**ACTION ITEM

Item VI

Behavioral Health Services' Community Engagement Update

Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) Meeting
Thursday, September 4, 2025

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Behavioral Health Services – Strategy and Finance

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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Today's Update

- Review recent BHSA updates since last BHS CE Update
- Review previously approved approaches and activities and additional strategies proposed to support BHS completion of Community Planning Process (CPP) requirements for the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) 2026-2029 Integrated Plan (IP) – *drafts due to CA Department of Health Care Services:* ***03/31/26***

- BHAB recommendations for "BHSA 101" community information sessions and *Engage San Diego County* BHSA project page

- **ACTION:**
  - BHAB approval of additional strategies for engagement to support BHSA CPP

BHS CE Background

FY2022-23	FY2023-24	FY2024-25 & FY2025-26
Focus: Assess department's existing activities, mechanisms, and capacity to perform engagement	**Focus:** Build capacity and infrastructure to pilot new approaches in alignment with input received	**Focus:** Continue to broaden and promote opportunities for meaningful participation
See also BHAB Director's Reports: July 2022; November 2022	*See also BHAB Director's Reports: December 2023; April 2024*	*See also BHAB Director's Reports: December 2024 & August 2025*



- ***Please see additional handouts in BHAB packet***

BHSA Updates *(03/06/2025)*

Key Activities To-Date re: Community Engagement:

- **Mar 2024:** Proposition 1 (Prop 1) passed by California voters
- **Aug 2024:** Last Community Engagement Update provided at BHAB General Meeting; California Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) notes plans for phased guidance for counties to begin Jan 2025
- **Sept 2024:** BHS initiates internal review of its community engagement mechanisms and processes
- **Dec 2024:** DHCS releases draft BHSA County Policy Manual for Public Comment; BHAB Director's Report discusses community engagement transition
- **Jan 2025:** Additional community engagement transition details provided via BHS Notice and presentation at BHS System of Care (SoC) Combined Council Meeting
- **Feb 2025:** Reconfiguration of existing BHS-led convenings and input sessions begin; DHCS releases finalized BHSA County Policy Manual (02/20/2025)

BHSA Updates

Key Activities To-Date re: Community Engagement (continued):

- **Apr 2025:**
  - DHCS releases draft Module 3 Policy Guidance for public comment
  - BHS launches new *Engagement Activities* webpage
- **June 2025:** DHCS releases finalized BHSA County Policy Manual (06/30/2025)
- **July 2025:** DHCS releases additional updates re: IP Budget Template, County Population-Level Behavioral Health Measure Workbook, and BHSA County Policy Manual (07/09/2025)
- **August 2025:** DHCS provides county behavioral health departments with an overview of IP Requirements and Submission, CPP, IP Data, Statewide Behavioral Health Goals, and County Provider Monitoring and Oversight via webinars 08/14/2025 & 08/26/2025

BHSA Updates: State IP Template

The first BHSA Integrated Plan (IP) will cover Fiscal Years 2026-2029 and be due June 30, 2026.

A State IP template will include required sections on the following topics:

- County Demographics and Behavioral Health Needs
- Plan Goals and Objectives
- Community Planning Process
- Comment Period and Public Hearing
- County Behavioral Health Care Continuum Capacity
- Services by Total Funding Source
- Behavioral Health Services Fund Programs
- Workforce Strategy
- Budget and Prudent Reserve

Annual and intermittent updates are not subject to stakeholder engagement requirements for the IP outlined in section 3.B.1 of the manual.

DHCS
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Section 3
County Integrated Plan

https://policy-manual.mes.dhcs.ca.gov/behavioral-health-services-act-county-policy-manual/V1.0.0/3-county-integrated-plan

CE Planning *(BHAB Meeting, 10/02/2023)*

- **Key requests regarding implementation of input/engagement activities:**
  - Hold more activities in neighborhood and community spaces
  - Co-facilitation with partners
  - More smaller groups rather than larger listening sessions
  - Incentives for participation and follow-thru to show how community input is being implemented
  - More balanced representation at input activities
  - Advanced notice
  - Multiple means of obtaining input

CE Planning *(BHAB Meeting, 10/02/2023)*

- **Key recommendations from BHAB CE Subcommittee (8/16 Jamboard):**
  - Maintain multiple formats (i.e., interviews, focus groups, input sessions, questionnaires)
  - Geographic regions, as well as group/population specific input sessions of varying sizes
  - Enhance dissemination of static questionnaire and leverage this questionnaire more
  - Have hard-copy, translated versions of questionnaire
  - More promotion on social media (not just posts but consider making polls or events on platforms such as Facebook if platform has that functionality)

