# California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions

**CALBHB/C Newsletter, Summer 2025**

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The California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards/Commissions (CALBHB/C) supports the work of CA's 59 local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions. www.calbhbc.org

## Employment Services *Required!*

Integrating employment into local behavioral health programs is a new requirement, and for good reason. Work helps us feel well. **Employment is a major therapeutic tool**, improving wellness and quality of life for individuals with mild to severe mental illness.

The Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) and the BH-CONNECT Medi-Cal waiver require Full Service Partnership (FSP) programs to include Individual Placement & Support (IPS) supported employment. **Local behavioral health agencies must begin offering IPS by July 2026**, complete a "gap to fidelity" assessment by December 2027, and deliver services to fidelity* by June 30, 2029. IPS is required whether or not a county opts in to BH-CONNECT.

*Small counties (less than 200,000 pop.) may request an exemption from IPS fidelity requirements.

The CALBHB/C **Employment Issue Brief** provides more information, including:

- Behavioral Health Agency Requirements
- Benefits Planning
- Individual Placement & Support (IPS)
- Program Examples

www.calbhbc.org/employment

## Grants/Funding

### Housing

Homekey and Tribal Homekey Grant Applications: $1.033 billion in Proposition 1 bond funds are for projects for veterans with a behavioral health challenge. $1.11 billion is available for projects serving all eligible populations.

Regionally Coordinated Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program ROUND 5, Final Applications Due: August 29, 2025.

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### Infrastructure

The Bond Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) Round 2 makes available more than $800 million to construct, acquire, and rehabilitate real estate assets in behavioral health settings that expand access to mental health and substance use disorder services, particularly in communities with the greatest unmet needs. As the final funding round through Proposition 1's Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act, this opportunity is open to counties, cities, Tribal entities, nonprofits, and for-profit organizations throughout California. Applicants must have completed key parts of the project development process and show how their projects align with state priorities and local needs. This funding aims to close longstanding gaps in the continuum of care by expanding residential treatment, outpatient services, and crisis care capacity. The deadline to apply is October 28, 2025 at 5 pm.

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### Justice-Involved

DHCS-Funded Diversion, DSHDiversion@dsh.ca.gov

PATH Justice-Involved Round 4 Application
The deadline to apply for Round 4 funding is July 11, 2025. Only PATH Justice-Involved Round 3 awardees are eligible for the Justice-Involved Round 4 funding, and applications must be submitted on behalf of county sheriff's offices, county probation offices, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and county behavioral health agencies.

### Rural

Rural Hospital Stabilization Program (RHSP) offers assistance to rural hospitals, at no cost to them, to improve financial stability by enhancing or expanding services that meet community needs, including behavioral health services. National Rural Health Resource Center

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### Support

SAMHSA Pacific West Hub | Center for Mental Health Implementation Support - Free Support
What they do:

- Support in preparing for, implementing, and sustaining effective mental health prevention, treatment, and recovery practices programs
- Join at any stage of the implementation process
- Assistance with organizations providing community-based services

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### Workforce

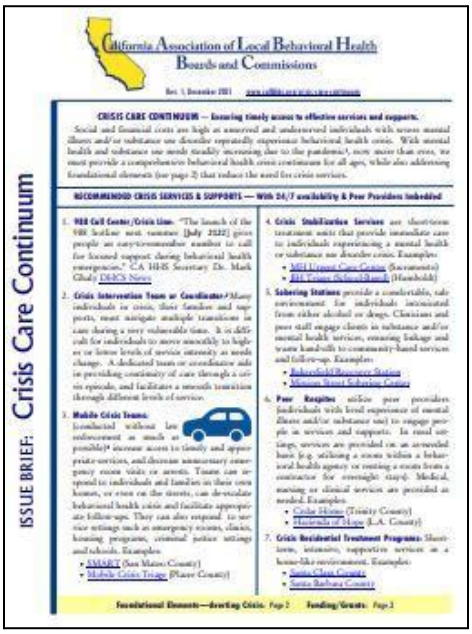
Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Student Loan Repayment Program - The goal for the MBH-SLRP is to reduce educational debt for behavioral health professionals who commit to serving Medi-Cal members and underserved communities. Behavioral health practitioners can receive up to $240,000 in loan repayment with commitment to a multi-year service obligation. Applications due: August 15, 2025.

