



Behavioral Health Services May 2025 Events/Highlights

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Community Events

May 2025 Upcoming Events

- May 1 - Huntington Beach High School Wellness Fair - D1
- May 1 - GGUSD Choose Wellness Education & Resource Fair - D2
- May 2 - Opioid overdose prevention and naloxone training - D3
- May 2 - Segerstrom High School's Mental Health Resources Fair - D2
- May 3 - AASCSC Ma(n)y Celebration - D2
- May 3 - Fit for a Queen - D2
- May 4 - Second Baptist Church Mental Health Fair - D2
- May 6 - Fullerton Union High School's Wellness Fair - D4
- May 6 - TTOC Community Resources Fair - D2
- May 6 - Break the Silence: Overcoming Mental Health Stigma - D2
- May 7 - Fullerton College- Staff- opioid/naloxone training - D4
- May 7 - Directing Change 2025 Awards - D2
- May 8 - Opioid overdose prevention and naloxone training - D4
- May 8 - CYS Staff Naloxone training & Distribution - D5
- May 9 - Women's Health- D2
- May 9 - Esqueda Elementary School's Mental Health Awareness Event - D2
- May 9 - Soulful Skills: Doggy Therapy - D2
- May 12 - Opioid overdose prevention and naloxone training - D4
- May 13 - Cypress College Naloxone Training - D1
- May 13 - Anaheim Mobile Family Resource Clinic (FRC) Program: Alameda/Brownwood/Catalina - D2
- May 14 - Opioid/Fentanyl Awareness- Anaheim High School - D2
- May 14 - Opioid Overdose Prevention and Naloxone Training - D1
- May 14 - Monroe Elementary School's Mental Health Awareness Event - D2
- May 14 - La Vista/ La Sierra High School Mental Health Resource Fair - D4
- May 15 - Jamboree Housing- Opioid/Fentanyl/Naloxone Workshop - D4
- May 15 - BHS Mental Health Appreciation Night - D2
- May 15 - Mental Health Awareness Event - D3
- May 16 - Dental Hygienist Association: Spring Scientific Session - Opioid/Naloxone Presentation and resource table - D2
- May 16 - Life Changes Workshop - D2
- May 17 - Hope, Health, and Harmony Event and Hope Card Project- D2
- May 17 - Hope Card Project with Love Mission Viejo - D5
- May 17 - Cypress Police Department Open House - D1
- May 17 - Hope Card Project with Love Mission Viejo - D5
- May 19 - Orange Coast College AANHPI Heritage Month Fair - D5
- May 21 - Opioid Overdose Prevention and Naloxone Training - D2
- May 21 - Opioid Overdose Prevention and Naloxone Training - D1
- May 23 - Westminster Therapeutic Residential Center - Opioid and Naloxone - D1
- May 25 - Angels' Family Sunday - D2
- May 27 - Opioid Overdose Prevention and Naloxone Training - D2
- May 28 - Opioid Overdose Prevention and Naloxone Training - D4
- May 28 - Creating Hope Together Mental Health Awareness Event and Hope Card Project - D5
- May 29 - Hope Card Project at Orange County Behavioral Health Regional Training: Tobacco-Free Recovery
- May 29 - City of Anaheim Mobile Family Resource Center (FRC): Vermont/Citron/Hampshire
- May 31 - Queer Fest OC: Colors Of Wellness - D2
- May 31 - Wheelin' 4 Wellness Event - D3

