



Ventura County

CHILD, YOUTH, AND FAMILY
WELLNESS SYSTEM

A Presentation to the Board of Supervisors: Building a Wellness System

December 19, 2023



Melissa Livingston

Director, Human Services Agency

Wellness System Presentation/Update Goals

- ❖ Share significant progress towards building an equitable, inclusive Wellness System for all
- ❖ Efforts being leveraged across public systems and community partners/providers (including County SIP)
- ❖ Informed by Parent and Youth Voice and Choice
- ❖ Invitation to inform the vision going forward



PROBATION

VENTURA COUNTY

Gina Johnson

Director, Chief Probation Officer

UPDATES/PROGRESS:

County System Improvement Plan

Purpose

- ❖ **Operational agreement** between the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), County Child Welfare Departments, and Probation Placement Agencies
- ❖ Outline for how the county will **improve the continuum of care** for children and families.
 - ❖ defines the priority areas for improvement
 - ❖ details solutions to the needs, barriers and challenges in the plan
 - ❖ identifies where resources should be concentrated

SIP 2017-2022 Accomplishments

Probation

- ✓ **Family Finding** - Continued partnership with Child Welfare's Foster VC Kids. Increased visibility for need for local resource (foster) families and communication.
- ✓ **Family Engagement** - Implemented Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTM's) for youth to support increased engagement with youth and their families.

Child Welfare

- ✓ **Neighbors Together (NT) Project** - Integrated approach for staffing and monitoring focused neighborhood referrals. Decreased new placements from NT (South Oxnard) zip codes.
- ✓ Expansion of **Family Finding and Family Engagement** - Enhanced relative-network due diligence, electronic search reports and development of Family Search and Engagement unit. Increased placement with relatives.
- ✓ **Family Recovery Court** - Restructured the Dependency Drug Court program and aligned it with evidence-base Family Drug Court practice. Increased father engagement.



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2022 County Self Assessment (CSA)

- ✓ 5 Focus Groups in August & September:
 - ✓ 1-Parents (English), 2- Parents (Spanish), 3- Caregivers, 4- Youth, 5-Staff
- ✓ Stakeholder Meetings in September and November
- ✓ Peer Review in October



David Swanson-Hollinger

Deputy Director Children & Family Services

SIP 2022-2027 Goals

1. Decrease the occurrence of family separations and youth removal.
2. Safely reunite families when possible.
3. Ensure children and youth who cannot return home establish a forever family and preserve lifelong connections.



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SIP 2022-2027 Strategies

- ❖ Increase engagement and input from youth and families on how the county and community partners can better collaborate to provide enhanced services and supports.
- ❖ Increase engagement and input from stakeholders and community partners on how to best collaborate to provide enhanced services and supports.
- ❖ Increase culturally relevant services.
- ❖ Probation: Increase layers of support for parents.
- ❖ Children and Family Services (CFS):
 - Targeted engagement efforts to improve reunification outcomes.
 - Targeted permanency efforts for older youth.



Melissa Livingston

Director, Human Services Agency

Our **VISION** going forward is to create a **Child, Youth, and Family Wellness System** by aligning government, community and family stakeholders to maximize wellness and quality of life so all children, and their families, are safe, healthy, educated and well with a sense of belonging, purpose and opportunity to achieve their aspirations.

“We want to help create a new system to help link county agencies with those in the community, where families feel safe and can receive support and education to get help with things they need when they need it, with the goal of being strong parents.” (Community Statement)



A Wellness System is possible when...

...we move beyond prevention (preventing “bad things” from happening) to maximize the conditions and opportunities for all children, and their families to be cherished and thrive.

To achieve a child, youth, and family wellness system in Ventura County, we will:



Increase access to services, supports, and wellness



Increase alignment of public systems and community



Strengthen protective factors and address SDOH

and



Decrease formal system involvement



Wellness System Partners

Interagency Leadership Team:

- ❖ Ventura County (VC) Office of Education*
- ❖ Tri-Counties Regional Center*
- ❖ VC Human Services Agency*
- ❖ VC Behavioral Health*
- ❖ VC Probation*
- ❖ VC Public Health
- ❖ Ambulatory Care
- ❖ Gold Coast Health Plan

* Required by AB 2083

Wellness System Partners (continued)

- ❖ **First 5 Ventura County**
- ❖ **Child Development Resources**
- ❖ **Partnership for Safe Families and Communities**
- ❖ **Parents and Youth with lived expertise**
- ❖ **Tribal Partners**
- ❖ **Community-based organizations**



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Deputy Director Children & Family Services

Wellness System Structure

For Governance, Planning, and Implementation

Wellness System Planning Committee (WSPC)

- **Purpose:** Set Strategic Goals based on ILT/WSPC joint areas of focus, 2083 Priority Tenets, Wellness Roadmap
- **Membership:** ILT designated representatives, other public system partners, workgroup leads, community and parent partner leaders

Inter-Agency Leadership Team (ILT)