CE Planning

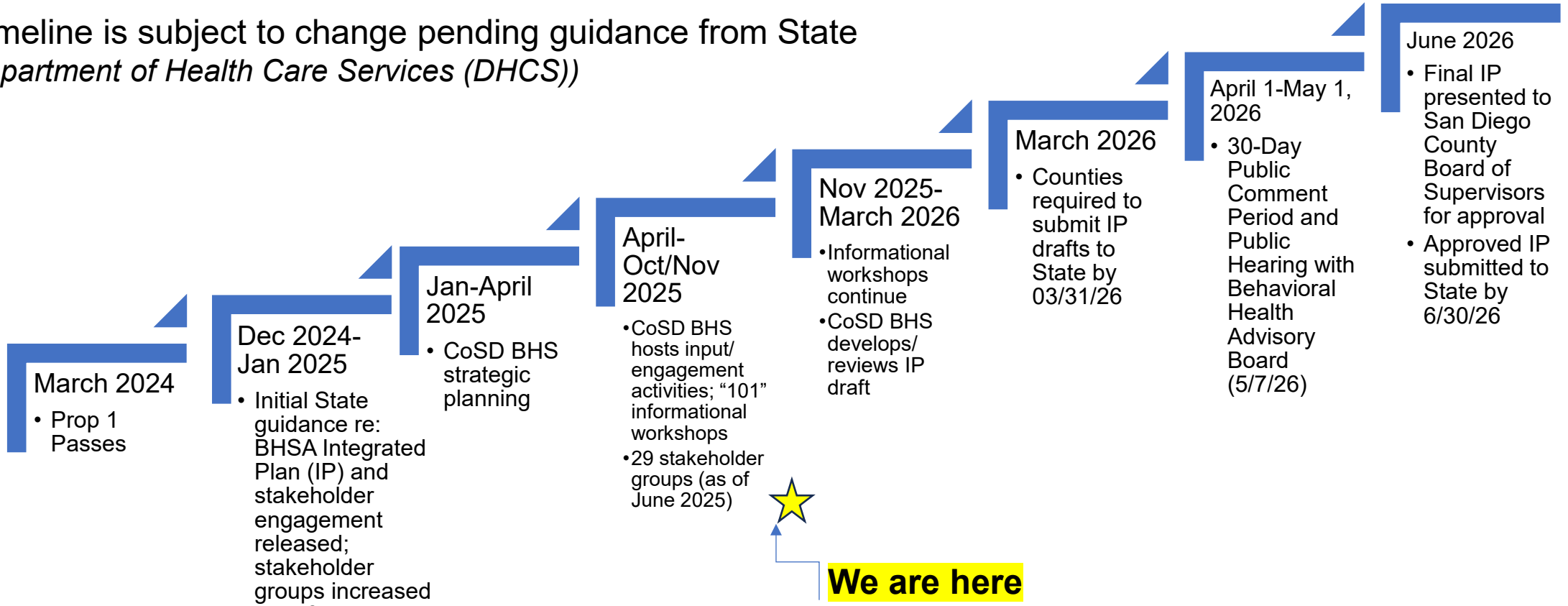
Additional Strategies *(Page 3 of draft CPP Plan handout)*

In addition to the community engagement approaches and activities previously approved to support CPP (see Action Items – 10/02/23 BHAB Monthly Meeting), department staff are:

1. Collaborating with other teams to assess the addition of CPP activities and/or questions about BHSA topics into other engagement opportunities being led by County peers
2. Engaging community groups and organizations who have already led/are championing efforts related to behavioral health priority areas (see Page 5) and coordinating focused discussion opportunities to support more continuous, collaborative planning in the region
3. Integrating questions about BHSA topics into other BHS community engagement activities focused on priority areas (e.g. BHSA topics at an engagement activity for Youth OCP)
4. Integrating questions about BHSA topics into activities with community coalitions, councils, and collaboratives with diverse and/or larger membership bases
5. Piloting less formal, short-form input opportunities (1-2 questions) at in-person outreach and education events on BHSA topics
6. Sharing information via existing and new BHS webpages
7. [OTHER-PLACEHOLDER]

Reporting Timeline: BHSA

*Timeline is subject to change pending guidance from State
(Department of Health Care Services (DHCS))



Discussion & BHAB Recommendations





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