

# Mental Health & Recovery Services September 2023 Highlights/Events

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## Community Events

MHRS held/participated in 38 community educational/awareness events in September:

### September Calendar events to date:

Sept 2: Festival of Children 2023: Wellness Resource Village - Costa Mesa  
 Sept 3: Festival of Children 2023: Wellness Resource Village - Costa Mesa  
 Sept 7: Bolsa Grande High School Back to School Night and Resource Fair - Garden Grove  
 Sept 7: Diocese of Orange - Dept. of Catholic Schools Principal Meeting - Garden Grove  
 Sept 7: OCEA Health and Welfare Trust Health Fair - Santa Ana  
 Sept 8: Fairmont Preparatory Academy's Suicide Prevention Pop-Up - Anaheim  
 Sept 8: OMID Family Fun Night Event - Lake Forest  
 Sept 9: Suicide Awareness Event - Anaheim High School  
 Sept 9: 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Tustin PD Open House- Tustin  
 Sept 9: Festival of Children 2023: Wellness Resource Village - Costa Mesa  
 Sept 10: Festival of Children 2023: Wellness Resource Village - Costa Mesa  
 Sept 10: South Coast Chinese Cultural Center: Chinese Storytime for Kids - Irvine  
 Sept 13: Responding to Student Mental Health Crisis - Orange  
 Sept 15: Angels Baseball Tabling Event- Anaheim  
 Sept 15: OCAPICA Arts for Healing - Buena Park  
 Sept 16: Recovery Happens Picnic-Santa Ana  
 Sept 16: Angels Baseball RBI Clinic - Anaheim  
 Sept 16: Angels Baseball Fiesta Event - Anaheim  
 Sept 16: D4 Kids Fishing Derby - Buena Park  
 Sept 16: Festival of Children 2023: Wellness Resource Village - Costa Mesa  
 Sept 17: Festival of Children 2023: Wellness Resource Village - Costa Mesa  
 Sept 19: Angels Baseball Veterans Batting Practice - Anaheim  
 Sept 19: Walk of Hope for Suicide Awareness - Irvine  
 Sept 20: La Habra High School's Suicide Prevention Pop-up - La Habra  
 Sept 21: Buena Park High School Suicide Prevention Pop-up - Buena Park  
 Sept 21: D3 Fentanyl Townhall - Villa Park  
 Sept 21: ADEPT Family Day Event - Rossmoor  
 Sept 21: D2 OC Older Adults Needs Assessment - Santa Ana  
 Sept 23: Purpose of Recovery's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual OC Recovery Connection Rally - Garden Grove  
 Sept 23: Festival of Children 2023: Wellness Resource Village - Costa Mesa  
 Sept 24: Festival of Children 2023: Wellness Resource Village - Costa Mesa  
 Sept 25: D4 OC Older Adults Needs Assessment - Anaheim  
 Sept 25: Mental Health Talk with Dr. Fei Wang - Santa Ana  
 Sept 26: Art of Valor Art Show - Yorba Linda  
 Sept 27: CalOptima Lunch and Learn - Corona Del Mar  
 Sept 27: Cypress College Walk of Hope- Cypress  
 Sept 28: Opioid Education and Naloxone Training (closed session) - Santa Ana  
 Sept 30: Angels Baseball Tabling Event- Anaheim

### October Calendar scheduled events to date

Oct. 4: Care Court Presentation - Fullerton  
 Oct. 4: Naloxone Training/Distribution to OCDE - Huntington Beach  
 Oct. 5: Community Resource and Health Fair - Garden Grove  
 Oct. 5: Khmer Water Blessing Ceremony - Santa Ana  
 Oct. 7: Asian American Senior Citizens Service Center Festival - Santa Ana

