



## California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions

### CARE Court Proposal - HHS Call for Comments

CA HHS asks for feedback on the CARE Court proposal via: [CARECourt@chhs.ca.gov](mailto:CARECourt@chhs.ca.gov) . Initial feedback is requested by March 25 (*this Friday*) and is welcome ongoing.

[Framework Document](#)  
[FAQs](#)

#### Background

CA's Health & Human Services leadership is seeking input to inform the [C.A.R.E. \(Community Assistance, Recovery & Empowerment\) Court](#) initiative, a proposal to bolster delivery of mental health and substance use disorder services for Californians who are experiencing homelessness or incarceration due to untreated psychosis. This initiative aims to connect individuals to treatment and supports (including supported housing) that are necessary to ensure long-term wellness, while preventing contact with the criminal justice system and avoiding Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Mental Health Conservatorship whenever possible.

#### Related Top Issues

Many top issues reported by CA's 59 local mental and behavioral health boards and commissions are addressed within this initiative, including:

- [Increasing access](#) for individuals who are unserved, underserved and/or justice-involved
- [Reducing 5150s](#) (In response to reports of "serial" 5150s (72 hour psychiatric holds) – single individuals experiencing dozens of 5150s holds in a single year.)
- "Supporters" - Increasing peer providers within the behavioral health workforce
- [Housing/homelessness](#) issues for individuals with mental illness
- [Psychiatric Advance Directives](#) - CALBHB/C's [Crisis Care Continuum](#) issue brief includes "[Psychiatric Advance Directives](#)" as a "Foundational Element" within the Behavioral Health Care Continuum

#### Encouraging Feedback

The mechanics of this initiative need careful consideration. CA's Health & Human Services Agency (HHS) encourages input from community leadership, stakeholder organizations, agencies and individuals as they flesh-out this proposed framework. It is in everyone's interest to create systems and processes that provide requisite behavioral health and safety net resources while ensuring all individuals are treated with dignity and respect.

More information regarding the proposed CARE Court initiative is at: [chhs.ca.gov/care-court](http://chhs.ca.gov/care-court)

*CA's 59 local mental and behavioral health boards and commissions serve in an advisory capacity to local governing bodies and mental/behavioral health directors. Local board and commission membership should reflect the diversity of the client population as much as possible, and include individuals with lived experience of mental illness, family members, one member from the county's Board of Supervisors (or local governing body) and members of the community that engage with individuals living with mental illness in the course of daily operations, such as representatives of county offices of education, large and small businesses, hospitals, hospital districts, physicians practicing in emergency departments, city police chiefs, county sheriffs, and community and nonprofit service providers. ([CA WIC 5604](#))*

**CA Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards & Commissions (CALBHB/C)  
supports the work of CA's 59 local mental/behavioral health boards & commissions.**