

BHSA Stakeholder Engagement Updates

BHAB Executive Committee – September 25, 2026

Overview of Activities & Milestones

- a. January 2025: Notice of efforts to evolve and enhance department stakeholder engagement efforts to align with Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) changes and requirements
- b. February 2025: System of Care (SoC) Council input sessions held to identify strengths to preserve and opportunities to improve engagement activities
- c. April 2025-Early 2026: Various activities held with community members and partners to inform the BHSA Integrated Plan and future engagement approaches
- d. 5/7/26: New engagement infrastructure introduced during the BHAB Public Hearing for the BHSA Integrated Plan (IP)
- e. 5/19/26: Additional design and proposed facilitation approach discussed with BHSA Community Planning Ad Hoc Subcommittee
- f. 6/9/26: San Diego County Board of Supervisors approved submission of the IP to the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
- g. 6/30/26: San Diego County BHSA IP submitted to DHCS
- h. 7/1/26: BHSA implementation effective date

Building on Prior Efforts

The updated engagement infrastructure is intended to preserve what stakeholders valued about former SoC Councils while addressing opportunities identified through February 2025 input sessions. The goal is to make engagement more inclusive, action-oriented, and clearly connected to planning and system improvement. BHS is taking a multi-pronged approach during BHSA implementation, including department-led efforts, contracted community-led engagement, and continued participation in stakeholder-led meetings and convenings.

Key learnings from February 2025 input sessions included the need to:

- Preserve direct access and dialogue with BHS, subject matter experts, providers, and community partners
- Create more space for two-way discussion and shared problem-solving, rather than primarily information-heavy updates
- Align topics to input themes, broaden participation, and have discussions beyond age-based groups so cross-cutting issues can be discussed across populations and sectors
- Strengthen feedback loop and transparency so stakeholders can better see how community input connects to planning, implementation, data, outcomes, and future Integrated Plan updates

Organizing recurring conversations around shared **system** challenges is intended to help identify gaps and system coordination opportunities, make community input more actionable, and align engagement with new BHSA requirements.

Discussion Items

a. Community Co-Chair Model

Proposed Community Co-Chair model is intended to support shared ownership and help ensure recurring OCC discussions are informed by community and stakeholder perspectives. Roles and selection processes would continue to be refined based on stakeholder input and operational feasibility; department is recommending an application process similar to BHAB BHSA Community Planning Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

b. OCC Participation and Representation

A structured convening format is proposed to allow for broad stakeholder participation while creating focused breakout discussions that support continuity, relationship-building, and action planning.

c. Future of BHAB BHSA Community Planning Ad Hoc Subcommittee (*scheduled to sunset October 2026*)

The current Ad Hoc Subcommittee was established for the focused work surrounding development, review, approval, and submission of the 2026–2029 BHSA IP. With the IP now moving into implementation, BHAB may wish to determine whether the Ad Hoc should continue beyond its scheduled sunset to help advise on remaining CPP implementation details.