



MEDIA ADVISORY

ANNOUNCEMENT: CALIFORNIA TO LAUNCH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH VIRTUAL SERVICES PLATFORM

SACRAMENTO – On January 16, 2024, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will hold a press briefing to launch the Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform – [two free behavioral health services applications](#) for all families with kids, teens, and young adults ages 0-25. The platform is a cornerstone of Governor Gavin Newsom’s [Master Plan for Kids’ Mental Health](#) and the [Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative](#) (CYBHI).

WHAT: Press briefing to launch Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform

WHO: Participants include:

- Dr. Mark Ghaly, *Secretary, Health & Human Services Agency (CalHHS)*
- Dr. Sohil Sud, *CYBHI Director (CalHHS)*
- Michelle Baass, *Director, DHCS*
- Autumn Boylan, *Deputy Director, Office of Strategic Partnerships, DHCS*
- Patrick Johnston, *Chief Services Officer, Kooth US*
- Amrita Sehgal, *Vice-President of Business Operations and Growth Initiatives, Brightline*

WHEN: Tuesday, January 16, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. PST

WHERE: Livestream Webex ([Register](#))

BACKGROUND: CYBHI is an important component of the Governor’s transformation of California’s mental health system. The strategies that the CYBHI is implementing, including the launch of the Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform, are laying the foundation and developing the infrastructure to support a more coordinated, youth-centered, equitable, prevention-oriented, and accessible system, one in which young people can find the support they need when, where, and in the way they need it most.

NOTE: A demo will be conducted of two applications that can link youth and young adults to vital behavioral health services.

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