

# WELCOME TO BHAB RE-ENTRY SUPPORT FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTH AND ADULTS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

PLEASE MUTE



YOUR AUDIO WHEN YOU ARE NOT SPEAKING.

PLEASE USE THE



**Raise Hand**

FUNCTION OF THE ZOOM TO PARTICIPATE.

PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND AGENCY/AFFILIATION IN THE CHAT.

PLEASE KEEP PARTICIPATION COMMENTS BRIEF.



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SAN DIEGO



UC San Diego

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES (BHS)

**Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA)  
Overview & Input Session with  
BHAB Re-entry Support for  
Justice-Involved Youth and Adults  
Subcommittee**

*Monday, October 27, 2025, 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM*

**BHS Communication & Engagement (C&E) Unit**

*Kat Casabar Briggs, MPH, Chief*

**University of California, San Diego (Contract #566007)**

*Krystal Lira, PhD & David Sommerfeld*

# Land Acknowledgment



“

We acknowledge that the San Diego County region is made up of the traditional lands of the Kumeyaay, Luiseño/Payómkaichum, Cahuilla and Cupeño/Kuupangaxwichem Peoples.

We acknowledge the harmony that existed among the land, nature, and its original Peoples, who have since endured displacement, persecution, and systemic oppression.

We pay our respect to the unceded territory and homelands of the 18 federally recognized tribes in our region.

We honor the ancestral grounds and sovereignty of the Tribal Nations, whose resilience and strength inspire forward movement towards more equitable and sustainable programs, policies, and practices.

”

# Today's Meeting



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- **Background & Context – BHS**
  - BHSA Overview
  - Community Planning Process
- **BHSA Input Session – UCSD Health Partnership**
- **Next Steps – BHS**

*To increase awareness of California's  
Justice-Involved (JI) Reentry Initiative that  
provides medical and behavioral health  
services for adults and youth in San Diego  
County jails*

# California's JI Reentry Initiative



- On January 26, 2023, California became first state in the nation to offer a targeted set of Medicaid services to youth and eligible adults in state prisons, county jails, and youth correctional facilities for up to 90 days prior to release
- Intended to bridge the gap between custody and community – ensuring continuity of coverage, linkages to behavioral health and physical health services, and reduce the risk of poor outcomes post-release, such as:
  - Recidivism
  - Hospitalization
  - Relapse
  - Overdose

# About BHSA



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- Part of Proposition 1; takes effect July 1, 2026
- Modernizes the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) passed by CA voters in 2004
- No additional funding introduced, but brings new components, requirements, and restrictions for how revenue derived from millionaire's tax may be used by counties for behavioral health programs/services

**Learn More**

[\*bit.ly/BHSA\\_BHS\*](https://bit.ly/BHSA_BHS)



SanDiegoCounty.gov Home

## Behavioral Health Services

GET HELP NOW I WANT TO FIND MENTAL HEALTH SUBSTANCE USE

### Behavioral Health Services Act

The Behavioral Health Services Act, also known as BHSA, is a state law passed by voters in March 2024. BHSA updates the [Mental Health Services Act \(MHSA\)](#) by:

- Expanding service access to include treatment for people with substance use disorders,
- Prioritizing care for people with the most serious mental illness,
- Providing ongoing resources for housing and workforce development, and
- Continuing investments in prevention, early intervention, and innovative behavioral health pilot programs.

BHSA aims to close service gaps and ensure equitable access to quality care across the state. New BHSA requirements will also enhance oversight, transparency, and accountability at the state and local levels.

To learn more about BHSA:

- [Behavioral Health Transformation \(DHCS\)](#)

To receive updates about BHSA, subscribe to these statewide sites:

- [Department of Health Care Services \(DHCS\)](#)
- [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#)

### Community Planning

BHSA requires counties to look at their whole behavioral health system of care through a formal Community Planning Process (CPP). The CPP supports the County of San Diego's goal to involve communities in meaningful conversations and decision-making about local behavioral health services to ensure programs reflect their unique needs and voices.

