



BHSA Integrated Plan Public Forums

Background

The Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), enacted as part of Proposition 1, serves as the driving force behind [California's Behavioral Health Transformation \(BHT\)](#). Approved by voters in March 2024, Proposition 1 modernizes the behavioral health delivery system, strengthens accountability and transparency, and expands access to community-based behavioral health care.

The California Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC) established the Proposition 1 Ad-Hoc Committee to support its responsibilities under the Behavioral Health Services Act. This ad-hoc committee draws on the expertise of CBHPC Council members, which includes individuals and family members with lived experience of mental health and substance use disorders, as well as provider representation across California, to review progress, monitor implementation, and develop [recommendations on Behavioral Health Services Act policies and regulations](#). During the initial implementation phase of the Behavioral Health Transformation, both before and after Proposition 1 passed, CBHPC undertook several efforts to engage, educate, and advocate for the behavioral health community:

- **BHSA (Senate Bill 326) Public Forums – August 2023**
CBHPC hosted seven public forums to engage stakeholders in discussions about proposed legislation gathering input from individuals with lived experience, family members, providers, and advocates. Feedback from these forums was shared with the California Department of Health Care Services and the California Health and Human Services Agency and used to develop future recommendations.
- **BHT Educational Forums – November & December 2024**
Following the passage of Proposition 1, CBHPC hosted three [educational forums](#) to educate the public and gather input on Behavioral Health Transformation implementation.
- **Discussion on the Integrated Plan Process – October 2025**
At the [October 2025 CBHPC General Session](#), CBHPC convened state and local leaders to discuss the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Integrated Plan Process. Members received an overview from the Department of Health Care Services, followed by presentations from statewide associations and Marin County on their stakeholder engagement strategies and lessons learned from developing their Integrated Plan. As part of an on-going practice, every quarterly CBHPC general session and committee meetings in 2025-2026 received updates

on the status of implementation of BHSA activities as planning moved forward in different State Departments as well as at the county level.

- **Implementation/Policy Recommendations**

Since the passage of Proposition 1, CBHPC has issued 17 [recommendation letters](#) addressing key Behavioral Health Services Act policy and regulatory issues, as well as three additional letters related to the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act. These recommendations were submitted to the California Department of Health Care Services, Department of Public Health, and Department of Housing and Community Development to inform implementation decisions, strengthen accountability, and ensure community needs are reflected in policy and regulatory development.

BHSA County Integrated Plans

Under the Behavioral Health Services Act, counties must develop a new Integrated Plan every three years through an open and transparent Community Planning Process. These plans outline how counties will use behavioral health funding to address local mental health and substance use disorder needs, reduce health disparities, and improve access to care. The Behavioral Health Services Act also [broadens stakeholder involvement](#) to include, but not limited to, managed care plans, law enforcement, education, social services, and other key public sector and community stakeholders. These stakeholders are in addition to individuals and family members with lived experience of mental illness and/or substance use disorders.

As stakeholder groups expand, CBHPC continues to emphasize the central role of individuals with lived experience, consumer advocates, and family members representing the variety and diversity of California's population and communities. Their perspectives ensure Integrated Plans reflect the behavioral health needs of the people they serve.

CBHPC Role in the BHSA Community Planning Process and Integrated Plan

Under its statutory authority in [Welfare and Institutions Code §5772](#), CBHPC is responsible for reviewing, evaluating, and advocating for effective public behavioral health services for adults with serious mental illness, children and youth with serious emotional disturbances, and individuals with substance use disorders. The Behavioral Health Services Act assigns CBHPC additional responsibilities related to planning, reporting, and data oversight as outlined in [WIC §§ 5604.2 \(a\), 5610 \(a\)\(1\), 5610 \(b\)\(1\), and 5664 \(a\)](#):

- Review county performance outcome data.
- Advise on statewide reporting requirements.
- Collaborate with state agencies to support effective behavioral health practices.

This broader perspective helps determine whether expectations for inclusive, equitable, and accessible engagement are met and supports recommendations to the Department of Health Care Services.

CBHPC Role Related to Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions

CBHPC has statutory responsibilities related to local behavioral health boards and commissions who are responsible for reviewing and commenting on county performance outcome data and communicating their findings to CBHPC ([WIC §5604.2\(a\)](#)). CBHPC uses this input, along with other data sources, to inform its statewide review, reporting, and advisory responsibilities.

Behavioral health boards are county-appointed advisory bodies composed of consumers, family members, service providers, and community representatives. They serve as the public's voice in the county behavioral health system and advise county behavioral health directors and Boards of Supervisors on local needs, service gaps, program performance, and community concerns ([WIC §5604](#)).

Under the Behavioral Health Services Act, these boards now have responsibilities in the Integrated Plan process ([WIC §5963.03](#)):

- Conduct a public hearing to gather community feedback on the draft Integrated Plan and annual updates at the close of the 30-day comment period.
- Review the adopted Integrated Plan or annual update and make recommendations for revisions to the county behavioral health agencies.

The [California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards & Commissions \(CALBHB/C\)](#) supports local boards in carrying out these responsibilities by providing training, technical assistance, and resources. The CBHPC remains committed to ensuring that county behavioral health planning reflects meaningful community input.

Looking Ahead

CBHPC continues to monitor Behavioral Health Services Act implementation and works closely with state and local partners to advance the initiative, including efforts to strengthen community engagement in Behavioral Health Transformation.

As part of these engagement efforts, CBHPC will host a series of Behavioral Health Services Act Integrated Plan Public Forums to gather direct input from consumers, family members, advocates, and providers that participated in their counties' Integrated Plan process. Feedback from these forums will inform CBHPC's recommendations to the Department of Health Care Services and strengthen community engagement practices as counties prepare for the next three-year planning cycle.