Help Guide Behavioral Health in San Diego County!

We Want to Hear From You!

Behavioral Health Services (BHS) invites you to attend upcoming opportunities to provide input to support the development of the first Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Integrated Plan for Fiscal Years 2026-2029. Community members are invited to join an upcoming virtual input sessions to share your insights and recommendations on important behavioral health topics. Input will help inform specialty mental health and substance use disorder treatment services, priorities, and future investments, ensuring local programming reflects the needs and voices of San Diego County communities.

UPCOMING EVENTS*

04 Nov

Crisis Services

• Morning Option: 10:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

• Evening Option: 5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

03 Dec

Behavioral Health Workforce

- Morning Option: 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
- Evening Option: 5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

12 Nov

Housing Interventions

- Morning Option: 10:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.
- Evening Option: 5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

09 Dec

Early Intervention

- Morning Option: 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
- Evening Option: 5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

19 **Nov**

Substance Use Disorder Services

- Morning Option: 10:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.
- Evening Option: 5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

*All sessions held via Zoom.



Scan the QR Code or visit the link below to Register:



- Visit
 bit.ly/BHSEngagement
 to register for one of the
 sessions listed.
- Registration is required.

To find out more about BHSA/Prop 1, share your thoughts on BHSA planning, review past engagements, and more, visit:

bit.ly/BHSA_BHS

Questions?

Please email Engage.BHS@sdcounty.ca.gov with any inquiries about the planning session.

Disability-related accommodations, language interpretation (including American Sign Language), and written materials in alternative languages and formats are available upon request. Please submit your request at least 72 hours in advance of the event to Engage.BHS@sdcounty.ca.gov or by calling (619) 854-1363.









COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES (BHS)

Transforming Behavioral Health Services Together:

Early Intervention

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

& COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION

BHS Communication & Engagement Unit

Daniel Romero, MA, 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



- Background & Context
 - Behavioral Health Care in California
 - About the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA)
 - Changes to Prevention and Early Intervention
- BHSA Integrated Plan & Community Planning Process
- Input Session
 - Mentimeter
- Next Steps



Why Today's Conversation?



- Under BHSA, counties must identify how communities would like to see funds prioritized when it comes to specialty behavioral health services – including crisis care, early intervention, and housing, among others.
- Care for behavioral health crises is part of the services County BHS provides as a Specialty Behavioral Health Plan.
- BHSA and other California Behavioral Health Transformation efforts aim to ensure people receive help in the least restrictive, most community-based setting possible.

Your insights and recommendations will help County BHS strengthen its services and help guide development of the region's first BHSA Integrated Plan for 2026-2029.

Behavioral Health Care in California





In California's Medi-Cal system, care is divided between:

- Managed Care Plans (MCPs), which cover mild-to-moderate behavioral health needs; and
- County Behavioral Health Plans (BHPs), which cover **moderate-to-severe or complex** behavioral health needs (also known as specialty behavioral health services).

If someone's needs are	Care typically starts with	County BHS steps in when
Mild Examples: Stress, early anxiety, grief, burnout	Doctor or other primary care provider through MCP	Symptoms persist, worsen, or begin to interfere with daily life
Moderate Examples: Persistent depression, trauma, substance misuse	Therapist, psychiatrist, case manager covered by MCP or private insurance	A person needs specialty treatment, multiple supports, or crisis help
Severe or complex Examples: psychosis, suicidality, overdose risk, homelessness		County BHS provides or coordinates full specialty care

Behavioral Health Care in California





Managed Care Plans (MCP) Blue Shield Promise; Community Health Group; Kaiser Permanente; Molina Healthcare

- Outpatient, short-term or lower-intensity behavioral health care, such as brief therapy or medication management
- Coordinate care and refer clients when higher-acuity services are needed
- Deliver and contract for CalAIM programs, including Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Community Supports (CS)

Community-Based Behavioral Health Providers

Federally Qualified Health Centers; Community Clinics; CBOs

- Deliver mild-moderate behavioral health services, such as screening, early identification of needs, medication management, care coordination, and navigation
- Often contracted by MCPs to deliver culturally rooted, accessible care in community settings
- Bridges between MCP-delivered and County-delivered services

Specialty Behavioral Health Plan (BHP)

County Behavioral Health Services

- Administer specialty behavioral health services and contracts, such as crisis care, substance use disorder residential care, ACT-level case management
- Coordinate step-down/step-up transitions with MCPs and community providers as people move between levels of care

Recent State legislation is reshaping behavioral health care by expanding access through additional Medi-Cal pathways and improving alignment and coordination between plans and counties.

