

## **SAI-LING CHAN-SEW, LCSW**

### **Biography**

Since 1995, Sai-Ling Chan-Sew, LCSW, has served as the Director of Child, Youth and Family (CYF) System of Care, Community Behavioral Health Services, San Francisco Department of Public Health. She was promoted to Director after serving as Deputy Director of CYF for two years. In her role as CYF Director, Ms. Chan-Sew is responsible for managing the City and County of San Francisco's behavioral health system which treats over 6,500 children, youth and their families in mental health and substance abuse programs annually and reaches an additional 10,000 families through behavioral health early intervention and prevention programs.

Under her leadership, the CYF budget has more than doubled, growing from \$17 million to \$43 million in Fiscal Year 2006-07. She also is responsible for having recruited and retained a multi-cultural staff of over 150 civil service employees, 120 contractors, and a behavioral health provider network of 380 individuals. In 2003, Ms. Chan-Sew oversaw the CYF integration of children's mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services under one behavioral health system. Currently, she is working to integrate behavioral health services within the health care setting.

Ms. Chan-Sew's early vision of a culturally competent, family-driven, youth-guided collaborative service delivery system among major child serving systems led to the creation of the nationally-recognized San Francisco Children's System of Care (CSOC). Since its inception, she has overseen CSOC's expansion of behavioral health services to over a thousand of San Francisco's children and youth through a combination of intensive care management and evidence-based practices, including Multisystemic Therapy, Aggression Replacement Training, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Treatment. In addition to expanding treatment services, Ms. Chan-Sew has been active at the national and state levels in promoting the development of prevention and early intervention services especially for young children. In response to a recent escalation in community violence in San Francisco, she was selected to chair a committee that developed a model crisis response protocol between the Public Health and the Police Departments that has increases access to behavioral health services for families affected by violence. More recently, Ms. Chan-Sew led local efforts to increase outreach and expand

behavioral health service access for Asian and Pacific Islander children, youth and families, as well as homeless and runaway youth. In 2002, she secured an \$8 million Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration System of Care grant to behavioral health services in San Francisco. One of the more innovative initiatives developed under this grant includes the integration of promising family and youth engagement practices within public agencies and behavioral health programs.

Additional CYF accomplishments under Ms. Chan-Sew's leadership include the expansion of school-based behavioral health services through the Wellness and Safe Passages Initiatives; the creation of the Shared Youth Database linking behavioral health, child welfare, juvenile justice and substance abuse systems; and the establishment of one of five Community Treatment Facilities in the State of California to meet the needs of youth with serious emotional challenges in secured residential treatment services. An early advocate of consumer-driven services, she established the CSOC Family Involvement and Youth Development Teams which promote family-driven, youth-guided practices and policies across child serving systems and within the community. In 2007, she created the Evidence-Based Treatment Academy at CYF to expand the introduction of evidence-based practices within the behavioral health system.

Prior to joining the Child, Youth and Family System of Care at Community Behavioral Health Services, Ms. Chan-Sew served as Program Director of the Chinatown Child Development Center where she implemented a community based outpatient and early intervention program for recent Asian immigrants to the United States, expanded the number of families seeking clinical services to more than 300 annually, and created an effective family involvement program targeting recently immigrated parents and grandparents. Ms. Chan-Sew also has served as a psychiatric social worker in private practice and as a guest lecturer for the Department of Social Work at San Francisco State University and as an instructor for the University of California, San Francisco Extension Program.

Fluent in Cantonese and Mandarin, Ms. Chan-Sew holds a Master's Degree from the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration and is a licensed clinical social worker. She is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions and finds time to serve on many national, state and local boards and commissions. A sought after speaker, Ms. Chan-Sew frequently makes presentations at behavioral health conferences across the nation.

## **Awards & Recognitions**

Kai Ming Head Start Service Award, Kai Ming Headstart (1992)

“Women Who Make A Difference” Award, Commission on the Status of Women (1993)

Consumer Action Award, Consumer Action (1993)

Award of Merit Certificate, City and County of San Francisco (1993)

Koshland Civic Unity Award, San Francisco Foundation (1996)

Public Managerial Excellence Award, Municipal Fiscal Advisory Committee to the Mayor (1996)

Community Partnership Award for Kinship Support Network, Mutual of America (1998)

Department of Public Health Employee Recognition Award, San Francisco Health Commission (1999)

Innovation in America Government Semifinalist, Kinship Support Network (1999)

Certificate of Recognition, Chinatown Child Development Center (2002)

Certificate of Honor for Founding Members, Wu Yee Children Services (2002)

Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition, Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives (2002)

Community Partner Honoree, Support for Families with Children with Disabilities (2003)

Certificate of Appreciation for High Quality Child Care Mental Health Consultation Initiative, San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and Their Families (2004)

Rose Jenkins Conference 2004 Children’s Coordinator Award, California Mental Health Director’s Association CSOC Committee (2004)

“Uncie” Award - Unconditional Care Awards, Seneca Center (2008)

## **Memberships**

### **National**

Member, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Community Mental Health Services Council on Collaboration and Coordination Steering Committee

## **State and Local**

Chair, San Francisco Department of Public Health Gun Violence Education, Response and Aftercare Committee

Chair, San Francisco Children's System of Care Steering Committee

Member, California Child Care Resource & Referral Network Board of Directors

Member, San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and Their Families SafeStart Committee

Member, San Francisco First Five Commission Advisory Committee

Member, San Francisco Health Plan Board of Directors

Member, San Francisco Human Services Agency Child Welfare Redesign Committee

Member, San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department Log Cabin Redesign Committee

Member, San Francisco Mayor's Cluster Committee on Education, Arts and Delinquency

Member, San Francisco Unified School District Safe Schools Task Force

Member, San Francisco Unified School District High School Wellness Steering Committee

## **Presentations**

Co-Presenter, "*The Regional Early Childhood Mental Health Network: A Cross Cultural Approach*" Special Post Prandial Presentation, UCSF 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Developmental Disabilities: Update for Health Professionals, March 2009, San Francisco, California

Presenter, "*Family and Children's Services - Visitation is the Heart of Reunification*," San Francisco Human Services Commission, March 2008, San Francisco, California.

Opening Keynote, "*The Child, Youth, and Family System of Care Story*," Community Behavioral Health Services All Staff Retreat, San Francisco Department of Public Health, November 2007, San Francisco, California.

Presenter, "*San Francisco Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Initiative*," Thinking Big About Little Learners, Investing Statewide in the Healthy Social and Emotional Development of Young Children Conference, Hampshire Educational Collaborative, October 2007, Boston, Massachusetts.

Presenter, "*San Francisco Primary Care Interface - Coordinating Behavioral Health and Health Care Services*," Rose Jenkins Conference, October 2007, Sacramento, California.

Presenter, "*Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Learning Community*," Summer 2007 Systems of Care Community Meeting: Enhancing Resiliency and Healing/Trauma

Informed Services and Supports, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, August 2007, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Presenter, "*Creating an Integrated Multi-Agency Data System to Improve Program Planning and Evaluation*," Summer 2007 Systems of Care Community Meeting: Enhancing Resiliency and Healing/ Trauma Informed Services and Supports, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, August 2007, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Presenter, "*System Transformation through Family and Youth Involvement*," Summer 2007 Systems of Care Community Meeting: Enhancing Resiliency and Healing/ Trauma Informed Services and Supports, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, August 2007, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Presenter, "*Child, Youth and Family System of Care - Publicly-Funded Behavioral Health Services*," Langley Porter Grand Rounds, September 2006, San Francisco, California.

Opening Keynote, "*Helping Families Cope with Community Violence*," Second Annual Children's System of Care Symposium: Fostering Resiliency in African American Children, Youth and Families, Community Behavioral Health Services, San Francisco Department of Public Health, May 2005, San Francisco, California.

Opening Keynote, "*Where We've Been, Where We're Going*," Community Behavioral Health Services All Staff Retreat, San Francisco Department of Public Health, October 2004, San Francisco, California.

Presenter, "*The Family Mosaic Project: An Effective Intensive Case Management Model Sustained through Medicaid Dollars*," Winter 2003 System of Care Community Meeting: Effective Strategies for Building and Sustaining Systems of Care, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, January 2003, San Antonio, Texas.

Opening Keynote, "*Working Together with San Francisco Children, Youth and Their Families*," First Annual Children's System of Care Symposium: Systems of Care Collaboration, A National Movement to Improve Child and Family Outcomes, Community Behavioral Health Services, San Francisco Department of Public Health, September 2003, San Francisco, California.

Opening Keynote, "*Any Door, the Right Door: Integrating Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services*," Community Behavioral Health Services All Staff Retreat, San Francisco Department of Public Health, September 2003, San Francisco, California.

Presenter, Opening Keynote, "*Any Door, the Right Door: Integrating Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services*," Children's System of Care Steering Committee, Community Behavioral Health Services, San Francisco Department of Public Health, March 2003, San Francisco, California.