**Share Input via Our Online Form**

Access this online form to share insights and recommendations with BHS to help guide the development of San Diego County's first BHSA Integrated Plan for Fiscal Years 2026–2029.

**Participate in Upcoming Activities**

View upcoming and past engagement activities hosted by the department, including community workshops, town halls, and input opportunities to help inform the BHSA Integrated Plan for Fiscal Years 2026–2029.

# BHSA: Key Populations



## Eligible adults/older adults who are:

- Chronically homeless or experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness.
- In, or are at risk of being in, the justice system.
- Reentering the community from prison or jail.
- At risk of conservatorship.
- At risk of institutionalization.

## Eligible children and youth who are:

- Chronically homeless or experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness.
- In, or are at risk of being in, the juvenile justice system.
- Reentering the community from a youth correctional facility.
- In the child welfare system.
- At risk of institutionalization.





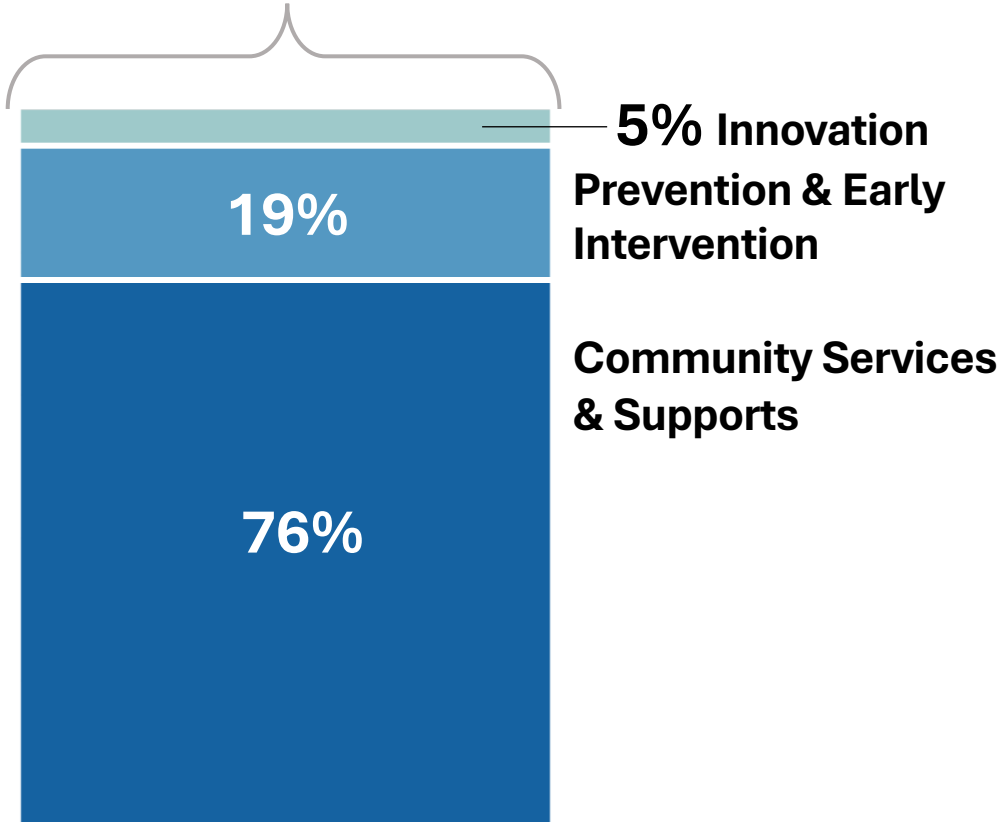
- Broadens scope of funding to include standalone substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services and housing interventions; bolsters oversight and transparency
- Mandates data-driven reporting and population-level outcome tracking
  - Behavioral Health Outcomes, Accountability, and Transparency Report **NEW**
- Mandates stronger stakeholder engagement (approx. three-fold increase)
- Emphasis on supporting high-need and at-risk populations, evidence-based and community-defined practices, the behavioral health workforce, and health equity