About BHSA

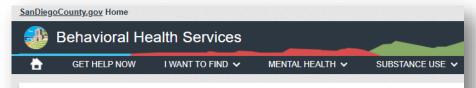




- Part of Proposition 1; takes effect July 1, 2026
- Modernizes the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) passed by CA voters in 2004
- No additional funding introduced, but brings new components, requirements, and restrictions for how revenue derived from millionaire's tax may be used by counties for behavioral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

Learn More bit.ly/BHSA_BHS





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 funding to include standalone substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services and housing interventions
- Mandates data-driven reporting and population-level outcome tracking
 - Statewide Behavioral Health Goals^{NEW}
 - Behavioral Health Outcomes, Accountability, and Transparency Report^{NEW}
- Expands expectations for collaboration with Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans (MCPs), schools, public safety, healthcare systems, and tribal and community partners
 - Increased stakeholder engagement (approx. three-fold increase)
- Elevates expectations for health equity, parity, access, and identification of community-defined needs, especially for priority populations

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) **4% Prevention** 3% Workforce 3% State Admin 90% County Allocation 10% State State-Wide Investments 35% **Full-Service Partnerships Behavioral Health Services & Supports** \rightarrow 51% for Early Intervention (approx. 17.85%) 35% → 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 30% 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, 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 Components



• BHSS dollars may only support activities that align with counties' roles as BHPs, i.e., programs and services for people showing early signs of MH/SU challenges; programs that identify and link individuals to care early, early treatment and recovery supports to prevent crisis or hospitalization; crisis and stabilizations services; housing, workforce, and treatment investments that serve specialty populations

BHSA Component	Focus	Examples of Fundable Uses	
Full Service Partnerships (35%)	Intensive, "whatever it takes" care for people with serious behavioral health conditions	Multidisciplinary teams, housing and employment supports, recovery planning, peer services	
Behavioral Health Services & Supports (35%)	Prevention of worsening symptoms, early intervention , and treatment supports for all ages	Outreach and linkage programs, early treatment, crisis services, workforce training, recovery supports NO GENERAL PREVENTION (part of 5% -> State)	
Housing Interventions (30%) Housing for people with behavioral health needs		Rental subsidies, housing navigation, tenancy support, behavioral health services linked to housing	

BHSS: Early Intervention (EI)





Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) ≠ a single category under BHSA.

Under MHSA (PEI)	Under BHSA (BHSS: EI)	
Broad definition of "early signs" Included mild-to-moderate symptoms, stress, caregiver/family needs	Narrow, clinical definition defined by the State (DHCS) ^{2,4,5} For those with clinical early indicators or clinical risk of SMI/SED	
Prevention-adjacent supports allowed ¹ e.g., psychoeducation, skill-building, coping skills, wellness activities	Clinical EI only (NO GENERAL PREVENTION) ^{2,3,5} Prevention removed from counties' scope (part of 5% → State)	
Programming for broad populations ¹ e.g., families, caregivers, students, people with emerging BH needs	Programming for distinct service population ^{2,5} Clinical services delivered only to those meeting State El eligibility	
Non-clinical and light-touch models permitted ¹ e.g., education, coaching, resilience-building, early support	Short-term, clinical treatment ^{2,5,6} Provided by BH clinicians; not classes, coaching, or support programs	
Local discretion in defining EI ¹ Variation across counties for who and what qualified	State-standardized El rules ^{2,5} All counties must uniformly apply State El criteria	
Included mild-to-moderate behavioral health ¹ Program/service could address common depression, anxiety, stress	Mild-to-moderate explicitly excluded from counties ^{2,5,7} Shifted to Medi-Cal MCPs, primary care, and community clinics	

