

DIGITAL TOOLS FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

The Children's Forum

Monday, November 17, 2025
9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (ET)

National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave. NW (Lecture Room & East Court)

8:30 a.m. *BREAKFAST* (available in the East Court)

9:30 Welcome & Opening Remarks

9:45 State of the Science

- **Stephen Schueller**, *Professor of Psychological Science and Informatics, University of California, Irvine*

10:00 Case Studies | Designing with Purpose, Evidence, and Partnership

Moderator—Adrienne Stith, *Head of Science, American Psychological Association*

This session will spotlight innovative digital tools designed to support youth mental and behavioral health. Presenters will share how their tools were co-designed with young people and families, how they build on the scientific evidence base, and what early evaluation results show about their impact. Discussion will explore how these tools use evidence and ongoing feedback to evolve safely and effectively, and what lessons their design choices offer for others working at the intersection of technology, mental health, and youth engagement.

Presenters

David Anderson, *Vice President of Public Engagement and Education, Child Mind Institute*, and **Hannah Sykes**, *University of California, Berkeley*

Drew Barvir, *CEO, Sonar Mental Health*, and **Selinam Ayifli**, *Youth Leader*

Laura Horne, *Chief of Programs, Active Minds*, and **Trace Terrell**, *Student Leader, Johns Hopkins University*

Presentations followed by partner reflections and moderated Q&A

11:15 Action Lab | Building Evidence, Access, and Trust

Facilitated small-group dialogue

Guiding questions:

- What change in how evidence is generated, shared, or applied would make digital mental health tools for youth more effective and more widely trusted by youth, families, schools, payers, and clinicians?
- What action or partnership (e.g., research-practice collaboration, funding or evaluation model, shared standard, policy shift) could improve access, affordability, or sustainability of evidence-based digital tools in the next 12 months?

Each group will select one action item to elevate to the room

11:50 Report Out

12 p.m. LUNCH (available in the East Court)

1:00 Case Studies | Scaling What Works Across Systems

Moderator—Scott Kollins, Chief Medical Officer, AURA

This session will highlight how innovative digital tools for youth mental and behavioral health are moving from promising pilots to broader adoption across systems. Presenters will discuss their experiences navigating financing, reimbursement, and regulatory challenges; partnering with payers, schools, and health systems; and aligning with policy to support sustainability and equitable access. Each case study will explore how evidence and evaluation continue to evolve as tools scale, and what lessons their journeys offer for strengthening collaboration across sectors.

Presenters

Andrew Post, President, Hazel Health, and **Nikki Reiss**, Deputy Director of Innovation, Ohio Department of Behavioral Health

Mallika Pajjuri, Co-Founder, Psyche Care, and **Alicia Bazzano**, Doctor of Emergency Medicine and Pediatrics, MedStar Health

Hafeezah Muhammad, Founder and CEO, Backpack Healthcare, and **Lorriane Moss**, Program Manager, Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports

Presentations followed by partner reflections and moderated Q&A

2:15 Action Lab | Scaling Access and Sustainability

Facilitated small-group dialogue

Guiding questions:

- What's the most important system or policy shift needed to make effective digital mental health tools broadly accessible — especially for underserved populations?
- What's one collaborative step organizations in this room could take within the next year (e.g., shared evaluation framework, pilot partnership, reimbursement pathway, procurement model) to move that shift forward?

Each group will select one action item to elevate to the room

2:45 Report Out and Commitments

3 p.m. PLANNED ADJOURNMENT