# BHSA Components



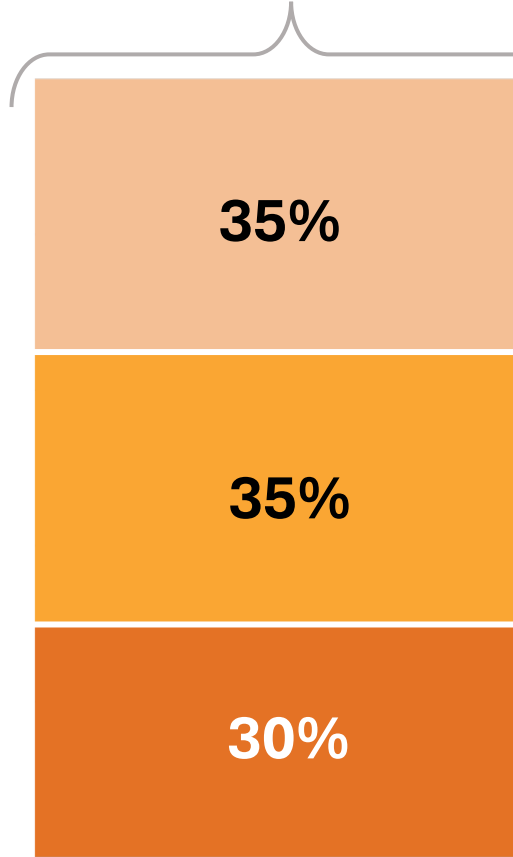
## County Allocation of MHSA Dollars (Before Prop 1)

95% County Allocation  
5% State



## County Allocation of Proposed BHSA Dollars (Under Prop 1)

90% County Allocation  
10% State



State Admin  
  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Workforce  
  
Department of Health Care  
Access and Information

Prevention  
  
CDPH

State-Wide Investments

**Full-Service Partnerships**

**Behavioral Health Services & Supports**

- 51% for Early Intervention (approx. 17.85%)
  - 51% of BHSS Early Intervention funds dedicated to children, youth, and young adults (approx. 9.15%)

**Housing Interventions**

- 50% dedicated to support housing needs of individuals who are chronically homeless, with a focus on those in encampments

# BHSA Components



- **Full Service Partnerships (FSPs)** – provides team-based “whatever it takes” support for people with serious behavioral health needs, focusing on recovery, whole-person care, and family partnerships.
- **Behavioral Health Services and Supports (BHSS)** – includes treatment and recovery services like therapy, case management, and medication support to promote wellness across all ages.
- **Housing Interventions** – helps people with behavioral health needs find and maintain stable housing through supports like rental assistance and housing navigation services.

## **BHSS**

- *Children’s, Adult, and Older Adult Systems of Care*
- *Outreach & Engagement*
- *Workforce Education and Training*
- *Capital Facilities and Technological Needs*
- *Early Intervention Programs*
- *Innovative Behavioral Health Pilots and Projects*

# BHSA: Integrated Plan



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**Counties' first BHSA Integrated Plan (IP) will cover  
Fiscal Years 2026-2029 and be due to DHCS by June 30, 2026.**

**All counties given template by state to provide:**

- County Demographics and Behavioral Health Needs
- Plan Goals and Objectives
- **Community Planning Process (CPP)**
- 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