^{1.} WIC §5840 (MHSA PEI Statute); 2. WIC §§5880–5892 (2024 amendment-BHSA Statute); 3. WIC §5892.5 (State Prevention Fund); 4. WIC §§5600.3–5600.4 (Definition of SMI/SED);

^{5.} **DHCS BHSA County Policy Manual** (El service definitions, eligibility, clinical requirements); 6. **DHCS Medi-Cal SMHS Medical Necessity Criteria** (definition for clinical services, early SMI/SED indicators) 7. **DHCS MCP Mental Health Benefit Guidance** (assignment of mild-to-moderate behavioral health care to MCPs/primary care providers)

State Prevention Program (CDPH)











State-Wide Investments

4% - BHSA Population-Based Prevention Program

• California Department of Public Health (CDPH) – Office of Social and Behavioral Health (centralized coordination/approach)

Questions? BHSAInfo@cdph.ca.gov

Program Components

- 1. Statewide policy initiatives
- 2. Focused statewide behavioral health prevention strategies
- 3. Statewide awareness campaigns
- 4. Prevention training and technical assistance
- Community engagement and coalition building
- 6. Data and evaluation

PRIORITY POPULATIONS: Black, Indigenous, and other people of color; Children, youth, and families; Immigrant and refugee populations; LGBTQIA+ populations; Older adults, Tribes, and Veterans



State
Population-Based
Prevention
Program Website



https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPP/Pages/ BHSA-Population-Based-Prevention.aspx

State Prevention Program (CDPH)





CDPH has indicated three (3) different mechanisms are under development to ensure stakeholders have opportunities to inform CDPH's BHSA statewide program planning: BHSA Population-Based Prevention Implementation Workgroup

- Community-Defined Evidence Practices (CDEP) Advisory Committee
- Youth and Family Engagement Network

Six (6) CDPH Grant Programs for CBOs & Tribes:

- CDEPs
- Trusted Messenger Campaign
- 988 and Suicide Crisis Lifeline Outreach Campaign
- Regional Policy Research and Development
- Regional Implementation of Focused Strategies
- Training and Technical Assistance (+ also ed institutions & non-profits)



Transforming BH Website



& Community PlanningProcess Overview

BHSA Integrated Plan





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



Section 3 County Integrated Plan



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

BHSA: CPP Timeline





Phase 1 Receive New State Guidance for Planning	Phase 2 Conduct Community Engagement & Education	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
 Review BHSA County Policy Manual (finalized June 2025) and evaluate new requirements for counties from the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). Attend DHCS webinars for counties on Integrated Plan (IP) development and the Community Planning Process (CPP) to structure BHSA CPP engagement activities. 	 Facilitate outreach, listening sessions, focus groups, and other opportunities at community events and convenings for stakeholders to provide input. Document key learnings and stakeholder recommendations to support community priorities and system needs. Provide BHSA education through informational handouts and presentations at public meetings. 	 Department synthesis of stakeholder input, fiscal data, and program assessments. Draft San Diego County's IP for Fiscal Years 2026–2029. 	 Post IP draft for public comment and feedback. Present proposed IP to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board). Incorporate public comments and finalize IP language. 	 Board-approved IP provided to State (DHCS) through their BHSA County Portal. Prepare for official implementation of BHSA funding and reporting requirements on July 1, 2026.

BHSA: CPP Activities



- BHS is conducting <u>engagement</u> and <u>education</u> 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, including:
 - Crisis response services sessions 11/04/2025
 - Housing interventions sessions 11/12/2025
 - Substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services sessions 11/19/2025
 - Behavioral Health Workforce sessions 12/03/2025
 - Early intervention for youth and young adults sessions 12/09/2025

Input Session

Today's Key Questions



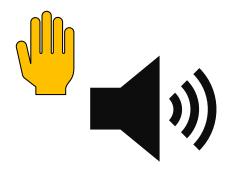
- What helps youth and families notice early mental health concerns and know where to seek help?
- 2. What approaches or partnerships could we continue building on to help schools/orgs connect youth to early mental health care?
- 3. How can early clinical supports feel welcoming, respectful, and culturally aligned for communities?
- 4. What early mental health supports should the State focus on to better meet the needs of San Diego County youth and families?
- 5. Anything else you would like to share with BHS for the BHSA Integrated Plan?

