoac.ca.gov)

916-216-9089