Oct. 12: D2 OC Older Adults Needs Assessment - Mission Viejo  
 Oct. 12: Korean Community Services Arirang Festival - Garden Grove  
 Oct. 13: Korean Community Services Arirang Festival - Garden Grove  
 Oct. 13: APAIT Soulful Skills: Journaling Workshop - Garden Grove  
 Oct. 13: Warner Wellness Center Pop-up Mental Health Event - Westminster  
 Oct. 14: Korean Community Services Arirang Festival - Garden Grove  
 Oct. 14: AFSP Out of Darkness Walk - Santa Ana  
 Oct. 14 - Second Baptist Church Men's Health Awareness Event - Santa Ana  
 Oct. 14 - D3 Healthy Halloween Fair - Lake Forest  
 Oct. 18: OCAPICA Filipino Heritage Night - Irvine  
 Oct. 18: 34<sup>th</sup> Annual OC Substance Abuse Prevention Network Conference - Santa Ana  
 Oct. 21: 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk Against Drugs - Mission Viejo  
 Oct. 21: South Coast Chinese Cultural Center Soft Clay Workshop - Irvine  
 Oct. 21: APAIT Halloween Rainbow Flea Market - Garden Grove  
 Oct. 23: GGUSD Drug Prevention and Social Media Resource Fair - Garden Grove  
 Oct. 25: APAITs Spooky Bash - Garden Grove  
 Oct 25: CCAPP's California Addiction Conference - Newport Beach  
 Oct 26: CCAPP's California Addiction Conference - Newport Beach  
 Oct. 27: Senior Summit Resource Fair - Aliso Viejo  
 Oct. 27: D5 OC Older Adults Needs Assessment  
 Oct. 27: 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Community First Conference - Irvine  
 Oct 27: CCAPP's California Addiction Conference - Newport Beach  
 Oct 28: CCAPP's California Addiction Conference - Newport Beach  
 Oct 29: CCAPP's California Addiction Conference - Newport Beach  
 Oct. 30: Shanti OC Community Ofrenda Night - Laguna Hills  
 Oct. 31: 2023 OC Veteran Health and Wellness Summit - Irvine

### **November Calendar events to date**

Nov. 4: State Senator Tom Umberg's Health and Resource Fair - Fullerton  
 Nov. 7: Southland Integrated Services Food Trolley - Garden Grove  
 Nov. 11: South Coast Chinese Cultural Center Marking Embroidered Fans - Irvine  
 Nov. 11: CSU Fullerton Book Talk Event - Fullerton  
 Nov. 12: Second Baptist Church Veteran's Day Event  
 Nov. 16: PAC Meeting: Suicide Prevention Plan Review / Implementation Planning - Orange

## **Program Highlights**

### **Adult & Older Services (includes Behavioral Health housing):**

- In September, the Housing & Supportive Services team finalized the lease of **28** MHSA permanent supportive housing units at Ascent. Ascent is located in Buena Park and includes 58 permanent supportive housing units, **28** of the units are designated for residents living with serious mental illness and experiencing homelessness. On-site supportive services are provided by MHRs and Telecare Home First North.
- On September 1, Project SHINE-OC, our new adult Vietnamese speaking FSP, became operational. During its first month the program enrolled and provided services to **12** individuals.
- The Adult Supported Employment program is operated by Goodwill (GW) and they hosted their monthly Job Club on September 14, with a total of **71** participants in attendance. This month's Job Club was specifically on The Hidden Job Market. Topics included how to find labor market information, tools, and resources to help your job

search, and where to find free training online. Additionally, GW successfully graduated **six (6)** participants from their program in the month of September. Graduates have secured and retained placement for ninety (90) days.

- The SSI Outreach program is operated by Mental Health Association of Orange County and Representative Payee program is operated by Resource Oversight & Guidance (ROG). For the month of September, SSI-OR received **nine (9)** approvals, **three (3)** of which were for homeless unsheltered individuals. ROG has increased their caseload to serve **81** clients and continue to offer monthly presentations to referral sources.

### Children and Youth Services:

- The Pathways Community Services Tustin clinic is located in the Central service region of Orange County and became operational on September 12. It is one of 16 Children and Youth Services Outpatient (CYSOP) contract clinics throughout Orange County. CYSOP contracted providers serve Medi-Cal eligible children and youth with a serious emotional disturbance (SED).