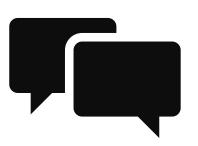
Ways to Engage





During today's session, there are multiple ways to share your thoughts and feedback:







Raise Hand & Unmute

Zoom Chat

Mentimeter

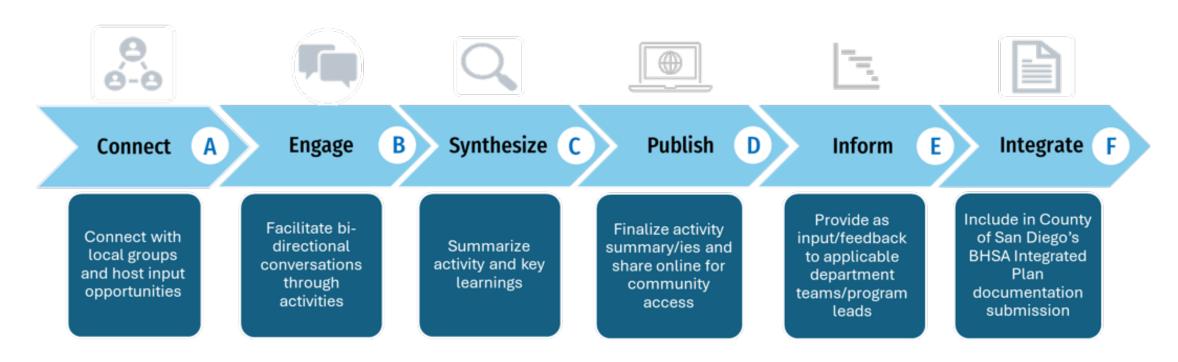
Next Steps





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

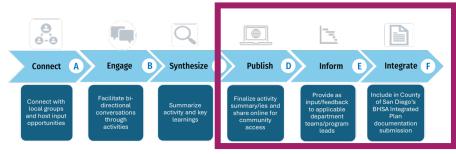
Input will inform specialty mental health and substance use disorder treatment services priorities, investments, and recommendations included in the first BHSA Integrated Plan scheduled for presentation to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors in Summer 2026.



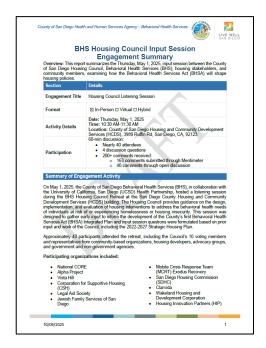
Activity Summaries











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?







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

Access this online form to share insights and

recommendations with BHS to help guide the

Integrated Plan for Fiscal Years 2026-2029.

development of San Diego County's first BHSA

Stay Connected

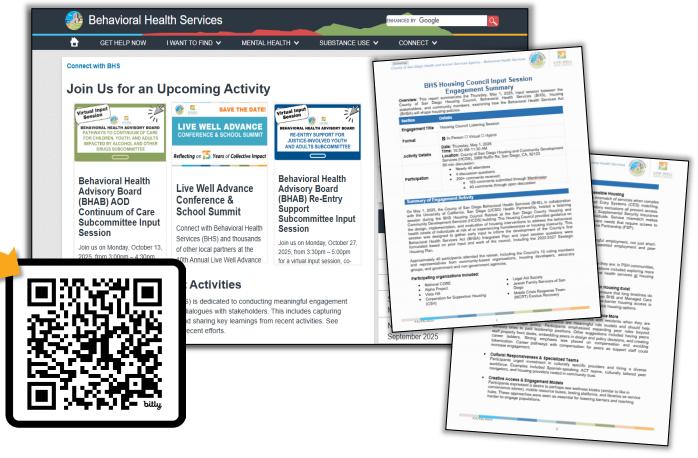




Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

Planned Engagement Activities

Past Activity Materials



Contact Us

SCAN ME

Communication & Engagement Unit: Engage.BHS@sdcounty.ca.gov

Thank You!