- **Purpose:** To equip public systems and community providers with policy, resources, and working tools for the VC Child and Family Wellness System
- **Membership:** Public System Agency/Dept. Directors per 2083 requirements and others as needed and engaged

Wellness System Collaborative (WSC)

- **Purpose:** Community Pathway and Wellness System co-design, co-leadership and co-implementation
- **Membership:** Community-based Organization (CBO, traditional and grassroots) Executive Directors, Tribal and Faith-based leaders, Parent Leaders, and Public System leaders

Wellness System Guiding Frameworks

AB 2083

- Infrastructure
- Capacity Building
- Family Engagement
- Practice

Comprehensive Prevention Plan

- Governance/Co-Design
- Blueprint for System and Practice Change



AB 2083 (Wellness System) Tenets

INFRASTRUCTURE

ILT *Information & Data Sharing*, Financial Resources Management & Interagency Leadership Committee

PRACTICE

Alignment & Coordination of Services, Screening, Assessment & Entry to Care, & *ICPM Implementation*

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Child & Family Teaming, *Parent & Youth Engagement*, & Resource Families & Therapeutic Foster Care Services

CAPACITY BUILDING

Staff Recruitment, Training & Coaching, Dispute Resolution Process, & *Shared Metrics of System Level Outcome*



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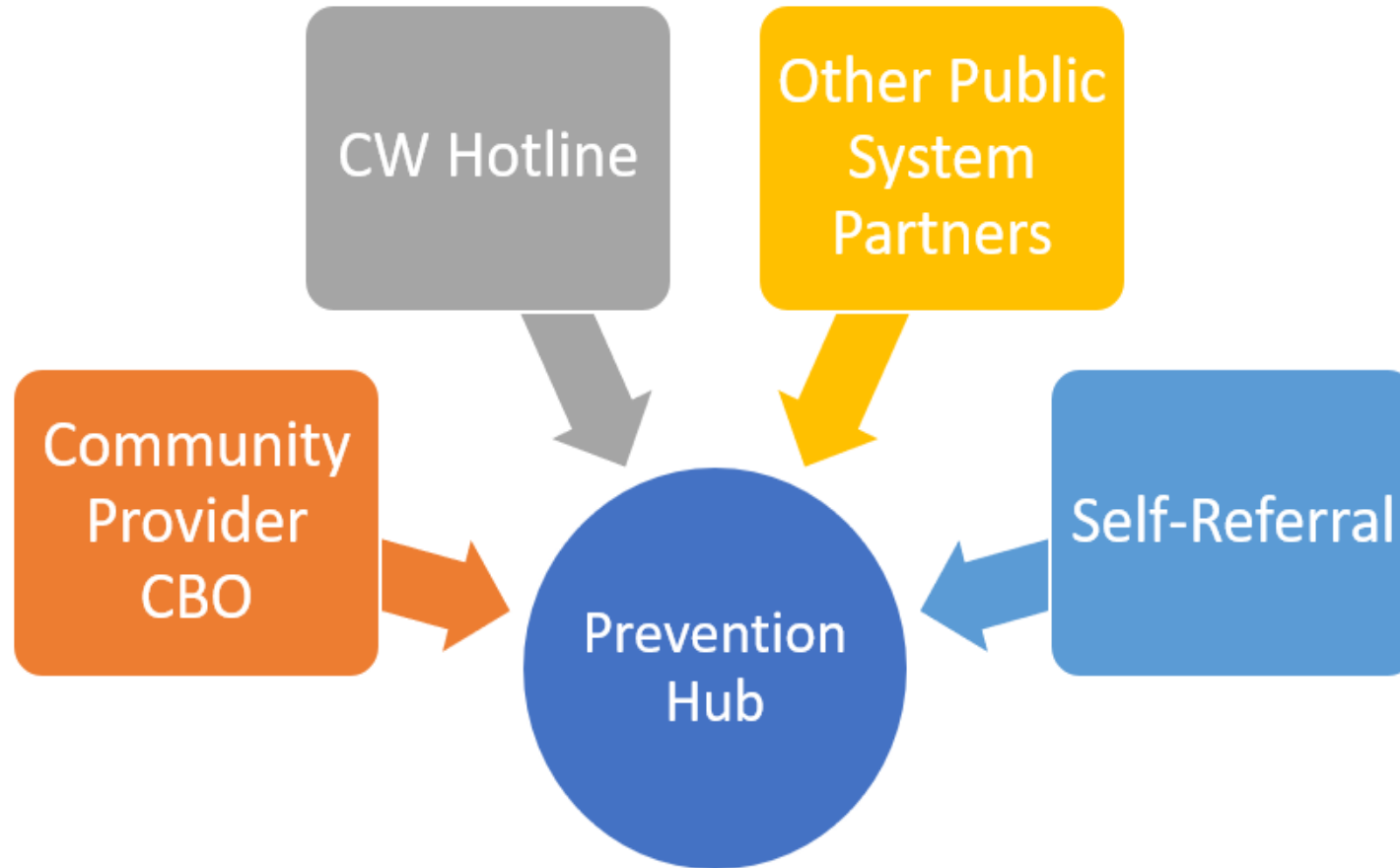
Comprehensive Prevention Plan



