



## Transforming Behavioral Health Together: Proposition 1 & San Diego County's 2026–2029 Behavioral Health Services Act Integrated Plan

Thursday, October 30th, 2025 | 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

#### **Agenda**

- Land Acknowledgement
- Welcome & Background
  - o Proposition 1/BHSA Background
  - Session Activity Overview
- Input Session
- Wrap-up & Next Steps

**Stay Connected:** Have more thoughts after today? You can share input or ideas anytime. For ongoing updates, information, Frequently Asked Questions, and engagement materials, visit our website or reach out via email.

BHSA Website: bit.ly/BHSA BHS

Email: BHSEngage.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov



## Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA): Community Planning Process Overview

California is updating how it funds and delivers behavioral health services through new State laws known as the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) and the Behavioral Health Bond Act (approved by voters in 2024 via passage of Proposition 1). Together, these efforts—called the State's *Behavioral Health Transformation*—aim to improve access, accountability, and equity in care statewide.

BHSA replaces the former legislation, Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), and will take full effect on July 1, 2026. While BHSA does not introduce new funds, it changes how counties may use their allocations. Oversight for prevention and workforce development will shift from local counties to the State. The law also updates funding categories and adds new areas of focus, including:

- Substance use disorder (SUD) services
- Housing interventions
- Crisis response services
- Early intervention for youth and young adults

The County of San Diego Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Department is preparing for this transition by assessing programs, strengthening partnerships, and continuing its commitment to community engagement through the Community Planning Process (CPP). CPP input activities during this baseline year for BHSA are focused on understanding stakeholder insights and recommendations related to key topics and/or populations with heightened focus under BHSA.

#### What is the County Doing for CPP?

CPP activities are how BHS gathers input from community members, providers, and other stakeholders to help guide programming and system improvement efforts. Under BHSA, the CPP will continue to serve as the foundation for public engagement to ensure the community's voice remains central to local behavioral health planning.

BHS is conducting education and engagement activities across the county to inform development of the region's first BHSA Integrated Plan (IP) for Fiscal Years 2026–2029. Activities include listening sessions, focus groups, interviews, tabling exchanges at outreach events, as well as informational workshops to learn about BHSA. Input collected through activities will be used to help determine local priorities, identify opportunities for system improvement, and strengthen alignment with new BHSA components.

#### **BHSA CPP Timeline**

Phase	Timeline	Key Activities
Phase 1: Receive New State Guidance for Planning	Summer-Fall 2025	<ul> <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>
Phase 2: Conduct Community Education & Engagement	Fall 2025-Winter 2026	<ul> <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>
Phase 3: Develop Draft IP	Winter-Spring 2026	<ul> <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>
Phase 4: Review & Approve IP	Spring-Summer 2026	<ul> <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 plan language.</li> </ul>
Phase 5: Submit IP to State	By June 30, 2026	<ul> <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>

#### **How Can You Get Involved?**

The success of San Diego County's transition to BHSA depends on active community involvement. There are several ways for community members, providers, and partners to share their input and stay engaged:

- Participate in Community Input Activities: Join an upcoming listening session (offered both virtually and in-person).
- **Submit Feedback Online**: Share your ideas or questions using BHS' BHSA Online Input Form, accessible via the County's BHSA webpage.

All feedback will help shape the County's first BHSA Integrated Plan for Fiscal Years 2026–2029. BHS will continue to share updates and progress through public meetings, web postings, and partner networks.

#### Stay Connected

Have more thoughts after today? You can share input or ideas anytime. For ongoing updates, information, Frequently Asked Questions, and engagement materials, visit our website or reach out via email.

BHSA Website: bit.ly/BHSA\_BHS

Email: BHSEngage.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov

Scan for More Info on BHSA



#### Help us Better Understand Behavioral Health Service Needs in San Diego County:

	Early Intervention: How can we help more people learn about and access support early—before challenges become crises?
2.	Support & Connection: What early intervention services would help older adults and people with disabilities access or stay connected to specialty behavioral health care?
3.	Accessibility: What would "navigational support," look like for an older adult or individual living with a disability seeking behavioral health support?
l.	Additional: Anything else you would like us to know as we create the integrated plan (IP)?

