

Acronyms & Abbreviations (Mental/Behavioral Health in California)

Updated May, 2024

Acronym/ Abbreviation	Description	Comment/ Explanation
24/7	24hr/day-7days/week	
504 Plan	School accommodations for students with disabilities	
5150	Welfare & Institutions Code - re: 72 Hour Hold	Gravely disabled/danger to self/others
AAA	Area Agency on Aging	Federal/State Funded
AB 109	Corrections Realignment	Legislation
AB 1234	Ethics Training Requirements	https://localethics.fppc.ca.gov/login.aspx
ACT	Assertive Community Treatment (Wrap-Around)	Team-based treatment model, providing multidisciplinary, flexible treatment 24/7
ADHD	Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder	
ANSA	Adult Needs & Strengths Assessment	
AOD	Alcohol & Other Drugs	Also known as Substance Use
BH	Behavioral Health	Mental Health & Substance Use
BHSA	Behavioral Health Services Act	Proposition 1 passed in 2024
BHSOAC	Behavioral Health Oversight & Accountability Commission	State Commission
BOS	Board of Supervisors	
EQRO	External Quality Review Organization	Conducts annual Medi-Cal audits
CALBHB/C	California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards / Commissions	
CANS	Child, Adolescent Needs & Strengths Association	
CARE Act	Community Assistance, Recovery & Empowerment Act	
CF/TN	Capital Facilities & Technology Needs	
CIT	Crisis Intervention Team	Officers trained in crisis response
CDEP	Community Defined Evidence Practices	www.calbhbc.org/cultural-issues
CMHC	Community Mental Health Centers	
CBHDA	County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California	
CBHPC	California Behavioral Health Planning Council	State Advisory & Advocacy Council
CMS	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services	
ConRep	Conditional Release Program	State-Funded Outpatient Services
CR	Crisis Residential	
CS or CSU	Crisis Stabilization (Unit)	
CPP	Community Program Planning	MHSA Component
CSS	Community Services and Support	MHSA (76% of MHSA programs)
CWS	Child Welfare Services	
DHCS	California's Department of Health Care Services	
DSM-5	Diagnosis & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (5th Edition)	
EPSDT	Early & Periodic Screening, Diagnosis & Treatment	Children's Medi-Cal benefit
EQRO	External Quality Review Organization	Conducts annual Medi-Cal audits
FACT	Forensic Community Treatment (Wrap-Around)	Team-based treatment model, providing multidisciplinary, flexible treatment 24/7
FFP	Federal Financial Participation	Federal portion paid for Medi-Cal
FQHC	Federally Qualified Health Center	
FSP	Full Service Partnership (at least 51% of MHSA CSS)	MHSA CSS Wrap-Around Services

FY	Fiscal Year	
HHS	Health & Human Services Agency	
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act	
HMO	Health Management Organization	
HUD	Housing & Urban Development (Federal)	
IEP	Individual Education Plan	For students with disabilities
IMD	Institution for Mental Diseases	
INN	Innovations (MHSA Component)	MHSA (5% of MHSA)
IST	Incompetent to Stand Trial	Penal Code PC 1370
Locum Tenens	Providers (such as a doctor) on temporary contracts	
LPHA	Licensed Practitioner of the Healing Arts	
LPT	Licensed Psychiatric Technician	
LVN	Licensed Vocational Nurse	
MAT	Medically Assisted Treatment	Treatments for SUD
MC	Medi-Cal	Term for "Medicaid" in California
MCP	Managed Care Plan	Medi-Cal health care delivery system
MH	Mental Health	
MHAC	Mental Health America California	Stakeholder Group
MHB	Mental Health Board	
MHD	Mental Health Division	
MHDRC	Mental Health Rehabilitation Center	
MHP	County Mental Health Plan	SMHS to Medi-Cal beneficiaries
MHS	Mental Health Services	
MHSA	Mental Health Services Act	Proposition 63 passed in 2004
MHSOAC (BHSOAC)	MH Services Oversight and Accountability Commission	State Commission. Name change to: BHSOAC in 2025 due to Prop 1
MOE	Maintenance Of Effort	
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding	
NAMI	National Alliance on Mental Illness	Advocacy Organization
OA	Older Adult	
OAC	Abbreviation for MHSOAC or BHSOAC (2025)	State Commission
OT	Occupational Therapist	
PATH	Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness	SAMHSA Grant-Funded
PC 1370 IST	Penal Code: Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST)	AKA "IST"
PCP	Primary Care Physician	
PEI	Prevention & Early Intervention (MHSA Component)	At least 51% of PEI is to serve individuals 25 and younger
PHI	Protected Health Information	
PIP	Performance Improvement Plans	Medi-Cal Requirement
Prop 63	State Proposition establishing the MHSA	
PTSD	Post-traumatic Stress Disorder	
QIC	Quality Improvement Committee	
RFA	Request for Application	
RFI	Request for Information	
RFP	Request for Proposal	
SAD	Seasonal Affective Disorder	
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Agency	Block Grant program
SD/MC	Short-Doyle Program for MH Services (1957)	Linked w/Medi-Cal benefits (1971)

SED	Serious Emotional Disturbance	A diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder that results in functional impairment that substantially interferes with or limits a child's role or functioning in family, school, or community activities
SELPA	Special Education Local Plan Area	Ensures special education in counties
SLP	Supported Living Programs	
SMHS	Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services	Provided through County MHPs
SNF	Skilled Nursing Facility	Pronounced "Sniff"
SMI	Serious Mentally Illness	A mental, behavioral or emotional disorder that results in serious functional impairment which substantially interferes with or limits one or more major life activities
STP	Specialized Treatment Program	
SUD	Substance Use Disorder	
TA	Technical Assistance	
TAY	Transitional Age Youth	This ranges, but usually ages 16 - 25
TDD/TTY	Telecommunication Device for the Deaf / TeleTYpe	
W&I or WIC	Welfare & Institutions Code (State)	
WET	Workforce Education & Training	An MHSA Component
Wrap Around	Wrap-Around Services (such as Mental Health, Social Services, Vocational, Housing)	