Residency & Fellowship Programs - Up to $250,000 per new training position annually. HCAI applications will open in July of 2025 for:

- Psychiatry Residency Programs
- Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship Programs
- Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship Programs
- Addiction Medicine Fellowship Programs

*Also see:* **California Grants Portal**

## CALBHB/C Issue Briefs




Board & Cares (ARFs/RCFEs)
Children & Youth
- Integrated School-Based Services
- Transitional Age Youth

Criminal Justice
Crisis Care Continuum
Disaster Prep/Recovery
Employment - ***Updated!***
LGBTQ+
LPS Act
Older Adults
Performance Outcome Data
Substance Use Disorder
Suicide Prevention
Workforce

Full listing of issues (30+) at: www.calbhbc.org/newsissues Questions: cal@calbhbc.com

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### Resources for Boards/Commissions (Full listing at: calbhbc.org/resources)

Acronyms
Best Practices Handbook
Behavioral Health Continuum
Behavioral Health Services Act
- Funding Categories Training (15 Minute Module)
- Stakeholder Requirements
- Fiscal Components (see Page 18)

Brown Act Guide
Bylaws (Sample)
Conduct (Conducta (Spanish))
Cultural Relevance
Membership Guide (Sample) - Updated!
News/Issues
Performance Outcome Data
Recommendations (see Page 19)
Review (see Page 23)

Templates/Sample Docs
- Agendas
- Annual Reports
- Recruitment
- Site Visits

And More!

Training: Materials/Recordings
1. Basic Training: How to be an Effective MH/BH Board/Commission (86 minutes)
2. Chair & Admin (45 minutes)
3. Community Engagement & Unconscious Bias: Ensuring Citizen & Professional Involvement Throughout the Planning Process

Welfare & Institutions Code
- Bylaw Requirements
- Duties
- Expenses
- Membership Criteria

## Reports, Articles & Webinars - *By Topic*

### BHSA | Behavioral Health Services Act

CDPH Seeks Public Comment on BHSA Population-Based Prevention Program Guide - Phase 1 | CDPH is conducting engagement and consultation activities with interested parties to support the planning, development, and implementation of California's Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) population-based prevention programs. This newsletter features updates on CDPH planning and engagement opportunities related to BHSA.

- Public Comment is encouraged through a Microsoft Forms Survey. Written comments are due by July 11th.
- View June 30th Webinar

Meaningful Engagement: A Guide to the Community Planning Process, CalMHSA

### Board & Cares

Navigating Assisted Living Entry: Strengthening Referral Partnerships for Successful Transitions - explore opportunities to enhance cross-sector partnerships to improve appropriate, timely, and effective use of assisted living communities for older adults and people with disabilities or behavioral health needs enrolled in Medi-Cal. This webinar will focus on the partnerships needed to conduct successful referrals and placements of Medi-Cal members into assisted living communities. It will explore the current and potential roles of stakeholders and partners in this process, as well as describe available financial and practical resources for overcoming barriers to placement. California Health Care Foundation, July 22, 12 pm

### Budget

Federal Budget Act House Resolution (H.R.) 1
According to the CA Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), the recently signed House Resolution (H.R.) 1, the federal budget reconciliation bill, will significantly reduce funding for Medi-Cal, CalFresh, and other safety net programs that are lifelines for millions of Californians. DHCS leaders have emphasized that these cuts pose real risks to essential services that support the health, stability, and economic security of families and communities across California. DHCS is reviewing the impacts of these changes and will provide more information and direction as it becomes available. Also see:

- Federal Budget Act Summary, CA State Association of Counties;
- Estimates of Federal Medicaid Spending Reductions, Kaiser Family Foundation

State Budget Act Behavioral Health Summary (See pages 19 - 22), CA State Association of Counties

Revenue Stability Workgroup Report. DHCS has released the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Revenue and Stability Workgroup Report. The Revenue Stability Workgroup was created to assess year-over-year fluctuations in tax revenues generated by the BHSA, in recognition of the need for a reliable strategy for short- and long-term fiscal stability. The proposal is designed to reduce the variance of county Behavioral Health Services Funds (BHSF). The proposal meets the goals of how to balance local assistance revenue allocation and program stability, helping counties effectively plan and provide critical behavioral health services during revenue downturns.