- ❖ **Phased Approach** to Comprehensive Prevention:
 - Candidacy, Services, Geography
- ❖ **Focused Target Population** Elements:
 - Age, Ethnicity, Geography
- ❖ **Services AND Basic Supports** to Build Resilience
- ❖ **Shift to Community Supporting**
- ❖ **Community Engagement**
- ❖ **Opportunity to operationalize AB 2083 MOU Tenets**

Ventura County Community Pathway

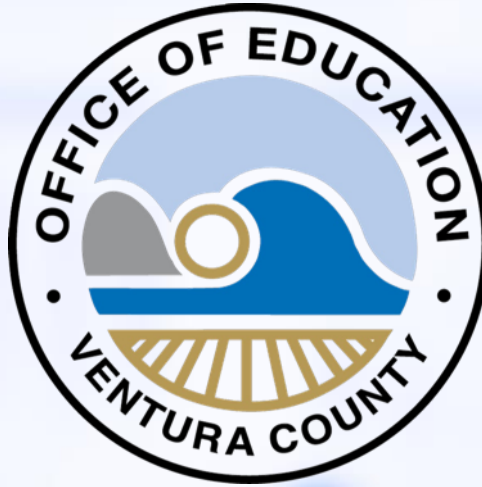
Every Right Door Points of Entry



Builds on Existing Infrastructure – e.g., Neighborhoods for Learning



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Dr. Cesar Morales

Superintendent of Ventura County Schools

Four Foundations of Integrated Public Service for Youth and Family Services

- **Foundation Element 1:** Cross-System Leadership and Shared Governance
- **Foundation Element 2:** Cross-System Shared Data and Outcomes Management
- **Foundation Element 3:** Cross-System Shared Fiscal Management and Responsibility
- **Foundation Element 4:** Cross-System Shared Community

Source: [Breaking Barriers California, Toolkit, 2019](#)

Leadership Pillar: Shared Governance

Four Wellness Center Models

**VCOE Wellness
Centers K-12**

**Neighborhoods
for Learning &
Wellness**

**BHCIP-funded
Community
Resource Centers**

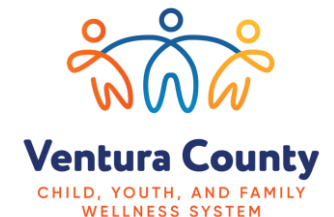
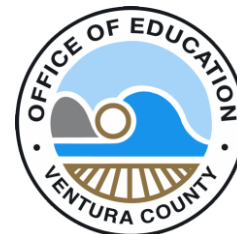
**Hueneme School
District Wellness
Centers/
Community
Pathway Pilot**



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VCOE Wellness Centers K-12

GOVERNANCE Ventura County Behavioral Health, Ventura County Office of Education, & Ventura County School Districts	FUNDING/FINANCE Ventura County Behavioral Health via Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission and Mental Health Services Act
DATA Data is collected on quarterly basis	PARENT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT Parent and community workshops, many centers open before/after school for families



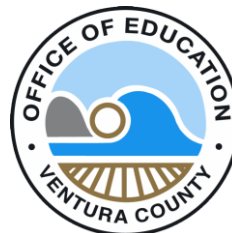
Wellness Centers K-12

DATA & ENGAGEMENT

2022-23 Middle School Student Impact & Outcomes

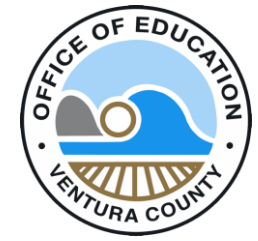
(Eleven Middle Schools)

DATA	ENGAGEMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 54,954 visits to the Wellness Centers• 88% of students are aware there is a wellness center on their campus, of those, 45% have utilized the center.• 1,236 referrals to school-based mental health services• 30,000 students received early intervention services for mental health• 200+ trainings/presentations on mental health topics for staff & students• Of the 200+ trainings/presentations, 2,000 staff and 8,000 students were in attendance	Middle School community engagement



Wellness Centers K-12

DATA & ENGAGEMENT



2022-23 High School Student Impact & Outcomes

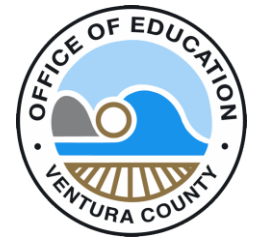
(Eight High Schools)

DATA	ENGAGEMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 25,644 visits to the Wellness Centers• 1,218 students enrolled in a mental health service• 476,000+ students reached through 950+ awareness & education events• 3,704 9th grade students accessed their Wellness Center• 130 students identified having a serious emotional disturbance. Of these, 105 received a referral, enrolled in mental health services and/or a safety plan was completed	High School community engagement



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Student & Family Engagement - Peer Led



Provide support to
Wellness Center
Participants

Connecting students
with appropriate
community
resources

Refer students to
the center for
additional support

Provide mental
health education to
students

Promote the center
through events and
communication
plan activities

Develop and
participate in
Wellness Center
workshops

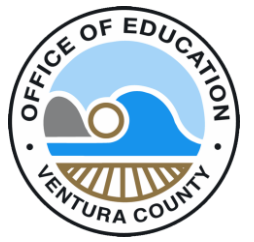
Distribute
information about
on-site resources



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Ventura County Office of Education

Wellness Centers K-12



"I've learned it's normal to have lows.
That feeling won't last forever."