#### Help us Better Understand Behavioral Health Service Needs in San Diego County:

•	ABOU	<b>TYOU:</b> Which of the following best describes you and/or the organization you represent? (Mark all):
		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
		Providers of mental health services and SUD treatment services
		Public or government agency
		Community, faith, or cultural organization
		Homeless community & service providers
		Public safety, housing, or emergency services
		Education partner (early childhood, K-12, higher education)
		Veteran or military-affiliated individual or organization
		Healthcare or health plan provider
		Labor representative organizations
		Tribal and Indian Health Program designees
		Area agencies on aging
		Independent living centers
		Member of LGBTQIA+ communities
		Victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse
		Youth/Adult/Providers from historically marginalized or culturally/linguistically diverse
		communities

The information you have provided today will be used to help inform San Diego County's Behavioral Health Services Act Integrated Plan. For more information, visit bit.ly/BHSA\_BHS.

5. ZIP CODE: Please share your home zip code (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Engage.BHS@sdcounty.ca.gov





# Transforming Behavioral Health Together: Proposition 1 San Diego County's 2026–2029 Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Integrated Plan (IP)

## Caregiver Coalition Meeting

Thursday, October 30th, 2025

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

Daniel Romero, MA, Community Engagement Manager

## **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 Session**



- Welcome & Background
  - Proposition 1/BHSA Background
  - Session Activity Instructions
- Input Session/Mentimeter
- Wrap-up & Next Steps



## **About BHSA**

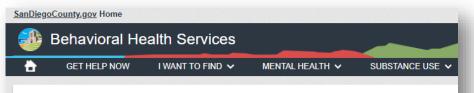




- Proposition 1; takes effect July 1, 2026
- Modernizes the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) passed by CA voters in 2004
- No additional funding introduced, but brings new components, requirements, and restrictions for how revenue derived from millionaire's tax may be used by counties for behavioral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

Learn More bit.ly/BHSA\_BHS





#### **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.

## **About BHSA**



- Broadens scope of behavioral health funding to include standalone substance use disorder treatment services, housing interventions, and bolsters oversight and transparency
- Mandates data-driven reporting and more rigorous population-level outcome tracking – much more rigorous than MHSA
  - Behavioral Health Outcomes, Accountability, and Transparency Report NEW
- Mandates stronger stakeholder engagement
- Emphasis on supporting high-need and at-risk populations, evidence-based and community-defined practices, the behavioral health workforce, and health equity

## **Key BHSA 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.



## **BHSA Components**





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

95% County Allocation 5% State 5% Innovation **Prevention & Early** 19% Intervention **Community Services** & Supports 76%

**County Allocation of Proposed BHSA Dollars** (Under Prop 1) Prevention **State Admin** Workforce 90% County Allocation 10% State State-Wide Investments 35% **Full-Service Partnerships Behavioral Health Services & Supports** 

35%

30%

## $\rightarrow$ 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 support for people with serious behavioral health needs using a "whatever it takes" approach. Services focus on the whole person, offering help that's recovery-focused, age-appropriate, and delivered in partnership with families and natural supports.
- Behavioral Health Services and Supports (BHSS) includes treatment and recovery supports that help people of all ages access behavioral health care—like therapy, case management, medication support, and other services that promote wellness and recovery.
- **Housing Interventions** focuses on helping people with behavioral health needs find and keep stable housing through supports like rental assistance, housing navigation, and ongoing 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 (IP)



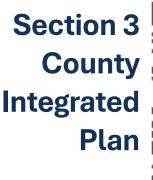


# Counties' first BHSA Integrated Plan will cover Fiscal Years 2026-2029 and be due to DHCS by June 30, 2026.

#### 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







## **BHSA: CPP Timeline**





Phase 1 Receive New State Guidance for Planning	Phase 2 Conduct Community Education & Engagement	Phase 3 Develop IP (Fiscal Years 2026-2029)	Phase 4 Review & Approve IP	Phase 5 Submit IP to State
Summer 2025-Fall 2025	Fall 2025-Winter 2026	Winter 2026-Spring 2026	Spring 2026-Summer 2026	By June 30, 2026
<ul> <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> <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> <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> <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> <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>

## BHSA: CPP - What is our county doing?





- BHS is conducting <u>engagement</u> and <u>education</u> activities thru various mechanisms
  - Activities include listening 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 understanding stakeholder insights and recommendations related to the following key topics which are new components and/or have heightened focus under BHSA:
  - Substance use disorder (SUD) services
  - Housing interventions, particularly to support those at risk of or experiencing homelessness
  - Crisis response services
  - Early intervention for youth and young adults

# Input Session Overview

## **Input Session Overview**



## **Questions:**

- 1. How can we help more people learn about and access support early—before challenges become crises?
- 2. What early intervention services would help older adults and people with disabilities access or stay connected to specialty behavioral health care?
- 3. What would "navigational support," look like for an older adult or individual living with a disability seeking behavioral health support?
- 4. Anything else you would like us to know as we create the integrated plan (IP)?

