California Behavioral Health Planning Council
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June 2026 Committee Meeting Highlights

Performance Outcomes Committee:

The committee reviewed the 2026 Data Notebook Survey document on Behavioral Health Services for Foster Youth. Final feedback and edits were collected for the document. The survey will be distributed to counties in early July with a requested return date in October.

The committee discussed potential topics for the 2027 Data Notebook Survey. Some potential focus topics discussed included: access to services for older adults; pregnant and parenting youth in the behavioral health system; patients' rights and voluntary vs. involuntary services; and changes/cuts to prevention services as a result of BHSA implementation. A final decision on the topic for the 2027 Data Notebook will be made at the October meeting.

Following the BHSA Integrated Plan Public Forum event that the POC hosted on Thursday, July 18, the committee will be hosting a virtual public forum to collect more stakeholder input on the BHSA Integrated Plan community planning process.

Executive Committee:

Council Oversight: The Executive Committee reviews operations and received updates on changes to the following since the April 2026 meeting:

- Council appointments
- State Budget
- FY 2026-27 expenditures

Recruitment Plan & 2026–27 Conferences: The Recruitment Plan was reviewed, and committee members identified target populations and activities to ensure appropriate Council representation. The plan will also guide which conferences the Council will attend this fiscal year.

Integration of Areas of Focus: The committee discussed integrating the Council's areas of focus into the General Session Meetings. Areas of Focus include:

- Statewide Behavioral Health Integration
- Advocacy for Persons with Lived Experience and Stakeholder Engagement
- Patients' Rights
- Justice-Involved Populations in the Behavioral Health System

- Behavioral Health Housing

It was decided that future Executive Committee agendas will include time for each committee's leadership to share the topics they plan to cover. This will help ensure that all Areas of Focus are addressed without unnecessary overlap.

Patients' Rights Committee:

The committee discussed SB 1401 and voted to recommend an "oppose" position to the council's Legislation committee.

The committee will be sending a letter to the county behavioral health directors reminding them of the training requirements for all newly hired patients' rights advocates. This is part of the committee's mandated responsibility to verify that patients' rights advocates are receiving and completing the required training provided by the California Office of Patients' Rights.

Workforce and Employment Committee

Five-Year Workforce Education and Training (WET) Plan: The committee provided updates on its work to support the development of the 2026–2030 Workforce Education and Training (WET) Five-Year Plan. It submitted two recommendations before the Council approved the plan at the June 2026 General Session Meeting. Both letters are available on the Council's website on the Workforce and Employment Committee webpage.

Peer Support Specialist Employment in Local Jurisdictions: Riverside University Health System (RUHS) and Telecare Corporation responded to a set of standardized questions regarding the employment of Peer Support Specialists in Riverside. The presenters and committee members emphasized the value of the peer workforce as an integral part of the behavioral health workforce.

- The committee is interested in inviting county and community-based organization representatives to obtain more information about the successes, challenges, and best practices of Peer Support Specialist employment in California.
- The committee is considering convening an interim meeting before the October 2026 Quarterly Meeting to discuss potential strategies for sharing information about Peer Support Specialist employment with the public and local entities, including behavioral health boards and commissions.

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Legislation and Public Policy Committee:

Legislative Positions Taken: The Legislation and Public Policy Committee reviews legislation and takes actions on behalf of the Council. The committee voted to **support** three bills**:**

- AB 1586 (Ramos): The bill would require school resource officers to complete opioid overdose recognition and response training, upon assignment to a school site and at least every 2 years thereafter.
- AB 1932 (Elhawary): The bill would extend the Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems (C.R.I.S.E.S.) Grant Pilot Program to June 30, 2032.
- AB 2150 (Haney): The bill would require an employer who requires Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification training of its employees to also require those employees to take an online video module training on the use of naloxone.

The committee voted to **watch** two bills:

- AB 1899 (Caloza): The bill intends to establish the Office of Youth Prevention within the California Interagency Council on Homelessness that would also be required to consult with a 12-member advisory committee appointed by the Secretary of California Housing and Homelessness.
- SB 926 (Strickland): The bill would create the California Public Safety Services Support Fund to be used to implement Proposition 36, which would be distributed by the Board of State and Community Corrections.

The committee voted to **oppose** two bills:

- 1401 (Stern): The bill would revise criminal procedures for felony defendants who are incompetent to stand trial (IST) and ineligible for mental health diversion as well as making related changes including permitting a court to refer a misdemeanor IST defendant to a county conservatorship investigator for possible conservatorship.
- AB 1825 (Krell): The bill would make changes to the Offenders with Mental Health Disorders (OMHD) program and specify factors that a chief psychiatrist within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) would consider when determining whether the incarcerated individual with a severe mental health condition poses a substantial danger of physical harm to others. It also proposes specific requirements for exit plans for eligible individuals nearing release, including recommendations to the supervising county's behavioral health department for services such as Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT), the

Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act, and grave disability proceedings.