"If it wasn't for the Wellness
Center I wouldn't be graduating."

"A foster student who often skips classes because they dislike school met with a Wellness Counselor to learn about the benefits of the wellness room. The student typically shies away from conversations with admin/counselors. After a couple of visits, the student began engaging with mindfulness and other activities. The student is now making progress in class attendance, showed a decrease in oppositional behaviors, and shares that they enjoy accessing the Wellness Center to keep calm throughout the school day."

"There has been a shift in school culture across our middle schools in recognition of the importance of social emotional support. The schools have implanted school-wide social emotional learning and have been increasingly identifying and referring students for wellness support."

"I feel that school is now a safe space
because of the Wellness Center."

"The Wellness Center
saved my life."



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VENTURA COUNTY
HEALTH CARE AGENCY

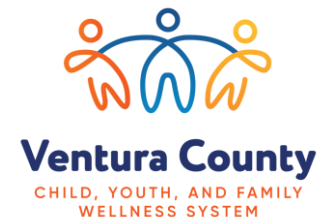
Rigoberto Vargas

Director, Public Health Department

Leadership Pillar: Shared Data

Ventura County Public Health

- ❖ Alignment with our Mission to protect and promote the health and well-being of everyone
- ❖ Collaborate on Community Health Needs Assessments and data sharing efforts
- ❖ Share data related to Population Health and Social Determinants of Health
- ❖ Participate in other cross-sector partnerships such as the Ventura County Community Information Exchange (VCCIE) to improve how we share data and integrate care coordination



Social Determinants of Health



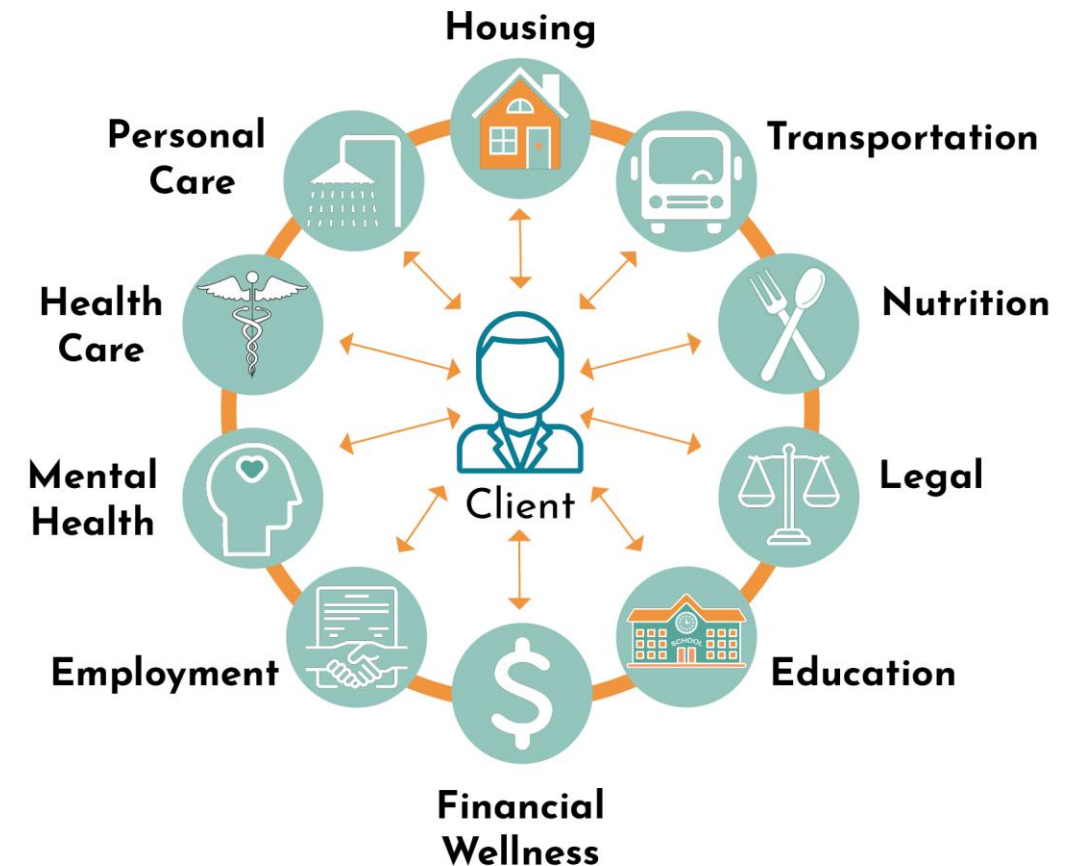
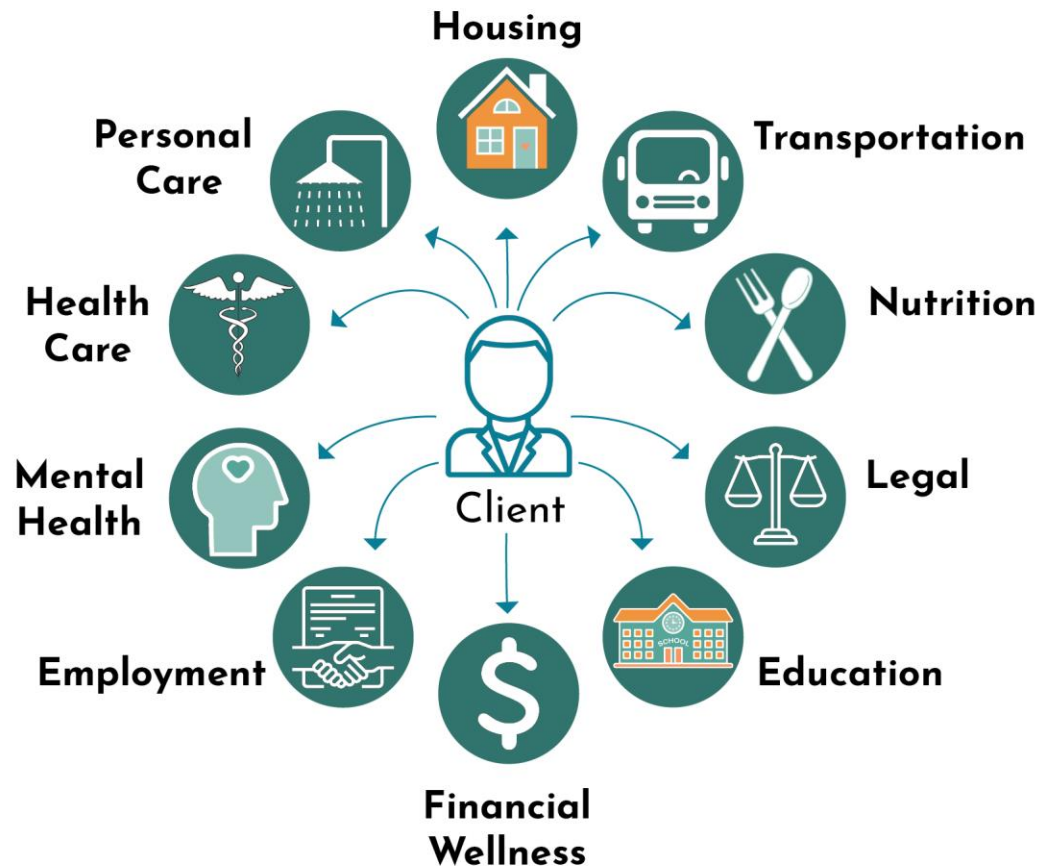
Ventura County Community Information Exchange (VCCIE)