**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>

# BHSA: CPP Timeline



<b>Phase 1</b> Receive New State Guidance for Planning	 <b>Phase 2</b> <b>Conduct Community Education &amp; Engagement</b>	<b>Phase 3</b> Develop IP (Fiscal Years 2026-2029)	<b>Phase 4</b> Review & Approve IP	<b>Phase 5</b> Submit IP to State
<b>Summer 2025-Fall 2025</b>	<b>Fall 2025-Winter 2026</b>	<b>Winter 2026-Spring 2026</b>	<b>Spring 2026-Summer 2026</b>	<b>By June 30, 2026</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review BHSA County Policy Manual (finalized June 2025) and evaluate new requirements for counties from the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).</li> <li>• Attend DHCS webinars for counties on Integrated Plan (IP) development and the Community Planning Process (CPP) to structure BHSA CPP engagement activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide BHSA education through informational handouts and presentations at public meetings.</li> <li>• Facilitate outreach, listening sessions, focus groups, and other opportunities at community events and convenings for stakeholders to provide input.</li> <li>• Document key learnings and stakeholder recommendations to support community priorities and system needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department synthesis of stakeholder input, fiscal data, and program assessments.</li> <li>• Draft San Diego County's IP for Fiscal Years 2026–2029.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post IP draft for public comment and feedback.</li> <li>• Present proposed IP to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board).</li> <li>• Incorporate public comments and finalize IP language.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board-approved IP provided to State (DHCS) through their BHSA County Portal.</li> <li>• Prepare for official implementation of BHSA funding and reporting requirements on July 1, 2026.</li> </ul>

- BHS is conducting engagement and education activities thru various mechanisms
  - Activities include input sessions, focus groups, interviews, tabling exchanges at outreach events, as well as informational BHSA workshops
- Input opportunities during this baseline year for BHSA are focused on hearing stakeholder insights and recommendations related to key topics which are new components and/or have heightened focus under BHSA, such as:
  - Substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services
  - Housing interventions
  - Crisis response services
  - Early intervention for youth and young adults

# **Input Session Overview**

The bottom of the slide features three overlapping, wavy horizontal bands. The top band is a medium blue, the middle band is a lighter teal, and the bottom band is white. These bands create a sense of movement and depth at the base of the presentation.

# Input Session Questions (60min)



1. What outreach strategies or community partnerships could help connect people to support before a behavioral health or criminal legal crisis?
2. What could make transitions from custody to community-based care more consistent and reliable?
3. What housing supports or partnerships best help justice-involved people stay stable and connected to care?
4. What follow-up practices or supports best help people stay engaged, and how could we make those easier to sustain?



# Input Session Questions (60min)



## **Thinking about both prevention and recovery:**

5. What helps people access support early and avoid system involvement?
6. For those who have had system involvement, what approaches or supports help them maintain recovery and stability afterward?
7. As the County prepares for BHSA in 2026, what else should BHS consider to better support the behavioral health needs of those at risk of or with prior justice involvement?

# Input Session

University of California, San Diego (Contract #566007)