Boom, Bust, Repeat: California has an opportunity to finally break out of the 70-year cycle of broken behavioral health care promises, Steinberg Institute Position Paper

## CARE Act

CARE Court Survey, NAMI CA is interested in learning more from individuals and family members who participated or attempted to participate in CARE Court. If this applies to you, or someone you know, please take or share the survey with the appropriate participant.

New CARE Act Report Shows Promising Results; Videos Highlight Early Impact On June 27, DHCS released the new Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act report, detailing the program's early progress in connecting Californians with serious mental illness to treatment, housing, and hope. CARE is a new civil court process designed for people with untreated or undertreated schizophrenia who are at the highest risk of hospitalization, homelessness, and incarceration. The model is voluntary, trust-based, and person-centered, offering an alternative to conservatorship or incarceration by surrounding participants with a team focused on stability, dignity, and long-term recovery.

The report is accompanied by an Implement-ation Update and new videos from the CA Health and Human Services Agency. The videos share how CARE is making a difference by providing wraparound services, focusing on the dignity and personal goals of the people served. Statewide data through May 2025 shows that since the CARE Act launched, more than 3,300 individuals have been engaged statewide through petitions or outreach-based diversions. From December 1, 2024, (when all 58 counties went live with CARE) to May 31, 2025, 1,063 petitions were filed, more total petitions than had been filed in the previous 14 months.

## Children and Youth

Substance Use Prevention Evidence-Based Resource (SUPER) Website | The SUPER serves as a free centralized resource to provide accessible information about evidence-based practices, community-defined evidence practices (CDEPs), and innovative practices for substance use disorder prevention. This resource is intended for California counties, service providers, tribal entities, and others involved in delivering youth SUD prevention services. If you have any questions about SUPER, please email DHCSPrevention@dhcs.ca.gov.

Early Action for Youth Mental Health and Substance Use: Prevention, Identification, and Support, Bipartisan Policy Center

Children deserve empathy & support when navigating mental health needs — not judgment & shame, National Center for Youth Law Blog Article

## Crisis Care Continuum

Emergency Department Volume and Capacity by Facility, Health Category and Health Professional Shortage Area, The statewide median number of emergency department visits per treatment station increased 18% between 2021 and 2023. Hospitals located in areas designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) for both Primary Care and Mental Health experienced a higher median ED burden.

### Firearm Violence

Impacts of Firearm Violence Policy Project: Site Visit Summary,Presentation Commission for Behavioral Health

### Housing

Behavioral Health and Housing Webinar discussion explores the various service pathways within CalAIM, including Enhanced Care Management (ECM), Community Supports, and Whole Person Care transitions and will explore the overlap between the Transitional Rent Benefit and Prop 1 with the impact on homelessness prevention and intervention. Attendees will gain a comprehensive understanding of how these pathways can be leveraged to improve health outcomes, reduce hospitalizations, and provide long-term stability for vulnerable populations. Presenter: Glenn Tsang, Policy Advisor for Housing and Homelessness, Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Recording will be posted at this link

Proposition 1 Webinar provides an overview of Proposition 1 by a representative from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), and takes a deep dive into the BHSA component of Prop 1 through a panel of affordable housing providers who have experience using the previous iteration of BHSA and a panel featuring county perspectives on BHSA implementation. Housing California Recording

Housing for Health: DHCS Strategies to Assist Members Experiencing Homelessness, DHCS

### Insurance

California Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) fined California Physicians' Service (Blue Shield of California) $300,000 for mishandling several claims payments, delaying reimbursement payments to a plan member for approved medical care over a five-year period. "Health plan members have rights, and are protected under some of the strongest patient protection laws in the country," said DMHC Director Mary Watanabe. "The DMHC will continue to protect health plan members' rights, just like in this case where the member came to the DMHC Help Center because Blue Shield of California mishandled dozens of payments for medical care. They encourage plan members to file a complaint and contact the DMHC Help Center if they experience difficulties accessing care or encounter billing or payment issues with their health plan.

### Justice-Involved

Connecting Services for the Enhanced Care Management (ECM) Justice-Involved Population of Focus Throughout the Reentry and Post-Release Process | The webinar recording and supporting materials are available under the "Best Practices and Resources" section on the Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) CPI webpage. Please submit questions to collaborative@ca-path.com. CA Department of Health Care Services

### LGBTQ+

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline will no longer support specialized services for LGBTQ+ youth, SAMHSA

The Trevor Project is the leading suicide prevention and crisis intervention nonprofit organization for LGBTQ+ young people. They provide information & support to LGBTQ+ young people 24/7, all year round.