BEFORE VCCIE

- Limited access to health and social services
- Siloed system of care
- No centralized data tracking

AFTER VCCIE

- Unified technology
- Agreements to work across sectors (nonprofit, healthcare, government)
- Client permission-based information sharing





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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
A Department of Ventura County Health Care Agency

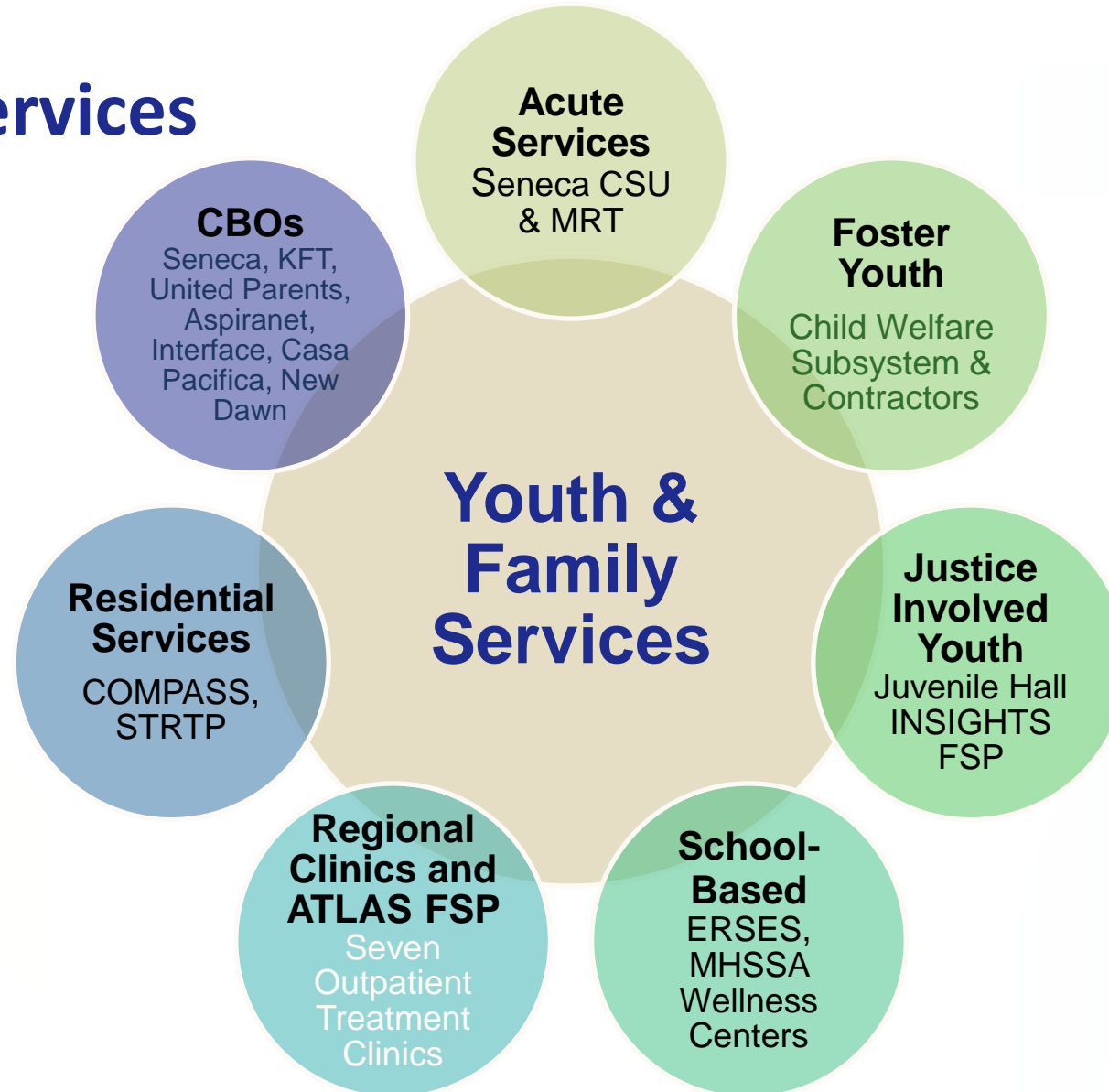
Dr. Loretta Denering

Acting Director, Behavioral Health Department

Leadership Pillar: Shared Community

Behavioral Health

Youth & Family Services



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Melissa Livingston

Director, Human Services Agency

Leadership Pillar: Shared Finance

What is Integrated Funding?

“State and local leaders must thoughtfully and collectively weave together this abundance of resources in order to sustainably support programs and services to families can get what they need, when they need it”

- *CYBHI Ecosystem Working Paper*

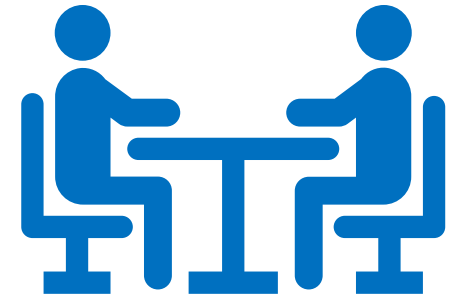
Blending



Braiding



Partnering



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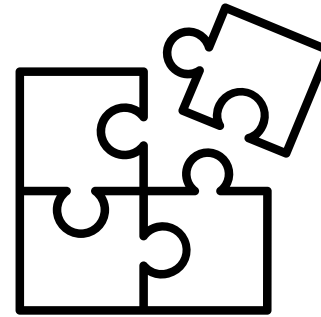
Integrated Funding As...



Leverage



Match



Supplement



Maximize



VENTURA COUNTY
HEALTH CARE AGENCY

Dr. Theresa Cho

CEO, Ambulatory Care

High Quality Healthcare For Children and Families



1/4 of Ventura county children receive medical care at County Ambulatory Care clinics.



2/3 of Ambulatory Care's children have Medi-Cal.



21% of Ventura County's babies born each year are delivered at VCMC and SPH. Both are WHO Baby-Friendly designated.

