



BHSA Community Program Planning

A Community Guide to the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Planning Process

What is Orange County Behavioral Health doing?

We are shifting from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to the new Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), following the approval of Proposition 1 in March 2024. Here's what this means:

- **Broader access to services:** Now including Substance Use Disorders and Mental Health
- **New planning and reporting requirements:** Counties must update how they plan and report behavioral health programs and services.
- **Expanded community involvement:** More community stakeholder groups will be included in the planning process.
- **Comprehensive funding plans:** Counties must create Integrated plans that outline all services and programs funded by any county behavioral health funding sources.

Why are we doing it?

Strategic planning helps us:

- Align behavioral health initiatives with community needs and priorities.
- Use resources more effectively.
- Improve outcomes for individuals and communities.

Additionally:

- Community input is required by law—we must hear from those directly affected by behavioral health services including participants and their families, as well as other interested stakeholders.
- We believe community voices are essential to creating real, lasting solutions.

Why is it important?

We know there's room for improvement—and we want your help.

- We want to hear directly from you—whether you're a consumer, family member, or provider.
- Tell us what's working, and what's not. Your experiences matter.
- Your feedback will help shape the future of our programs and services.
- We are committed to creating a safe and respectful space for open conversation.
- Your identity and stories will remain confidential—shared only with your consent.
- This is your chance to help guide real change. We can't fix what we don't know.
- This is your opportunity to give the County your insight—we can't improve what we don't know needs fixing.


How are we doing it?


Community Program Planning (CPP) aims to improve the health and well-being on mental health and substance use disorder by identifying community-defined needs, developing strategies, and implementing programs to address those needs.

This collaborative process involving consumers/family members, system partners, healthcare professionals, and other stakeholders will create a healthier and more equitable environment and help to shape future services.


Listening Sessions	Professionally facilitated sessions that gather written and verbal feedback from participants to inform the County's Behavioral Health Integrated Plan.
BHSA Workgroups (3): 1. Behavioral Health Services and Supports (BHSS), 2. Full-Service Partnerships (FSP), 3. Housing Intervention	Ongoing open meetings led by co-chairs that are specific to the BHSA components and focused on developing and reviewing programming and improvements for BHSA target populations.
Educational Sessions	Opportunities to learn about upcoming changes to behavioral health services and the impact of Prop 1 to our community and the services provided.
Community Forums	Presentation related to BHSA and pending changes followed by an open dialogue and collaboration to share ideas, ask questions or discuss issues affecting the community.
Focus Groups	Invitation-only small groups designed to gather insight from impacted and vulnerable communities (e.g. youth, older adults, cultural groups, those with lived experience).
Community Needs Survey	A digital or paper survey with questions to gather feedback on BHSA programs from specific participants. Surveys may also gather input from the general audience on the quality of various CPP meetings and/or gather background information to learn which communities are represented at meetings.
Public Comment and Public Hearing on the Behavioral Health Integrated Plan (BHIP)	A period of 30 days where a draft of the BHIP is available for the public to review and provide feedback. Following the public comment period, a Public Hearing is held to review the CPP process and provide responses to public comments. This process allows the community's voice heard on the final draft of the County's BHIP.

How can you participate?

 Email your interest in joining a workgroup: BHSA@ochca.com

 Find educational sessions and community forum dates here:



 Questions? Call: (714) 834-3104
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