DATE: 4/23/2020
TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey V. Smith, M.D., J.D., County Executive
FROM: René G. Santiago, Deputy County Executive/Director
County of Santa Clara Health System
Toni Tullys, Director of Behavioral Health Services
SUBJECT: School Linked Services Response to COVID-19 Pandemic, School Closures, and Shelter in Place

Under advisement from the Board of Supervisors (Board) meeting on March 26, 2020 (LF ID# 100484) agenda item #5, the Board requested that Administration provide an off-agenda report on School Linked Services (SLS) response to the COVID-19 pandemic, school closures, and Shelter in Place (SIP) order as it relates to (1) SLS Coordinators work during the COVID-19 pandemic and response to requests, (2) ability to provide services while teleworking, (3) statistics/numbers on responses and to whom SLS is responding to. This report provides the requested information.

Background
The COVID-19 pandemic evoked a Shelter in Place order and to prevent the spread of COVID19, school districts began closing schools Santa Clara County during the week of March 16, 2020 and implemented distance learning. With the school closures, SLS Coordinators adjusted their work by teleworking to continue to provide service coordination to students and their families.

SLS Coordinators
All 29 SLS Coordinators are teleworking and continue to provide service coordination during school closures, SIP, and COVID-19 pandemic.

BHSD Response
Since the March 26, 2020, BHSD has gathered information through an online needs assessment survey which all school districts were invited to complete. BHSD developed this survey to better understand the needs of the school districts, schools, SLS Coordinators, administration, and faculty during the COVID-19 pandemic. As of April 1, 2020, eight individuals responded to the needs assessment. Survey outcomes include requests for services to address basic needs, resources for activities to do at home, and resources to help parents to address their children’s anxiety and depression while SIP. BHSD met with responders to provide additional information on resources upon their request.
To support school districts and feeder model schools participating in SLS, BHSD approved flexibility in their expenditures so that SLS participants could utilize the childcare/food line item budget, intended to provide childcare services and food during family engagement activities, to purchase grocery gift cards for their families. Food and access to food resources was identified as a critical need. In addition, training and travel line item budget is available for SLS Coordinators and their Supervisors to use for language line services to outreach and engage monolingual speaking families. Lastly, requests for family engagement funds have been submitted and approved by BHSD for Chromebooks to support distance learning.

School based mental health services through School Linked Services behavioral health and Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) have continued through telehealth to support all schools in SLS school districts. Providers have accepted new referrals weekly. PEI school based services programs have provided financial support through flex funding to meet basic needs and provide case management.

Service Coordination – Statistics/Numbers
SLS Coordinators provide data to BHSD on a quarterly basis. An internal preliminary review of the Q3 FY20 data, specifically reviewing Alum Rock Union School District (ARUSD), Franklin-McKinley School District (FMSD), and Campbell Union Elementary School District (CUSD) data, shows an increase in referrals for resources from the first week of the SIP order (March 16, 2020) to the second week of SIP and the beginning of school closures (week March 23, 2020) by 14.71%. From the week of March 23 to March 31, 2020 there was an increase in referrals for resources by 115.38%. Prior to the SIP, the majority of the referrals (45%) were to Behavioral/Mental Health services. Following the SIP and school closures, the majority of referrals are for resources for food (60%) followed by family support (28%).

cc: Miguel Marquez, Chief Operating Officer
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