



CRDP Webinar Series

Webinar #6:
Mental Health Funding
Part B

June 19, 2020

Questions & Answers

1. Asians in America have suffered greatly during the COVID-19 due to the increased discrimination including physical attacks on them (wrongly blaming them for the COVID situation.) - *Stacie Hiramoto*

Yes, Asian Americans across the country have experience hate as a result of COVID-19, across the country. The Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON), Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA) and San Francisco State University's Asian American Studies Department, for example, founded a STOP AAPI HATE reporting center. Trends of hate crimes can be found at www.a3pcon.org/stopaapihate. Some important trends in hate toward Asian Americans as a result of COVID-19 include:

- **AAPI women are harassed at twice the rate of men**
- **AAPI children/youth are involved in 6.3% of the incidents**
- **Despite shelter-in-place policies being implemented across the nation, the number of discriminatory incidents remains high**
- **With shelter-in-place, a significant number of incidents are now taking place in grocery stores, pharmacies and big box retail**

(Answered by Carolina Valle)

2. Can you talk a little bit more about the Mental Health Equity Funds? Who is sponsoring and involved with this? Thanks! - *Stacie Hiramoto*

The purpose of the \$8 million Mental Health Equity Funds is to support the county behavioral health departments and community-based organizations in meeting mental health disparities goals through the use of technical assistance and community-defined evidence practices. However, the Office of Health Equity in the Department of Public Health, in the May Revision, proposed to revert the 8 million mental health equity funds secured in budget year 2019. Though the funds were secured through last year's budget process, the Office of Health Equity in the



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Department of Public Health did not spend those funds. Due to the COVID-19 budget crisis, Governor Newsom proposed to revert the funds. Organizations that championed the budget ask include the Steinberg Institute, #Out4MentalHealth, Latino Coalition for a Health California, California Black Health Network, California Pan-Ethnic Health Network, Southeast Asia Resource Action Center.

(Answered by Carolina Valle)

3. So will these cuts have a direct impact on the CRDP funding? Great presentation, thank you for discussion of discrimination in system. - *Anne Pinckney*

Funding for the California Reducing Disparities Project was “set aside” when the Mental Health Services Act was initially passed, thanks to the advocacy of many stakeholders. That funding for the California Reducing Disparities Project is not authorized or appropriated on a yearly basis ensures it the funding is protected.

(Answered by Carolina Valle)

4. The CARES Act: What can the IPPs/TAPs can do to find out how the Counties are allocating the \$\$ from the CARES Act? – *Mihae Jung*

CPEHN will return with an answer.

(Answered by Carolina Valle)

5. I thought those dollars were allocated last year. - *Stacie Hiramoto*

The funds were secured last year, but they were not allocated or provided to organizations.

(Answered by Carolina Valle)

6. Why was legislation to expand use of non-licensed mental health professionals such as peers vetoed? Why does legislation like this not pass? – *Mihae Jung*

Though the legislation successfully “made it the governor’s desk,” Governor Newsom vetoed the legislation. In his veto message, Governor Newsom stated he supported the use of peers, a subset of qualified mental health professionals. However, that



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peers are currently authorized to practice and provide mental health services was one reason Governor Newsom vetoed the legislation to create “statewide standards” for the profession.

(Answered by Carolina Valle)

7. Please make sure that it is understood that "peers" in that bill is a narrow definition. It does not include community health workers. It only refers to people with a mental health diagnoses and their families. - *Stacie H.*

Yes, thank you.

(Answered by Carolina Valle)