

Mission:

To empower Transitional Age Youth (TAY) to be leaders in community and mental health system transformation and to create positive change through the promotion of culturally appropriate supports, services, and approaches that improve and maintain the mental health of California's TAY.

Vision:

We envision a community in which Transition Age Youth in need of mental health services have access to resources and supports so they can lead self-fulfilling lives and be contributing members of society.

Who are TAY?

TAY stands for Transitional Age Youth. The term represents young people between the ages of 15 and 26. TAY are not children and they are not adults. They are a unique demographic that require customized services and supports to meet their distinctive needs.

Join CAYEN's Action Network

We would like to keep in touch with you through our action network email list. By signing up you can stay up to date on state-level policy and legislation impacting California's TAY, learn about successful TAY programs throughout the State, hear about special events, and engage in advocacy activities!

Email info@mhac.org
to sign up today!



www.CA-YEN.org
www.facebook.com/CaliforniaYouthEmpowermentNetwork



CAYEN

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The California Youth Empowerment Network (CAYEN) works to inspire and empower Transitional Age Youth (TAY) to create positive change in their communities and in the mental health system. CAYEN supports TAY throughout California to have a meaningful impact in the behavioral health policies that shape their lives.

What is B4Stage4?

If we are faced with cancer, heart disease, or diabetes, we don't wait years to treat them. We start long before Stage 4. We begin with prevention and when people are in the first stage of those diseases, and have a persistent cough, high blood pressure, or high blood sugar, we try immediately to reverse these symptoms. This is what we should be doing when people have serious mental illnesses. When people first begin to experience symptoms such as loss of sleep, feeling tired for no reason, feeling low, feeling anxious, or hearing voices, we should act.

These early symptoms might not ever become serious. Like a cough, they often go away on their own, and are nothing to fear. However, when they do not go away, it typically takes ten years from the time they first appear until someone gets a correct diagnosis and proper treatment.

Intervening as early as possible preserves education, employment, social supports, housing – and brain power! It also costs less than the all-too-common revolving door of incarceration, hospitalization, and homelessness.

CAYEN's key policy priorities include:

- Advocate for there to be mental health education included in the school curriculum every year in every school.
- Advocate for there to be at least one mental health professional on all school campuses.
- Advocate for continuity of care between children's system and adult system.
- Advocate for there to be no wrong door to receive mental health services and supports.
- Advocate for the abolition of the use of seclusion and restraint on juveniles.
- Advocate for policies that support the mental health of immigrant and undocumented youth.

CAYEN is working to achieve key strategic goals:

- Increase awareness of the importance of focusing PEI efforts on TAY, as this is the age span where PEI efforts can be most effective to achieve B4Stage4 outcomes. (B4Stage4 = Before Crisis)
- Increase awareness of the term TAY and the importance of TAY being recognized as its own unique demographic that does not fit into children services or adult services.
- Develop a training for adults teaching them how to work with TAY.
- Engage in awareness campaign to educate youth on the shortage of mental health professionals in CA and encourage them to enter into those positions.
- Develop a training teaching youth how to advocate for themselves in a variety of settings.
- Promote existing behavioral health services and supports for youth by creating a resource list that includes state and local resources.
- Launch patient's rights awareness campaign focused on low income Californians.
- Build bridges between the pre-TAY, TAY, and post-TAY years.
- Advocate for continued supports and services for youth, especially in diverse unserved, underserved, and poorly served communities after they turn 18, which is when they usually lose Medi-Cal benefits.
- Participate in Prop 64 implementation with focus on funding for youth treatment services.
- Participate in No Place like Home implementation.
- Launch an education campaign introducing the CAYEN program, mission, vision and goals

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