



Behavioral Health Integration — Children and Youth Collaborative Learning Exchange Prospectus

2024 – 2025

A nine-month learning collaborative to help provider organizations experienced in behavioral health integration supporting children and youth to share, spread and showcase successful practices

Presented by the California Quality Collaborative



Executive Summary

The California Quality Collaborative (CQC) invites you to join the Behavioral Health Integration – Children and Youth Collaborative Learning Exchange (BHI-CYCLE), a nine-month learning collaborative launching in October 2024 that will bring together organizations experienced in integrating behavioral health services into primary care for children and youth.

Collaborative Objectives

By July 2025, BHI-CYCLE aims to have improved integrated care for children and youth served by supporting participating organizations to:

- **Share** successful practices with a dynamic network of peer organizations
- **Spread** adoption of promising solutions addressing real-world challenges that improve delivery of integrated behavioral health care for children/youth
- **Showcase** successes in a public toolkit synthesizing participants' recommendations, experience and contributions to the field

Who can participate?

California-based organizations that have at least two years of experience integrating behavioral health into clinical settings treating children and youth are invited to apply.

Eligible organizations may include:

- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Health Systems
- Independent Physician Associations
- Management Services Organizations
- Accountable Care Organizations

Why participate in BHI-CYCLE?

- Build a community of peer organizations with similar experiences and challenges
- Provide feedback and contribute to real-life problem-solving
- Learn from an exemplar peer organization during a hosted site visit
- Be recognized as a leading expert in the field through credit in public toolkit and webinar
- Receive funding to support improvement work

Coordinated		Co-Located		Integrated	
Level 1 Minimal Collaboration	Level 2 Basic Collaboration at a Distance	Level 3 Basic Collaboration Onsite	Level 4 Close Collaboration Onsite with Some System Integration	Level 5 Close Collaboration Approaching an Integrated Practice	Level 6 Full Collaboration in a Transformed/ Merged Integration Practice

Why Behavioral Health Integration for Children and Youth?

Integrating behavioral health into primary care is recognized as a key attribute of high-quality, patient-centered, whole-person care — also known as [Advanced Primary Care](#). For children and youth, integrated care has proven to be effective in the early identification and treatment of behavioral health.¹ Furthermore, early intervention for younger patients can prevent lifelong impacts later in life.²

The need for improved access to behavioral health services for children, adolescents and their caregivers has never been greater. Between 2016 and 2020, significant increases in children’s diagnosed anxiety and depression, as well as decreases in physical activity and caregiver mental and emotional well-being, were observed across the United States.³

While access to behavioral health services has improved for younger Californians, it is still bifurcated between systems. Integration can bridge connections for patients, their families and caregivers — ultimately enhancing quality of life and outcomes.

1. Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute. [Policy Background Briefing: Collaborative Care](#).
2. California Children’s Hospital Association. [Improving Behavioral Health Care for Children in California](#).
3. JAMA Pediatrics. [Five-Year Trends in US Children’s Health and Well-being, 2016-2020](#).

What Makes a Strong Participant?

Organizations that can commit to:

- Identifying an executive leader to sponsor participation
- Supporting project lead(s) to participate in collaborative activities

Capabilities:

- At least two years of experience in behavioral health integration in pediatric, primary care and/or family health settings (either the Collaborative Care or Primary Care Behavioral Health model)
- Identifies as Level 3 or above on the [Six Levels of Collaboration/Integration](#) (SAMHSA-HRSA)



Technical Assistance

As a BHI-CYCLE participant, provider organizations will receive funding and technical assistance to support the integration of behavioral health services for children and youth. Technical assistance includes:

Learning Events

- Facilitated monthly peer meetings to promote sharing and learning from a dynamic network of peer health care organizations
- Educational ‘exemplar’ site visit
- Assignments solving real-world challenges through quality improvement methodology

Possible Projects

Organizations will determine a project focus area to pilot improvements throughout the course of BHI-CYCLE. Some possible project applications include:

- Implementation of dyadic services
- Sustainable financial planning for behavioral health integration
- Patient, family and caregiver engagement

Direct Funding

- Funding of up to \$7,500 over the nine-month collaborative to support advancement of behavioral health integration improvements

Successful Practices

- Communications assistance summarizing recommendations and lessons learned for internal playbook and external audience
- Credit in CQC public toolkit synthesizing best practices identified among cohort



Timeline & Collaborative Requirements

Application Process:

Recruitment for BHI-CYCLE will begin in spring 2024 and conclude on or before August 31, 2024. A selection announcement will follow the close of the recruiting period. No more than eight organizations will be accepted. CQC will host an [informational webinar](#) on Wednesday, June 5, 2024 to provide an overview of the program and answer clarifying questions.

After a meeting with CQC, applicants will be invited to submit a brief application. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. If accepted, applicants will be required to complete a scope of work with CQC by the recruitment deadline to be enrolled in the learning collaborative.

Program Timeline:



Recruiting Deadlines:

Activity	Date
Recruiting Launch	Spring 2024
Informational Webinar: Registration link	Wednesday, June 5, 2024 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. PT
Recruiting Deadline <small>*Applicants will be accepted on a rolling basis.</small>	August 31, 2024

Collaborative Requirements:

Participants will be required to actively engage in the program, as demonstrated by:

- Regular attendance, contribution and presenting during monthly peer-sharing webinars
- Attendance at the program site visit
- Identification and piloting of a solution addressing a local challenge
- Participation in evaluation activities (interview and survey) and development of the toolkit



Learn More & Apply

If you are interested in joining [BHI-CYCLE](#), reach out to CQC by contacting Anna Baer at abaer@pbgh.org. A call will be scheduled with your organization to answer questions and determine if the collaborative is the right match.

There are no fees to participate in this collaborative. Funding is provided by Centene.

Participant organizations will be finalized no later than August 31, 2024, in advance of the October 2024 collaborative start date.

About the Purchaser Business Group on Health (PBGH)

Purchaser Business Group on Health (PBGH) is a nonprofit coalition representing nearly 40 private employers and public entities across the U.S. that collectively spend \$350 billion annually purchasing health care services for more than 21 million Americans and their families. PBGH has a 30-year track record of incubating new, disruptive operational programs in partnership with large employers and other health care purchasers. Our initiatives are designed to test innovative methods and scale successful approaches that lower health care costs and increase quality across the U.S.

pbgh.org

About the California Quality Collaborative (CQC)

California Quality Collaborative (CQC), a program of PBGH, is health care improvement program dedicated to helping care teams gain the expertise, infrastructure and tools they need to advance care quality, be patient-centered, improve efficiency and thrive in today's rapidly changing environment.

pbgh.org/program/california-quality-collaborative