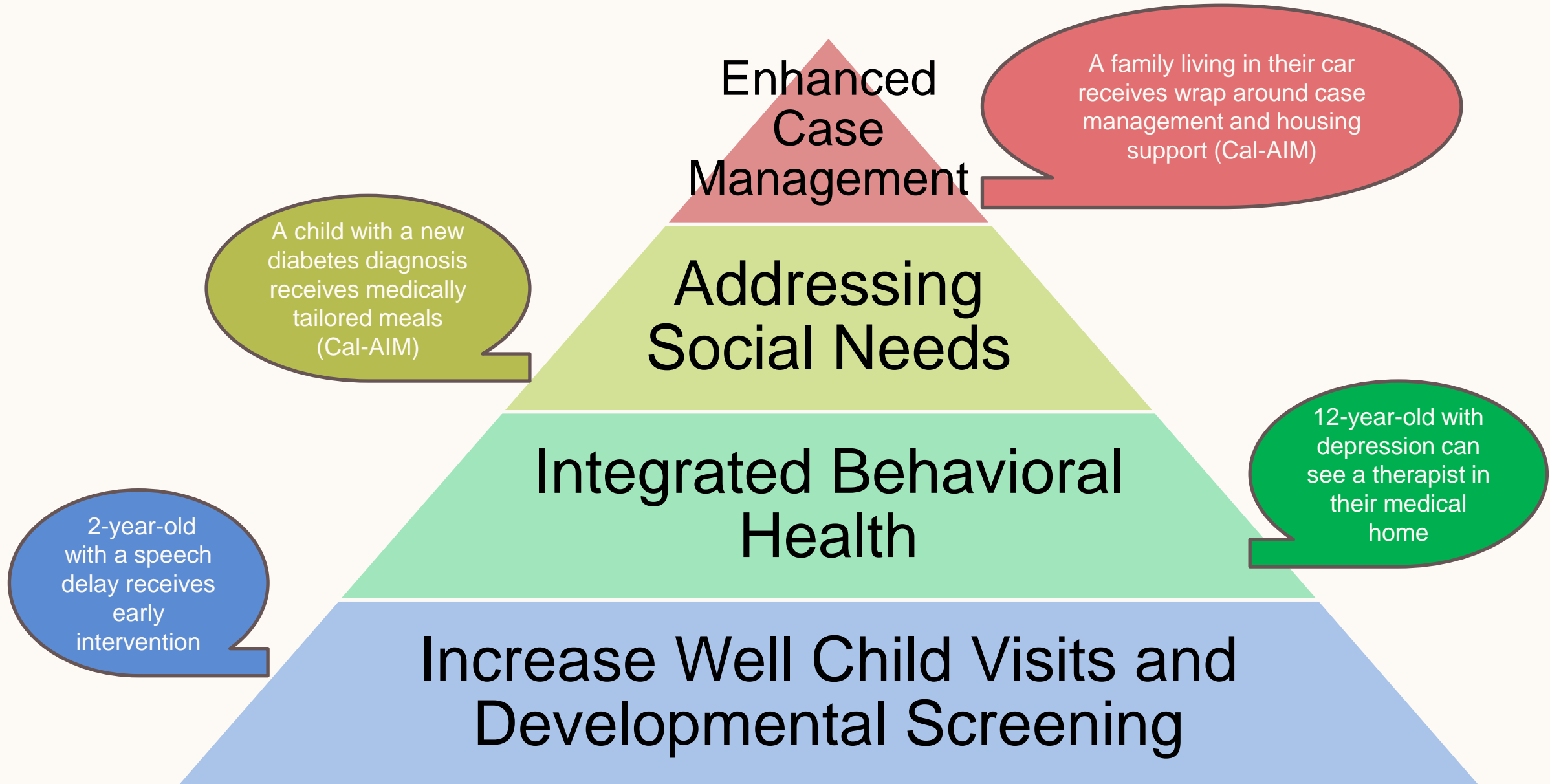


VCMS is a regional center for specialty medical services for children, and VCMC has west county's only inpatient pediatric service.



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Population Health Approach To Child Wellness





**Gold Coast
Health PlanSM**
A Public Entity

Erik Cho

Chief Program and Policy Officer, Gold Coast Health Plan

Gold Coast Health Plan:

Striving to Provide the Best Health Outcomes, Greater Access to Quality Healthcare, and a Superior Member Experience

QUALITY STRATEGY GOALS

Engaging members as owners of their own care

Keeping families and communities healthy via prevention

Providing early interventions for rising risk and patient-centered chronic disease management

Providing whole person care for high-risk populations, addressing social drivers of health

QUALITY STRATEGY GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- » Eliminating health disparities through anti-racism and community-based partnerships
- » Data-driven improvements that address the whole person
- » Transparency, accountability and member involvement

The **Managed Care Accountability Sets (MCAS)** is a set of performance measures that DHCS selects for annual reporting by all Medi-Cal managed care health plans (MCPs). GCHP is committed to being a leader in MCAS.

California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM)

To maximize the health & life trajectory of all members through coordinated and equitable access to quality services

CalAIM Initiative

Evidence Based Model of Care

Leverage data analytics to effectively deliver evidence-based practices as they align with the Model of Care

Seamless Healthcare Delivery System

Consistent and seamless system by reducing complexity for members and increasing flexibility based on local community needs

Equitable Access to Quality Care

Improve quality, reduce health disparities, and drive delivery system transformation and innovation through value-based initiatives, modernization of systems and payment reform.