### Crisis Services:

- The Crisis and Acute Care Department is currently focused on developing the implementation plan for the Mobile Crisis Benefit, scheduled for submission to the state for approval by October 31st, 2023, with a targeted implementation date of December 31st, 2023. Our team is actively participating in mandatory Medi-Cal Mobile Crisis Training and Technical Assistance Center (MTAC) sessions, which includes engaging in office hours to enhance our teams' capabilities.
- Crisis and Acute Care continues to post a solicitation on Periscope for additional contractors to join the Medi-Cal Managed Care Master Agreement for acute inpatient hospital services for adolescents, adults, and older adults. The purpose of this is to continue to build acute inpatient hospital capacity for Orange County to meet the needs of our community.
- Crisis and Acute Care is also working with our contracted partner, Anaheim Community Hospital, and Recovery-Services-contracted College Community Services Peer Mentor Program, to implement Peer Navigators within the acute psychiatric inpatient setting effective September 1. Peers will be imbedded on the inpatient unit to assist with engagement in field-based peer services to support clients for up to 60 days after hospital discharge.

### Forensics:

- Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program established a Homeless Outreach Focus Group. This group meets weekly to discuss barriers and strategies for locating our homeless clients. Historically, one of our main challenges has been linking clients who we do not have a location for. This is particularly difficult when clients are abruptly released from the hospital or jail on weekends, as we have not been as successful in connecting them to services during those times. Since implementing new procedures and workflows developed in the focus group, we have observed positive results. There has been an increase in successful linkages and a decrease in the number of clients we have had to close from AOT due to being unable to locate them. Specifically, we have seen an average increase of 48% in successful linkages compared to the two months prior to implementing our focus group. Additionally, there has been an average

decrease of 32% in the number of clients we have had to close due to being unable to locate them. These improvements demonstrate the effectiveness of our focus group and highlight the positive impact it has had on our ability to serve our homeless clients.

- This month we created a CARE Act resource guide, collaborated with IT for development of data reporting, established a presence on OC Navigator, provided further trainings through NAMI, and internal trainings with OC Links, and other community partners.
- Earlier this month on September 5, we announced the re-establishment of AB109 screening service for the Anaheim probation office. The service was temporary closed for over 2 years due to Covid and coverage issue. A BHCII has officially moved and stationed her office at the Anaheim Probation office. Probation is now referring all Anaheim clients to the BHCII for screening and linkages. Currently, we are providing screening and linkage services for the city of Santa Ana and Anaheim. The goal is to expand our services to Westminster and South County.

### **Substance Use Disorder:**

- We continue to have open Requests for Applications (RFA's) for new contract partners to provide SUD Residential Treatment and Withdrawal Management Services.
- We added a fourth location with weekly drop-in times for receiving free training for administering naloxone and receiving this life-saving medication. The new location is Fentanyl Solutions in Newport Beach.
- A new withdrawal management provider, Monte Cristo Recovery, began providing Drug Medical services in Orange County.
- Recovery Incentives, an evidence-based intervention shown to be effective in treating stimulant use disorder, went live on September 1st at the Santa Ana County operated outpatient SUD Clinic.
- The Substance Use Disorder team provided training to the Public Defenders Office on administering naloxone and the overdose-reversing medication was distributed on September 25th with additional training dates planned for Oct, 12th, Oct 17th and Oct 25th.

### **Quality Management Services (QMS):**

- QMS prepared, coordinated and completed the combined Mental Health Plan (MHP) and DMC-ODS External Quality Review (EQR).
- QMS reviewed and updated CalAIM audit tool and finalized the upcoming year's review schedule.
- QMS is working with contract providers to bring awareness of their billing queues and increase revenues.
- Team making progress on submitting the BHQIP for the September 2023 deliveries.
- Completed two "Drop-In Q&A Forum" meetings specifically held as an open forum for county CYS staff to ask questions related to CalAIM documentation as well as attended Adult services staff meetings to offer technical assistance.