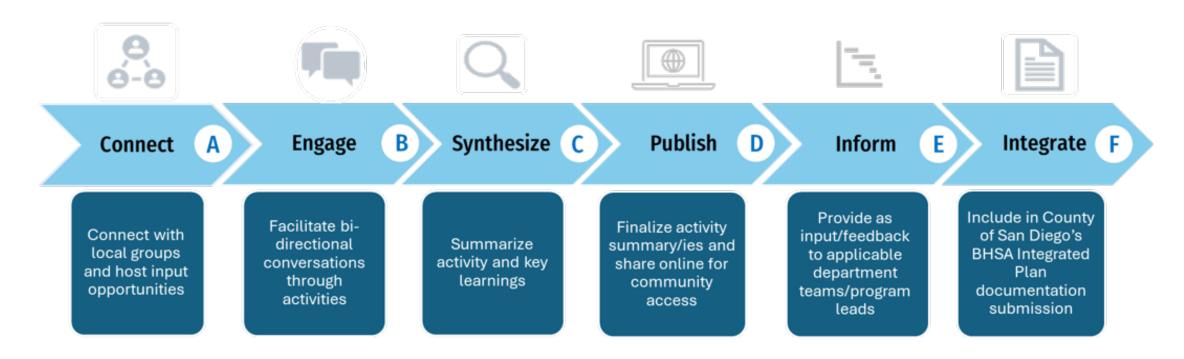
## **Stakeholder Input**





## How is info from CPP input sessions being utilized by the department?

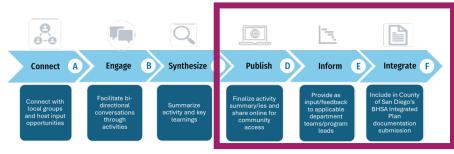
Input will inform specialty mental health and substance use disorder treatment services priorities, investments, and recommendations included in the first BHSA Integrated Plan scheduled for presentation to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors in Summer 2026.



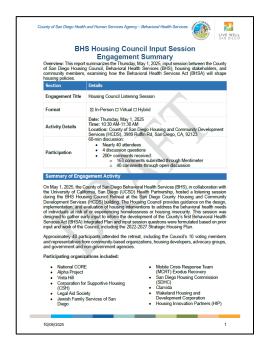
## **Activity Summaries**











#### 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! What about BHSA would you like to provide input on? SCAN ME **Behavioral Health** Select from the list below to populate response boxes: **Services Act** Behavioral Health Services and Supports (BHSS) component BHSS: Workforce Education and Training **Online Input Form** BHSS: Early Intervention Full Service Partnerships (FSP) component SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Services Housing Interventions component The County of San Diego's Behavioral Health Services Department Communities Most Impacted 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 Behavioral Health Services HANCED BY Google **About You** Please share a little about yourself to help us understand who we GET HELP NOW I WANT TO FIND ▼ MENTAL HEALTH ▼ SUBSTANCE USE V CONNECT V Which of the following best describes you and/or the agency or **Community Planning** organization you represent? \* (Mark all that annly) BHSA requires counties to look at their whole behavioral health system of care through a formal Community Adult or older adult with lived mental health or substance use experience Youth or young adult with lived mental health or substance use experience Planning Process (CPP). The CPP supports the County of San Diego's goal to involve communities in meaningful bit.ly/BHSA\_BHS Family member of someone with lived mental health or substance use conversations and decision-making about local behavioral health services to ensure programs reflect their unique Mental health, substance use, or social services provider needs and voices.

**Participate in Upcoming Activities** 

View upcoming and past engagement activities hosted

the BHSA Integrated Plan for Fiscal Years 2026-2029.

by the department, including community workshops,

town halls, and input opportunities to help inform

Share Input via Our Online Form

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recommendations with BHS to help guide the

Integrated Plan for Fiscal Years 2026-2029.

development of San Diego County's first BHSA

## **Stay Connected**





**Upcoming Engagement Opportunities** 

**Planned Engagement Activities** 

**Past Activity Materials** 



**Contact Us** 

Communication & Engagement Unit: <a href="mailto:Engage.BHS@sdcounty.ca.gov">Engage.BHS@sdcounty.ca.gov</a>

SCAN ME

## Thank You!