*Krystal Lira, PhD & David Sommerfeld*

UC San Diego

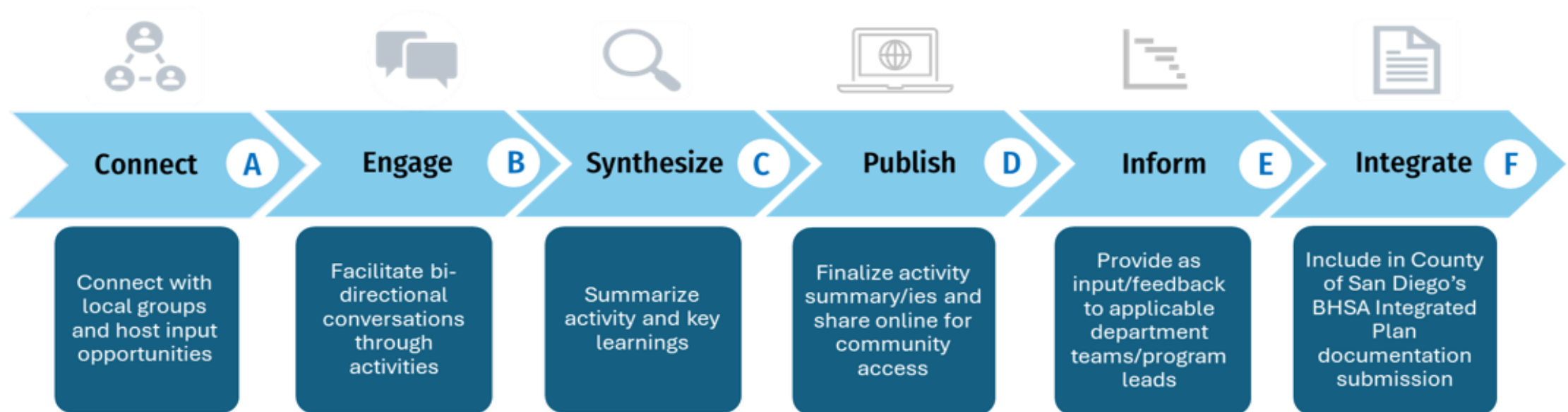
# Next Steps



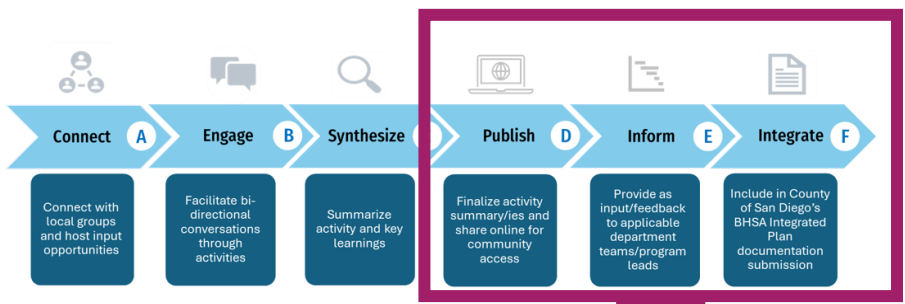
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## How will information from today's session be utilized by the department?

*Input will inform specialty mental health and substance use disorder treatment services priorities, investments, and recommendations included in the first BHSA Integrated Plan scheduled for presentation to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors in Summer 2026.*



# Next Steps



County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency

**BHS Housing Council Input Session Engagement Summary**

Overview: This report summarizes the Thursday, May 1, 2025, input session between the County of San Diego Housing Council, Behavioral Health Services (BHS), housing stakeholders, and community members, examining how the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) will shape housing policies.

Section	Details
Engagement Title	Housing Council Listening Session
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Person <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual <input type="checkbox"/> Hybrid
Activity Details	Date: Thursday, May 1, 2025 Time: 10:30 AM-11:30 AM Location: County of San Diego Housing and Community Development Services (HCDS), 3989 Ruffin Rd, San Diego, CA, 92123 60-min discussion:
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Nearly 40 attendees</li><li>4 discussion questions</li><li>200+ comments received:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>163 comments submitted through Mentiimeter</li><li>40 comments through open discussion</li></ul></li></ul>

**Summary of Engagement Activity**

On May 1, 2025, the County of San Diego Behavioral Health Services (BHS), in collaboration with the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) Health Partnership, hosted a listening session during the BHS Housing Council Retreat at the San Diego County Housing and Community Development Services (HCDS) building. The Housing Council provides guidance on the design, implementation, and evaluation of housing interventions to address the behavioral health needs of individuals at risk of or experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. This session was designed to gather early input to inform the development of the County's first Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Integrated Plan and input session questions were formulated based on prior input and work of the Council, including the 2022-2027 Strategic Housing Plan.

Approximately 40 participants attended the retreat, including the Council's 10 voting members and representatives from community-based organizations, housing developers, advocacy groups, and government and non-government agencies.