Policy Recommendations: The committee voted to take a **support if amended position and send recommendations** for AB 1556 (Haney), which intends to define a recovery residence and specify requirements that recovery residences would have to meet in order to be eligible for state funding, including, but not limited to, the residence satisfies the core components of Housing First and relapse is not, unless there is another lease violation, grounds for eviction and residents receive relapse support.

The committee also reviewed the current list of legislation that the Council has taken positions on, which included two bills that were gutted and amended. Those bills are AB 1267 (Pellerin) and SB 28 (Umberg). The Council previously voted to support AB 1267 and to watch SB 28.

- AB 1267 is no longer relevant to behavioral health and will be removed from the Council's list.
- SB 28 originally proposed provisions related to Proposition 36, but recently introduced significant amendments related to the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act and the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act. The key provisions include, but are not limited to:
    - Authorization for a conservator to request the court refer the conservatee to CARE Court, upon termination of a conservatorship.
    - Authorization for an individual to qualify for the CARE Act if, among the other existing requirements, the person has not been clinically stabilized in ongoing voluntary treatment for more than 90 days prior to the CARE court filing.
        - The committee voted to **oppose** SB 28.

The Committee received updates regarding advocacy activities completed for bills that the Council has taken positions on since the last meeting in April, which included the following.

- Support Letters were sent out for AB 96 (Jackson), SB 936 (Blakespear), and AB 2003 (Berman).
- An Opposition Letter was sent out for SB 1016 (Blakespear).
- A recommendations letter was sent to Assemblymember Bonta's office regarding recommended amendments to AB 2161.

Council Staff attended hearings for SB 1221 (Stern) and SB 989 (Blakespear) to state the Council's opposition.

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Systems and Medicaid Committee:

Justice-Involved Re-entry Initiative: The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) presented an overview of the Justice-Involved Reentry Initiative. The County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) reported on the implementation of the initiative and jail in-reach services across the counties. The committee also spoke with Orange County and Sutter-Yuba County on the implementation of the program and jail in-reach services. Counties shared their challenges and best practices for implementing the initiative.

Presentation Topics for Upcoming General Session: The committee discussed potential topics to present to the full Council at the General Session meeting in October 2026. Committee members expressed interest in inviting a county to present on the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Three-Year Integrated Plans (IPs) as well as the actions taken by counties to revise the plans based on stakeholder feedback.

Housing and Homelessness Committee:

The Committee reviewed the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) guidance on Recovery Housing and agreed to provide feedback to the state. Key discussion points included:

- The need to protect the safety and recovery of all residents and clarified that “Housing First” does not mean residents may use illegal drugs in housing.
- Recovery Housing is not exclusively for people who are homeless and must allow referrals from sources beyond the coordinated entry system.
- Members supported including a “return-to-use” policy or relapse plan that requires program staff to engage residents in a process to support re-entry to sobriety rather than immediate eviction for a single relapse.
- The guidance should clarify that the coordinated entry system is required only for recovery housing projects funded to serve people experiencing homelessness, and recovery housing that serves non-homeless referrals should not be restricted to coordinated entry.
- Some harm reduction strategies could be interpreted as directing people to locations for drug use. Members agreed that broad harm reduction strategies do not fit abstinence-focused Recovery Housing.

The Committee continues to track the implementation of the **Community Care Expansion (CCE) Program** administered by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). This program was established in 2021 through Assembly Bill 172 to support the development and preservation of supportive residential care for adults and older adults who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. During the meeting,

committee members received an update from CDSS representatives on the program's progress and outcomes.

- 39 counties have opted in with a total of 8,385 statewide beds and units created, which exceeded their goal of 7,000 beds statewide.

The Committee is interested in Recovery Housing and exploring opportunities for funding under the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA). As part of this work, the Committee continues to highlight various programs in the state that support recovery and stability across diverse populations, including individuals who are justice-involved. During the meeting, committee members received an overview presentation on the **Long-Term Offender Reentry Recovery (LTORR) Program** in Riverside County.

- This program is designed to assist individuals who have been incarcerated for extended periods. Operated under a contract with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), the program focuses on life skills and successful reintegration back into the community through peer-driven support, assistance, and guidance.

Committee members discussed next steps for future committee meetings and activities. The committee provided the following suggestions:

- A presentation from Cal-ICH to discuss the Council recommendations and changes in federal guidelines.
- A training presentation from the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on housing laws, including tenants' rights and lease requirements.
- A presentation from a veteran-specific organization to speak about housing and their experiences.
- A presentation from Front Porch on its Home Match program, which that connects homeowners with spare space, such as extra rooms, accessory dwelling units (ADUs), or in-law suites, with people seeking affordable housing.
- A presentation from homeless outreach teams about their current methods and connections to housing.