



Breaking Barriers 2016 Symposium

Working collaboratively across systems and communities to transform children's social, emotional, and behavioral health

Breaking Barriers is a collaborative of experts from across systems and communities that have come together to advance the social, emotional, and behavioral wellbeing of California's children. Breaking Barriers advances this goal through a range of sophisticated strategies to improve access to services, facilitate innovation, and align the state's vast resources around the needs of children. The Breaking Barriers Advisory Council currently provides expert consultation to interagency teams in several counties dedicated to improved social, emotional and behavioral health programming for children across systems. The Advisory Council is developing a range of partnerships with other organizations and efforts that share the same goal.

On April 21-22, 2016 Breaking Barriers will host a statewide symposium in Sacramento to unite public agency leadership, researchers, advocates, parents, educators and philanthropic foundations from across California to improve the social, emotional and behavioral wellbeing of California's children. Over two days, participants will engage in a structured process of assessment and planning that will strengthen local interagency collaboration and programming for children. Participants will engage with the developers of successful interagency systems and programs from other counties and will have access to timely information about models for inclusive, collaborative, local problem-solving and local program development.

On the first day, participants will collaboratively map strengths, challenges, and opportunities across current systems of social, emotional, and behavioral support. Expert facilitators will assist local teams to identify and analyze specific barriers to the effective and timely provision of coordinated, comprehensive school and community-based services. Breaking Barriers leadership will provide ongoing recording and synthesis of information that can be taken back and used at the local level. Breaking Barriers has recruited experts to support these conversations with insights from research, state and federal policymaking, and legal perspectives.

During the second day, interagency teams from 3 to 5 California counties will select specific administrative, policy, and fiscal challenges faced by their communities; discuss model solutions and strategies; and develop action plans tailored to their local realities. Their work will be supported by facilitators and experts from the Breaking Barriers team. Participants will walk away with concrete plans and timelines for progress towards achieving measurable improvements in their local systems.

Breaking Barriers also seeks to provide concrete supports to expedite and sustain the strategies developed at the symposium. These supports may include subsidized expert consultation, regular follow up meetings, implementation grants, and coordination with concurrent efforts.

For more information about Breaking Barriers and the 2016 Symposium, please visit www.breakingbarriersca.org or contact Elizabeth Estes at elizabeth@breakingbarriersca.org