AAP California Advocacy Grant to Enhance Healthy Mental Development
Pediatric Mental Health Advocacy Panel

Diane Dooley, MD, MHS, FAAP
Mental Health Committee Chair

Call to Members with Mental/Behavioral Health Expertise

Deadline to Apply: December 12, 2022

As part of AAP California's effort to help our members address increased mental health concerns among children and youth, we are announcing a new initiative to support and influence California's statewide reforms in mental health services. Thanks to recent grant funding, we plan to convene a multi-disciplinary Pediatric Mental Health Advocacy Panel from January – September 2023 to influence proposed statewide reforms, such as Cal-Aim and the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative. Panel members will join together to learn about these reforms, as well as develop and start to implement a pediatric mental health advocacy platform to improve behavioral health care for children and youth in California. We are looking for pediatricians with knowledge and ideas on mental health services who will join us in advocating for a compassionate system of care serving all California children and youth. We will also convene a Circle of Support which will meet intermittently and provide feedback and support for the grant activities.

Karmi Ferguson, MBA, Executive Director of AAP California, **Renee Wachtel MD, FAAP** and **Diane Dooley MD, FAAP** wrote the AAP Friends of Children Fund grant and will serve as the steering committee members for this initiative. The California Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists and the California Academy of Family Physicians are partners and will have representation on the Advocacy Panel. Once completed, the Advocacy platform will be brought to the AAP California Board of Directors for approval and implementation.

We believe that by bringing together the voices of pediatricians, primary care providers and child and adolescent psychiatrists, California's children, youth, and families will witness improved mental health outcomes, increased health equity and strengthening of the medical home concept.

Advocacy Panel Members

Six pediatricians will be selected with an interest in, and knowledge regarding mental health treatment and prevention, behavioral health and/or integrated behavioral health. Primary care and developmental-behavioral pediatricians are encouraged to apply, along with academic and community physicians with interest in mental and behavioral health reform and/or health equity.

The duties and responsibilities of the Advocacy Panel members will be to:

- **Provide guidance** regarding best practices in addressing mental health issues in the primary care setting. Applicants should also be interested in supporting health care reforms enabling primary

care interventions, mental health partnerships and community resources to address child and adolescent mental health concerns.

- **Develop the advocacy platform** that will align the statewide reforms with the needs of providers and children, youth, and families. The platform will be based upon AAP principles and policies, as well as the collective wisdom and resources of the Advocacy Panel.
- **Meet twice a month** virtually on Tuesday afternoons with other Advocacy Panel members. The 2-hour meetings will begin in January 2023 and probably decrease to once a month starting in May. Members will be expected to attend 80% of these meetings.
- **Attend a one-day convening for Panel members** to build the draft Advocacy Platform which will be held on a Saturday in February in Oakland. Travel expenses will be paid with the grant funds.
- **Contribute time** to the advocacy activities by reviewing a limited number of background materials and articles shared between meetings to prepare for advocacy discussions. Members will also be asked for to support the advocacy platform and related proposals as AAP members. This could include letter writing and/or suggestions for coalition-building and partnerships to effectively realize improvements in the system of care.

Advocacy Panel members will receive an honorarium of $400 for the grant period, potential CME and unlimited gratitude from AAP California and its members for leading this initiative!

Circle of Support Members

Interested AAP California members are also invited to participate in this grant as part of the Circle of Support. The Circle will meet virtually every other month and will:

- **Provide support** for the grant activities
- **Offer feedback and suggestions** on grant activities and the advocacy platform.
- **Strategize** on and support partnerships to amplify the impact of the advocacy platform.
- **Assist** in integrating the messaging and activities from this grant into present and future AAP California programs and priorities.

Circle of Support members will not receive a stipend but may receive CME for some of their participation.

Please complete the following application for these positions and submit it by **December 12**. Applicants will be notified regarding their participation by December 19. The first virtual meeting will be held on January 17. Please contact Diane Dooley MD if you have any questions or concerns: 4dianedooley@gmail.com

Application

If you are interested in applying for either the Pediatric Mental Health Advocacy Panel and/or Circle of Support, please submit the following information to the grant oversight committee:

1. **Contact information**:

   Name:

   Address:

   Email:

   Preferred Phone number:

2. **Preferred involvement in the AAP California Mental Health grant**
   (If interested in either group, please rank your interest, e.g., 1,2)

   _____ Mental Health Advocacy Panel

   _____ Circle of Support

3. **Please state your interest, expertise and/or background which you believe will support this grant initiative. (200-400 words):**

Please submit this application to Diane Dooley MD by December 12
4dianedooley@gmail.com