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CalAIM Initiatives

Enhanced Care Management (ECM)

Community Supports (CS) Services

Incentive Payment Programs

Behavioral Health Access

Justice Involved Care

Integrated Care for Dual Eligible Members



Tri-Counties Regional Center

SAN LUIS OBISPO • SANTA BARBARA • VENTURA

Dr. Steven Graff

Clinical Director, Tri-Counties Regional Center

Person-Centered Approach to Practice

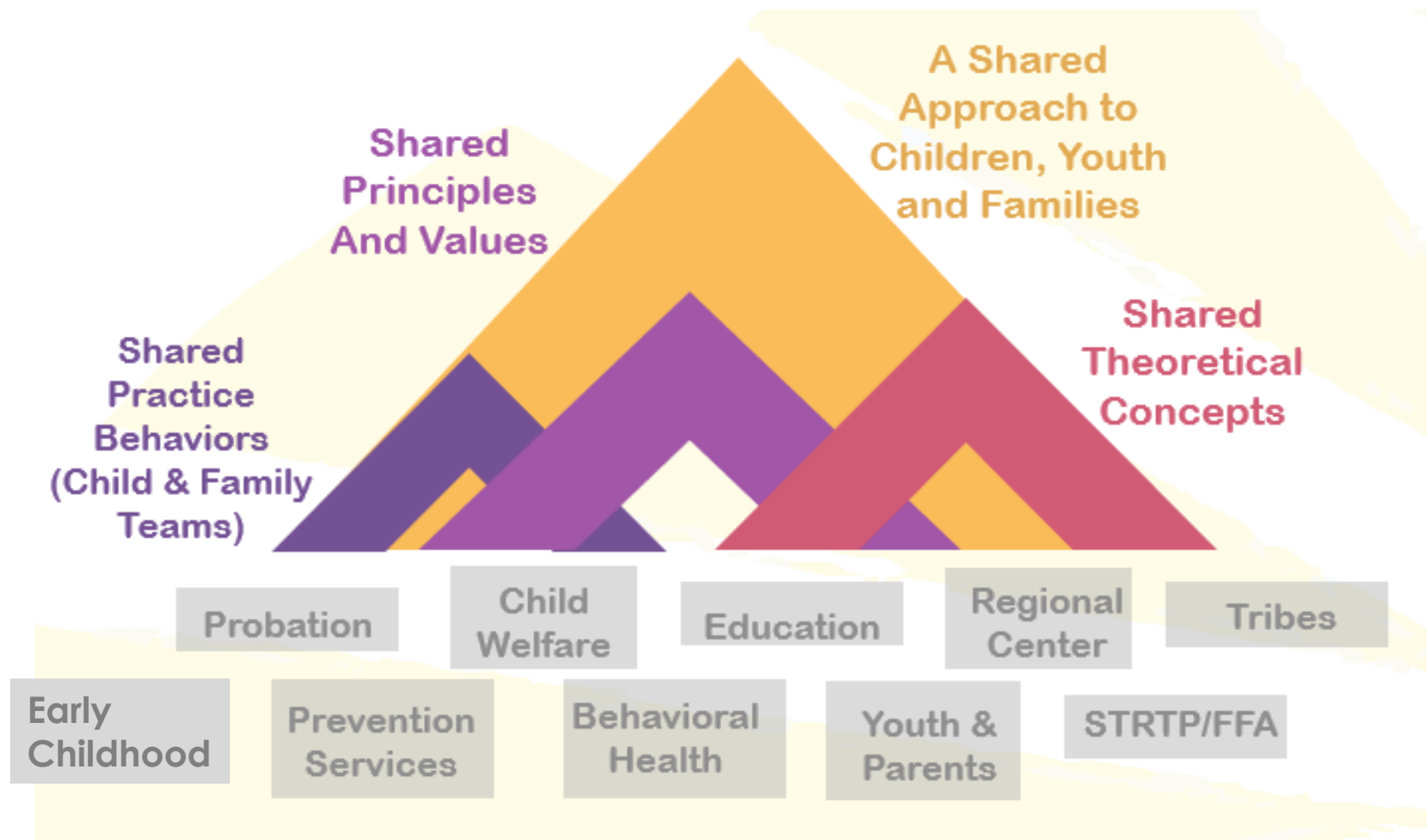
Participant Voice and Choice

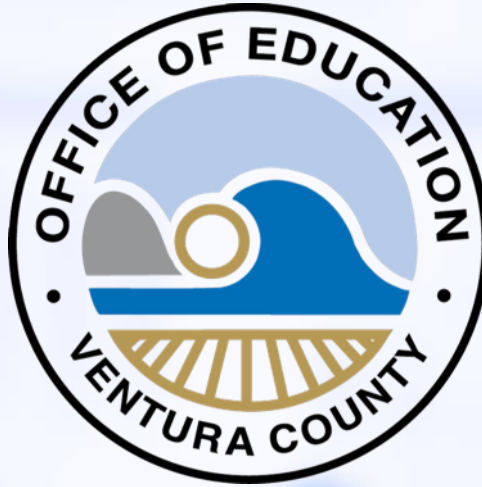
- ❖ Determine where persons feel they need support (when current systems may not see as their core responsibility).
- ❖ Become valued members of their community, and help the person find a balance between both of these.

Person-Centered Thinking

- ❖ Provide tools to help agencies work with the person they're supporting to find the root cause of an issue, rather than just making assumptions on what the root issue may be.

Blueprint for System & Practice Change: Integrated Core Practice Model (ICPM)





Dr. Cesar Morales

Superintendent of Ventura County Schools



Wellness System Call To Action