June 2025 Upcoming Events

- Jun 3 - Be Bold, Be Proud: A Pride Style Celebration - D5
- Jun 4 - East Santa Ana Child Guidance Center- opioid overdose prevention and naloxone training - D2
- Jun 6 - Angels' Tabling Event: First Responder Night - D2
- Jun 7 - Hope Card Project at SuperKids Health Expo - D2
- Jun 7 - Veterans Summer Fest - D3
- Jun 8 - Angels' Tabling Event: Family Sunday - D2
- Jun 10 - City of Anaheim Mobile Family Resources Center (FRC)
- Jun 10 - Angels' Tabling Event: Pride Night - D2
- Jun 12 - Children and Youth Services- opioid overdose prevention and naloxone training - D2
- Jun 13 - Soulful Skills: Boba Making - D2
- Jun 13 - Brain Wellness Symposium and Resource Fair - D5
- Jun 13 - Mindful Expressions Celebration Event - D5
- Jun 14 - Angels' Play Ball Weekend - D2
- Jun 19 - North Fullerton Child Guidance Center- opioid overdose prevention and naloxone training - D4
- Jun 21 - 2nd Annual Mission Viejo Pride - D3
- Jun 22 - Angels' Tabling Event: Family Sunday - D2
- Jun 24 - Angels' Tabling Event: Filipino Heritage Night - D2
- Jun 25 - CHOC Project Health- Opioid/Naloxone Workshop - D2
- Jun 25 - City of Anaheim Mobile Family Resources Center (FRC) - D2
- Jun 27 - 8th Annual 2025 Life Options Expo - D1
- Jun 27 - Angels' Tabling Event: Christmas in June - D2
- Jun 28 - Angels' Stadium Camp #1
- Jun 28 - Roots And Resilience - D4
- Jun 29 - Angels' Family Sunday - D2

Program Highlights

Adult & Older Adult Services (AOA):

- Housing and Supportive Services:
 - WISE Place grand opening ceremony held on May 1, 2025.
- Outpatient:
 - The Aliso Viejo Clinic has moved to their new clinic location at 27141 Aliso Creek Road, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 as of May 27, 2025.

BHS Navigation

- Jail to Community Reentry Program (JCRP) has begun its transition to the BHS Forensic and Justice Involved Division this month. JCRP is collaborating with Quality Management Services (QMS) to prepare to transition to the IRIS from Tech Care.
- OC Outreach & Engagement is preparing for its transition of 56 staff to the Office of Care Coordination and 32 staff transitioning to BHS Navigation.

Children & Youth Services (CYS)

- CHOC Project HEALTH's personal service coordinator has taken on a specialized role in linking families to food banks (currently eight families and counting). In doing so, Project HEALTH has developed a close relationship between local banks and is collaborating to pick up food and distribute it to clients and their families.
- CYS Full Service Partnerships supported 96 children and family participants in maintaining stable housing in April by utilizing flex funds to help offset rental and housing-related costs.
- OCAPICA Project FOCUS is planning their annual Summer Picnic, their second biggest event of year in which they celebrate the end of the school year for their program participants and their families. The event will be held outdoors in Mile Square Park and will feature food, games, and team-building activities.
- CEGU Probation clinicians conducted a presentation on Trauma Informed Care and Restorative Practices for the Orange County Public Defender's Office to promote improved understanding of mental health and substance use disorder treatment needs among juvenile justice involved youth, emphasizing the importance of stakeholder collaboration and community support. Clinicians also discussed the referral process for in custody youth to continue receiving services in the community, fostering a positive dialogue on the integrated services available within County programs and County contracted programs.
- Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) Coordinator began hosting virtual Drop-In sessions for CYS County and Contract providers on a quarterly basis to address challenges in coordination of care for Pathways to Well-Being (PWB), Intensive Services (IS), Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) and Presumptive Transfer (PT) cases. These cases are especially complex in that they involve other systems of care. Navigating the different requirements between the systems may lead to challenges for the providers, youth and families. These sessions offer the providers an opportunity to seek clarification on documentation, timelines and requirements.
- Hart Community Homes Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) closed their two sites in Orange County on April 7, 2025. All youth who were placed at the two STRTPs were successfully transitioned by Child Welfare and Probation to other placements according to their level of care needs with support from Child Welfare and Probation partners. The clinical team also ensured continuity of care for the youth in their new placements.

- For Mental Health Awareness Month, CYS South distributed Mental Health Awareness goodies to clients and their families. The staff participated in a spirit week where each day had a different clothing theme (i.e. Sports Day, Disney Day, Wear Green, etc.) designed to engage youth and families. The team did a potluck luncheon where staff participated in games, crafts, and activities to boost morale.