## Medi-Cal

Medicaid's Role in Mental Health and Substance Use Care, The Commonwealth Fund

Community Supports are Delivering on Their Promise: Meeting Member Needs and Reducing Costs | DHCS announced the availability of data showing that Medi-Cal Community Supports are successful and cost-effective. The data shows that Community Supports are delivering on their promise to address Medi-Cal member needs—reducing avoidable emergency department visits, hospital stays, and long-term care use while showing strong early signs of cost savings. All 12 Community Supports studied are reducing costs, and of these, nine have already demonstrated cost-effectiveness within the initial study period. The remaining three are projected to reach that threshold over a longer study period, consistent with federal rules for evaluating cost-effectiveness.

Community Supports Policy Guide | The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is pleased to share the updated Community Supports Policy Guide, released on April 30, 2025. In alignment with the Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Community Supports Action Plan, DHCS has made refinements and clarifications to many of its Community Supports service definitions, based on extensive feedback from MCPs, community-based providers, and other stakeholders. In addition, to accommodate new policies related to Transitional Rent and other Community Supports for Members experiencing or at risk of homelessness, DHCS is reorganizing the guidance on Community Supports into two separate volumes:

- Community Supports
- Transitional Rent

DHCS also encourages partners and stakeholders to visit the Medi-Cal ECM and Community Supports webpage for regular updates and the new DHCS Housing for Health webpage for updates on various DHCS-led housing-focused initiatives both within and outside of Medi-Cal.

## Medi-Cal *Continued*

Medi-Cal Voices and Vision Council | DHCS is now accepting applications to join the Medi-Cal Voices and Vision Council. This new stakeholder group offers a dedicated space for Medi-Cal members and stakeholders to discuss Medi-Cal matters and provide direct, informed, and meaningful feedback about the Medi-Cal program to DHCS leadership. The council strengthens member representation in DHCS' stakeholder engagement efforts and helps ensure Medi-Cal programs are responsive, fair, and inclusive. Hearing directly from Medi-Cal members and stakeholders who serve Medi-Cal members is an important part of Medi-Cal Transformation. Member and stakeholder engagement also supports the goals outlined in DHCS' Comprehensive Quality Strategy, which focuses on improving the health of all Californians. For more information, please visit the Medi-Cal Voices and Vision Council webpage.

## Older Adults

Coverage of Selected Behavioral Health Services Among Older Medicare and Medicaid Beneficiaries, SAMHSA

## Peer Support

Medi-Cal Peer Support Services Specialist Program - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). DHCS has released new and revised FAQs for the Medi-Cal Peer Support Services Specialist program. This webpage provides answers to common questions. Please submit any additional questions to: CountySupport@dhcs.ca.gov or BHCalAIM@dhcs.ca.gov .

## Prevention

Behavioral Health Services Act Population-Based Prevention Program Guide, CA Department of Public Health

## Substance Use

How Rural Communities Are Using EMS to Help Solve the Opioid Crisis, California Health Report

Cannabis | California businesses in near-universal compliance with prohibition of intoxicating hemp products harmful to youth, CA Governor's Office

Smoking cessation pill may help youth quit vaping, National Institutes of Health

Substance Use Prevention Evidence-Based Resource (SUPER) Website launched! The SUPER serves as a free centralized resource to provide accessible information about evidence-based practices, community-defined evidence practices (CDEPs), and innovative practices for substance use disorder prevention. This resource is intended for California counties, service providers, tribal entities, and others involved in delivering youth SUD prevention services. If you have any questions about SUPER, please email DHCSPrevention@dhcs.ca.gov.

National Substance Use Crisis Data | 46.5 million adult Americans had a substance use disorder (SUD) in 2024. The most common SUD was alcohol use disorder, with 28.1 million adult Americans. The data presented here are supplied by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC has data for overdose deaths related to cocaine (21,877), stimulants (29,132), and opioids (54,101) for the twelve-month period ending December 2024.

