



**Supports to Advance Emotional Well-Being in Schools
Learning Collaborative Cohort
Who's Who in Cohort 2
October 30, 2023**

California

Sohil Sud, Chronic Disease Director, California Department of Public Health

- ROSE: California has elevated the importance of supporting our youth's mental health, particularly in schools and made significant investments to transform the infrastructure
- THORN/BUD: Devil is in the details of implementation, which we are starting to work through.

Steve Zimmer, Deputy Superintendent, California Department of Education

- ROSE: I think our rose would be the implementation of a \$4.1 Billion Dollar investment in Community Schools (already over 1200 campuses funded with implementation grants).
- THORN: Our challenge is to lean into the most difficult aspects of implementation from an assets-based lens and lean away from temptation to fix children, families and communities as we implement this program.

Michael Lombardo, California Advisor to Health and Human Services on Integrated Mental Health for Schools

- ROSE: Really proud of CA Child Youth Behavior Health Initiative CYBHI
 - THORN: Systematic integration using implementation science is really hard in such a big state
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Minnesota

John Eshun, Mental Well-Being Planner, MN Department of Health

- ROSE: Free school lunches
- THORN: Low teacher of color rates across the state

Brienne LaHaye, Project AWARE Coordinator at the Minnesota Department of Education

- ROSE: I'm proud of our statewide mental health training opportunities for staff. We've done trainings around the national best practices for Comprehensive School Mental Health Systems.
- THORN: We have a lot of state level barriers to Medicaid billing of school mental health services.

Ivy Wheeler, Director of COMPASS, Minnesota Department of Education

- ROSE: Offering flexible support to districts in school climate, comprehensive school based mental health, and educator wellbeing,
- THORN: How to increase support through a regionally based system.

Julie Neitzel Carr, Adolescent and School Health Supervisor, MN Department of Health

- ROSE: We work really hard to align and cross pollinate with Departments of Health and Education.
- THORN: Finding enough staff to support student/ staff emotional well-being.

Laura Lyman, School Climate and Mental Health Specialist, MN Department of Education

- ROSE: Supporting districts in staff wellbeing initiatives as part of comprehensive school mental health systems work
- THORN: Supporting school leaders to "find the time" to prioritize staff wellness

Tennessee

Adrienne Hackney, School Health and Wellness Director, TN Department of Health

- ROSE: Project Aware programs across the state
- THORN: Vaping (direct expulsion no reform policies or why students are dealing with addiction)

Fiona Hoehn, Mental Health Training Coordinator at Mental Health America of the Midsouth

- ROSE: We are really seeing a concerted effort in schools to talk about suicide prevention and sharing information about 988
- THORN: Would love to see even more discussion about mental health in schools