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Commitments and Strategies for Youth Substance Use Disorder Services

The Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Program, Policy and Fiscal Division at the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) created a strategic plan to develop a state-level infrastructure for youth treatment and recovery services. The strategic plan includes commitments and strategies to identify how Youth SUD Services will build and sustain the infrastructure that will serve California's adolescent population in need of SUD services. The following are the State's commitments to serving adolescents with a SUD in California and the strategies to implement those commitments.

1. Commitment:

- Adolescents with a SUD shall receive treatment services and supports that lead to obtaining a life of sustained health, wellness, and recovery.

Strategies:

- Ensure youth treatment settings maintain high quality, effective, and developmentally appropriate care for their clients.
- Communicate effectively and engage in partnerships with counties and other stakeholders (e.g., pediatricians or other primary care providers).
- Encourage and support the submission of quality adolescent SUD treatment data and outcomes to DHCS.

2. Commitment:

- Adolescents with a SUD shall receive individualized care that is developmentally appropriate to address cognitive, social, emotional, or developmental delays/differences.

Strategies:

- Ensure youth treatment settings maintain high quality, effective, and developmentally appropriate care for their clients.
- Support integrated systems of care that focus on a holistic approach to SUD treatment services.
- Consider family's needs and/or limitations during service deliveries (e.g., delivery of treatment services).
- Create case management and/or counseling services to manage different levels of treatment.

3. Commitment:

- Provide SUD services to underserved, underprivileged adolescents identified to be in need.

Strategies:

- Ensure youth treatment settings maintain high quality, effective, and developmentally appropriate care for their clients.
- Engage and communicate effectively with counties and other stakeholders (e.g., pediatricians or other primary care providers).
Encourage and support the submission of quality adolescent SUD treatment data and outcomes to DHCS.

4. Commitment:

- Adolescent SUD treatment services shall be delivered with cultural and linguistic competency, and shall contain family-centered support, when appropriate.

Strategies:

- Ensure youth treatment settings maintain high quality, effective, and developmentally appropriate care for their clients.
- Enhance outreach and education to counties and other stakeholders (e.g., pediatricians or other primary care providers).
- Encourage and support the submission of quality adolescent SUD treatment data and outcomes to DHCS.

5. Commitment:

- Adolescent SUD treatment services will be delivered in compliance with DHCS policy and guidelines.

Strategies:

- Ensure youth treatment settings maintain high quality, effective, and developmentally appropriate care for their clients.
- Ensure that the workforce is trained and informed to provide quality SUD treatment services to adolescents.