## Substance Use: Prenatal

School-based Services and Interventions, American Academy of Pediatrics

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Resources for Families, American Academy of Pediatrics

Navigating Discharge Planning for Families with Prenatal Alcohol & Other Substance Use Exposures | PDF, American Academy of Pediatrics

Prenatal Cannabis Use and Neonatal Outcomes A recent study explored the impact of prenatal cannabis use on fetal and neonatal outcomes. Researchers concluded that cannabis use during pregnancy is associated with a greater risk of low birth weight, preterm birth, and small for gestational age, even after adjusting for tobacco use. JAMA Pediatrics

Gestational Age and Cognitive Development in Childhood: This study investigates the long-term cognitive outcomes of children born at various gestational ages, from "very pre-term" (28-31 weeks) to "full-term" births (greater then or equal to 39 weeks). Researchers conducted a cross-sectional study involving 5,946 children ages 9 to 10. The study results revealed that children born moderately preterm had lower composite cognitive scores and specific deficits in vocabulary, working memory, and episodic memory compared to children born full-term. jamanetwork.com

## Veterans

Challenge Awards Spotlight: Nevada County's Veterans Outreach and Wellness Program, Nevada County's Veterans Outreach and Wellness (VOW) Program received a 2024 CSAC Challenge Award for its comprehensive approach to supporting veterans through mental health services, housing assistance, employment opportunities, and community engagement. CA State Association of Counties (CSAC)

## Workforce

Solano County Builds a Diverse, Homegrown Behavioral Health Workforce, CA State Association of Counties (CSAC) Article

## Meetings/Events

### CA Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards/Commissions (CALBHB/C)

**Bay Area Region**
October 17 Meeting | 1:30 pm - 5:30 pm
October 18 Training | 9 am - 12 pm

**Southern/LA Region**
January 23, 2026 Meeting | 1:30 pm - 5:30 pm
January 24 Training | 9 am - 12 pm

**Central Region**
April 17 Meeting | 1:30 pm - 5:30 pm
April 18 Meeting | 9 am - 12 pm

More at 2025/2056 Meeting/Training Schedule

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### CA Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) and Behavioral Health Stakeholder Advisory Committee (BH-SAC)
Zoom and In-Person (Sacramento)
Registration is required to attend by Zoom
July 23, 2025, 9:30 am - 3 pm

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Integrated Care Conference
Link to Registration Fees
Long Beach, August 19 - 21

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### CA Health & Human Services (HHS)

Behavioral Health Task Force
August 13, 2025, 10 am - 3 pm
November 12, 2025, 10 am to 3 pm

CARE Act Working Group
August 27, 2025, 10 am - 3 pm
November 19, 2025, 10 am - 3 pm

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### Commission for Behavioral Health (CBH)

Commission Meetings (4th Thursday, 9 am (usually))
Committee Meetings (Varies)

### CA Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC)

Quarterly Meeting
Zoom and In-Person (Burlingame)
October 14 - 17, 2025

Tuesday October 14, 2025 Meeting:
- Performance Outcomes Committee: 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Wednesday October 15, 2025 Meetings:
- Executive Committee: 8:30 am to 10:15 am
- Patients' Rights Committee: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm
- Children and Youth Workgroup: 12:10 pm to 1:10 pm
- Workforce and Education Committee: 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm
- Legislation and Public Policy Committee: 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Thursday October 16, 2025 Meetings:
- Housing and Homelessness Committee: 8:30 am to 12:00 pm
- Systems and Medicaid Committee: 8:30 am to 12:00 pm
- Reducing Disparities Workgroup: 12:10 pm to 1:10 pm
- Substance Use Disorder Workgroup: 12:10 pm to 1:10 pm
- General Session: 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Friday, October 17, 2025 Meeting:
- General Session: 8:30 am to 12:00 pm

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### Health Care Access & Information (HCAI)

CA Health Workforce, Education and Training Council
October 15th & October 16th (9 am)
(Virtual & Sacramento)

## CALBHB/C is here to support you!

Whether you are new to a board/commission, an experienced member, or a behavioral health agency staff member, CALBHB/C is here to provide resources, support, training, communication and to coordinate advocacy for statewide issues as detailed in our Annual Report.

Do not hesitate to contact us with questions (info@calbhbc.com). Key resources are in the Best Practices Handbook and on our website (www.calbhbc.org):

**Best Practices Handbook**

**Website**

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## Contact Us!

Email: info@calbhbc.com  Website: www.calbhbc.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/CALBHBC
Report issues to CALBHB/C | Evaluate CALBHB/C (let us know how we're doing!)

For ADA compliant or printed copies of CALBHB/C documents and resources, contact cal@calbhbc.com

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