### **Mental Health Services Act (MHSA):**

- For September National Suicide Prevention Month, the Office of Suicide Prevention and the County launched the Light Up Hope OC campaign for the second year. <https://www.lightuphopeoc.com/> . County Administrative buildings were lit up in teal and purple lighting, the colors of suicide prevention, to raise community awareness. Angels stadium, Roman Catholic Diocese, Seal Beach Police station and other locations also participated in lighting up their buildings . Please see link for an overview [Here is a link](#). Throughout the community, several events took place to promote Suicide Prevention Awareness. A Calendar of Activities in the community can be found at [www.healthyanddiverseoc.org](http://www.healthyanddiverseoc.org). In addition, John Wayne Airport partnered with the County to record a message from Dr. Veronica Kelley that was played at the airport throughout the month. You can view the message here: <https://youtube.com/shorts/0niqRxyrzeg?feature=share>
- On September 15<sup>th</sup>, two participants of the Young Adult Court (YAC) Innovation Project graduated from the program. Channel 7 news was present and interviewed YAC staff and participants about the project background, services and impact.
- MHRS continues to support the Health Education Pathways Program (HEPP) managed by Cal State Fullerton (CSUF). This program aims to increase interest and awareness of the behavioral health and allied health care careers by working with high school and early college students. The program provides mentoring, events, job shadowing, and ongoing support to help students interested in pursuing a major or career in behavioral health. These efforts support our strategic efforts to create a pipeline into our behavioral health workforce.
- On September 12, MHRS hosted a convening for the Psychiatric Advance Directives (PADs) Innovation Project. This statewide project seeks to develop an easy-to-use standard PAD template that can be accessed via technology and utilized across the state. Seven counties and 7 subcontractors/project partners gathered to continue planning, development and implementation activities. Testing of the PAD and the supporting technology is scheduled to begin early next year.
- On September 28, members of the MHRS Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) team participated as panel members at the Healthcare Everywhere one day event. The convening focused on preparing future workforce through building integrated healthcare teams, building career pathways for cultural brokers (community health workers), peer specialists, and other specialties to support whole person approaches to healthcare.

### Outreach and Engagement:

- OC O&E contributed to many collaborative successes in assisting individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness in September. The team coordinated with the Office of Care Coordination, OC Public Works, and the OC Sheriff's Department to respond to several emergent encampments in Districts 2, 4, and 5, including the Flood Control Channels in Newport Beach and Anaheim, and encampments in San Clemente and Stanton. OC O&E staff provided resources, entered individuals into the Bed Reservation System and Coordinated Entry System for housing opportunities, made referrals to behavioral health services, and distributed hygiene kits and Kloxxado.

- OC O&E also collaborated with a mobile FQHC clinic conducting outreach in Santa Ana to an area with heavy substance use concerns. While conducting outreach together one day in September, OC O&E was able to link six people to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) services with the FQHC provider, in addition to offering referrals and linkages to behavioral health and supportive services, housing and shelter, hygiene kits, pet supplies, and transportation assistance.
- OC O&E has been experiencing an increase of calls from the community to the program's triage line seeking an outreach field response and resources. For example, the program received 467 calls so far in September, versus 269 received calls during the same month last year.

## Community Education

September 12 - Mental Health Training to Anaheim Angels Staff (D2)  
 September 15- OCCJCC Presentation on CARE Act (D2)  
 September 16- Recovery Happens Picnic - Centennial Park, Santa Ana (D2)  
 September 21 - Fentanyl Townhall - Villa Park (D3)  
 September 21 - OC Older Adults Needs Assessment - Santa Ana (D2)  
 September 21- Fentanyl Townhall-Villa Park (D3)  
 September 25 - OC Older Adults Needs Assessment - Anaheim (D4)  
 September 28 - Opioid Education and Naloxone Training (closed session) - Santa Ana (D2)  
 September 28- CARE Town Hall- Region 6 NAMI- Orange (D2)  
 September 29- Certified Peer Celebration (virtual)

## Interviews

September 6 - Interview with Bally Sports West on Suicide Prevention  
 September 7 - Interview with Spectrum News on Opioid Settlement Abatement  
 September 14 - Interview with CalMatters on CARE Court  
 September 27 - Interview with Associated Press on CARE Court  
 September 28 - Interview with OC Register on CARE Court Implementation

## HIGHLIGHTs of the Month

In celebration of Recovery Month in September, a Recovery Month Picnic was held for people in recovery and their loved ones at Centennial Park in Santa Ana on Saturday September 16<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 700 people attended this first annual event.