

San Mateo County Office of Education, Peninsula Health Care District, And Sequoia Healthcare District Partner to Improve Access to Mental Health Services

Care Solace mental health care coordination services to be made available to San Mateo County's 93,500 students, their families, and school staff served by the Office of Education"

San Mateo County, Calif., (January 22nd, 2021) - Education and Healthcare leaders join together to ensure every student served by San Mateo County Office of Education has access to mental health care coordination services through a partnership with Care Solace.

Care Solace offers a unique service linking families and school staff to a range of mental health supports and resources specific to individual needs. Their Care Concierge team is available 24/7 and are experts in navigating a database of carefully vetted mental healthcare therapists and programs. Care Solace will provide care connections and critical support for the school community such as guiding users through insurance processes, ensuring provider availability, and scheduling appointments.

The partnership between the County's healthcare districts and County Office of Education will improve access to mental health care for thousands of students and their families, and school district staff and members of their households during this extremely stressful and challenging time which is leaving many feeling overwhelmed and under supported.

The County's health care districts are committed to helping residents achieve their optimal health by eliminating health disparities and partnering with efforts to bring health services to the community. "Appropriate linkage to care is an important element to ensuring students, families, and the school community have access to the right level of care, at the right time, and in the best way for each individual. By bringing in Care Solace, we will be one step closer to achieving this, which is especially critical during this time when behavioral health issues are skyrocketing," said Lawrence W. Cappel, Ph.D., Board Chair of Peninsula Health Care District.

"It is critical that our communities receive mental health support during this difficult time," said Kim Griffin, RN, Board President of Sequoia Healthcare District. "Care Solace has the ability to reach all school district community members and support them with accessing a range of professional mental health services."

"There is a great need for mental health and other social services in our school communities, and our community partners have the ability to provide these services. What's been missing is a bridge between the schools and the providers,"

said Nancy Magee, San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools. “We are thrilled to be working with Care Solace as they will provide the bridge we need.”

Contact the Administrative Office of your child’s school district for more information on how to access Care Solace services.

About Care Solace: Care Solace-provides mental health care coordination services for schools using proprietary software to aggregate and align mental health care providers and substance use treatment options. Established in 2017, Care Solace is based in Encinitas CA, and as of November 2020, the Care Concierge team has responded to 250,000 inquiries for support, connected over 100,000 students and families to care, and over 12,000 staff members to services.

For more information: <https://home.caresolace.com/>

About San Mateo County Office of Education: The San Mateo County Office of Education is committed to ensuring excellence and equity in education by inspiring students, investing in teachers, invigorating leaders, and involving communities.

For more information: <https://www.smcoe.org/>

About Peninsula Health Care District: Founded in 1947, Peninsula Health Care District serves the communities of San Bruno, Millbrae, Burlingame, Hillsborough, San Mateo and Foster City, and has as its mandate to address the unique health and wellness priorities of its constituents. The District promotes prevention, safeguards access to medical, dental care, and behavioral health services, and practices responsible stewardship of the taxpayer’s assets in addressing current priorities while planning for future needs.

For more information: <https://peninsulahealthcaredistrict.org/>

About Sequoia Healthcare District: Founded in 1946, Sequoia Healthcare District serves central and southern San Mateo County, specifically the cities of Atherton, Belmont, Redwood City, Portola Valley, San Carlos, Woodside and portions of Menlo Park, Foster City and San Mateo. SHD provides community-based health care services by investing in the prevention and early intervention of illness.

For more information: <https://seqhd.org/>