Participating organizations included:

- National CORE
- Alpha Project
- Vista Hill
- Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)
- Legal Aid Society
- Jewish Family Services of San Diego

- Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) Exodus Recovery
- San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC)
- Clarvida
- Wakeland Housing and Development Corporation
- Housing Innovation Partners (HIP)

10/09/2025 1

**Key Learnings**

- Rigid Policies Create Barriers to Stable and Accessible Housing**  
Barriers include eligibility rules, funding limits, and a mismatch of services when complex health needs exist. Eligibility rules like Coordinated Entry Systems (CES) matching, Housing and Urban Development restrictions, and felony exclusions all prevent access. Funding limits further narrow eligibility: for example, Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI) excludes board and care for high-need individuals. Service mismatch makes housing waits too long for clients with specialized care needs that require access to Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), and Full-Service Partnership (FSP).

**Audience Recommendations**

- Dedicate Funding for Capital Development**  
Participants recommended the County dedicate the full 25% allowable under the BHSA 30% Housing Intervention Component to capital development projects. Maximizing this investment would be essential to expand the supply of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and meet needs of individuals with serious behavioral health conditions at risk or experiencing homelessness. Recapitalization of "No Place Like Home," in collaboration with County Housing and Development Services was also suggested.

- Activity Summaries approved by BHAB on 09/04/25
- Overview of activity, participants, discussion(s) held, including questions proctored
- Three primary uses once finalized

# Have Additional Input?





Visit our BHSA website!



SCAN ME

[bit.ly/BHSA\\_BHS](https://bit.ly/BHSA_BHS)



## Behavioral Health Services Act Online Input Form

SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

The County of San Diego's Behavioral Health Services Department invites you to share your ideas and recommendations for behavioral health programs and services as California counties prepare to implement the Behavioral Health Services Act on July 1, 2026.

The Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) modernizes the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) passed by voters in 2004. For more information, visit [www.bhsa.ca.gov](#).

What about BHSA would you like to provide input on?

Select from the list below to populate response boxes:

- ☐ Behavioral Health Services and Supports (BHSS) component
- ☐ BHSS: Workforce Education and Training
- ☐ BHSS: Early Intervention
- ☐ Full Service Partnerships (FSP) component
- ☐ Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Services
- ☐ Housing Interventions component
- ☐ Communities Most Impacted
- ☐ Other


### About You

Please share a little about yourself to help us understand who we heard from.

Which of the following best describes you and/or the agency or organization you represent? \*

(Mark all that apply)

- ☐ Adult or older adult with lived mental health or substance use experience
- ☐ Youth or young adult with lived mental health or substance use experience
- ☐ Family member of someone with lived mental health or substance use experience
- ☐ Mental health, substance use, or social services provider
- ☐ Public or government agency



### Behavioral Health Services

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[GET HELP NOW](#) [I WANT TO FIND](#) [MENTAL HEALTH](#) [SUBSTANCE USE](#) [CONNECT](#)

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# Stay Connected



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## Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

## Planned Engagement Activities

## Past Activity Materials

SCAN ME



Contact Us

Communication & Engagement Unit: [Engage.BHS@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Engage.BHS@sdcounty.ca.gov)

The image displays a collage of resources related to Behavioral Health Services (BHS) engagement. At the top is a screenshot of the BHS website, which features a navigation bar with links like 'GET HELP NOW', 'I WANT TO FIND', 'MENTAL HEALTH', 'SUBSTANCE USE', and 'CONNECT'. Below the navigation bar, there's a section titled 'Join Us for an Upcoming Activity' with three featured events: a 'Virtual Input Session' for the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) AOD Continuum of Care Subcommittee, a 'LIVE WELL ADVANCE CONFERENCE & SCHOOL SUMMIT' celebrating 15 years of collective impact, and another 'Virtual Input Session' for the BHAB Re-Entry Support Subcommittee. To the right of the website screenshot is a document titled 'BHS Housing Council Input Session Engagement Summary', which includes an overview, session details (date, time, location), participation information, and a summary of engagement activities. Below these are two more documents: one titled 'Possible Housing' and another titled 'Possible More', both dated September 2025. A large orange arrow points from the 'SCAN ME' button to the QR code, which is positioned over the website screenshot.

# Thank You!



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