



DATE: October 10, 2025

Behavioral Health Information Notice No: 25-033

TO: California Alliance of Child and Family Services
California Association for Alcohol/Drug Educators
California Association of Alcohol & Drug Program Executives, Inc.
California Association of DUI Treatment Program
California Association of Mental Health Peer Run Organizations
California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies
California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professional
California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies
California Hospital Association
California Opioid Maintenance Providers
California State Association of Counties
Coalition of Alcohol and Drug Associations
County Behavioral Health Directors
County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California
County Drug & Alcohol Administrators

SUBJECT: Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) Annual Program Review

PURPOSE: This Behavioral Health Information Notice (BHIN) informs the counties of the 2026 MHBG program review process.

REFERENCE: 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 75.342(a), § 75.352

BACKGROUND:

Pursuant to 45 CFR § 75.342(a), the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), as the recipient of federal funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), is required to monitor MHBG activities to assure compliance with applicable Federal requirements and performance expectations are being achieved in each program, function, or activity.

POLICY:

DHCS will conduct program reviews of county MHBG programs and services via desk review for state fiscal year 2024-2025 and may include an on-site review as needed. DHCS will provide the county with instructions and documents to be completed for each program/service and the county is required to submit these documents to DHCS. Documents must be submitted on time to be considered for review. The purpose of this

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review is to substantiate compliance with federal guidelines, provide technical assistance, and establish a reciprocal information-sharing relationship between DHCS and the county.

The counties scheduled for a desk review are Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Sonoma, Humboldt, Shasta, Merced, Stanislaus, Amador, Tehama, Nevada, San Mateo, Butte, San Francisco, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Monterey, San Benito.

Upon completion of the desk review, DHCS will determine if an on-site review is warranted, and the county will be notified of the on-site review date. The program on-site review may consist of discussions with county staff/leadership, service providers, program visits and an exit conference.

DHCS will issue an MHBG report that includes a description of any finding(s), recommendation(s), or suggested improvements.

If the County disagrees with any findings on the MHBG report, it must respond in writing within 15 business days by contacting DHCS at BHOMDMonitoring@dhcs.ca.gov .

A Plan of Correction (POC) addressing all findings is required and must be submitted to DHCS at MHSA@dhcs.ca.gov within 60 calendar days of receipt of receiving the MHBG report. DHCS will assess the proposed corrective action in the POC for compliance. If deemed insufficient the County must propose an alternative.

Please send any questions regarding this BHIN to BHOMDMonitoring@dhcs.ca.gov .

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By

Marlies Perez, Chief
Community Services Division