Crisis and Acute Care (CAC):

- Crisis Assessment Team (CAT) has expanded the Transportation pilot from 2 to 4 vehicles, allowing additional mobile crisis teams to participate. The pilot aims to increase timely access to a higher level of care (i.e. Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU), Crisis Residential Program (CRP)) and allowing for direct transport when clinically appropriate, reducing reliance on law enforcement or EMS transport and enhancing our team's ability to provide trauma informed care in the field. CAT is currently waiting for additional vehicles to be outfitted for field response in order to expand to the larger team.
- Since the launch of the First Responders for Mental Health campaign and the accompanying Spanish radio interview, OC Links has seen a rise in Spanish-language inquiries from the community regarding available services and resources. This increase highlights the campaign's effectiveness in reaching the Spanish-speaking community.
- On May 7, 2025, the Wellness and Suicide Prevention team hosted Orange County's 3rd Annual Directing Change Awards Ceremony at the Bower's Museum to recognize and honor the tremendous efforts of Orange County's youth in advancing suicide prevention, destigmatizing mental illness and strategies for coping through challenging times. 521 OC youth from 27 participating schools and organizations produced 161 films for the Youth Creating Change's 13th annual statewide Directing Change Film Contest. Films that qualified as finalists for Orange County awards in six different categories were screened. More than 180 youth and their families attended the event at the Bower's Museum. Guest speakers were Ian Kemmer, HCA's Behavioral Health Director, and Dr. Sandra Lee, Associate Superintendent for Orange County Department of Education. Detailed information about student films event can be found at: <https://hopeandjustice.art/orangecounty/>
- On May 16, 2025, the Wellness and Suicide Prevention Team partnered with the Mental Health Well-Being Promotion service providers Latina Health Access (LHA), US Vets, Access to Prevention Advocacy Intervention and Treatment (APAIT), Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA), Center for Applied Research (CARS), and the City of Santa Ana to host Hope, Health & Harmony, a community-centered wellness event at the Roosevelt-Walker Community Center in Santa Ana. Through interactive demonstrations, wellness activities, and cultural resource booths, Hope, Health & Harmony fostered community connections, enhanced mental health literacy, and celebrated cultural diversity for all. The event emphasized the mental health benefits of community connection, good nutrition, and holistic wellness practices for diverse Orange County families. An interactive Resource fair featured more than 20 local mental health and wellness agencies. Over 300 community members attended the event.
- On May 21, 2025, Vanessa Thomas, Senior Health Services Manager and Leticia Luna-Pinto, Health Services Manager, took part in the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) State visit and participated in the touring of Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) through the Crisis Residential Program (CRP), Coastal Star Behavioral Health, located at the 401 Tustin Avenue, Orange.

- On, May 21, 2025 and May 22, 2025 Vanessa Thomas, SM, Letty Luna-Pinto, HSM, Erika Punchard, HSM and Jennifer Santillan, HSM presented to Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) on the Crisis Continuum of Care at 401 S. Tustin Avenue in Orange and 4000 W. Metropolitan Ave. in Orange.

Data Analytics & Evaluation (DAE)

- BHS recently completed a State audit of its information systems used to collect, store and transfer data. The auditors also reviewed BHS' processes for computing State-mandated metrics, methods for ensuring data accuracy and completeness, and procedures for quality control. The auditors will be releasing a report of recommendations after it completes its reviews. Data of completion is not currently known.
- BHS launched the County's first ever recruitment for a new job classification, Data Scientist.

Forensics & Justice Involved

- The NEW Clinical Stepdown Committee is conducting monthly assessments for referrals to appropriate stepdown programs within our system of care for those that are ready to stepdown from LPS.
- BH LINKS: Two clinicians have been hired for the BH Links Program and are currently training in their new roles. They are in the process of obtaining their Medi-Cal credentialing to ensure they can effectively support in-reach and linkage services both pre- and post-release. These efforts are aligned with the goals of the CalAIM Justice Involved Initiative, which emphasizes coordinated care for justice-involved individuals transitioning back into the community.
- AB109: The AB 109 Program is fully staffed and actively conducting screenings across all four designated probation sites. All AB 109 Screeners, including the Service Chief II, are Medi-Cal credentialed. A total of 45 referrals were received from probation, with 28 clients screened. Of those screened, 27 were referred to treatment, and 15 successfully enrolled. Additionally, one CDCR virtual in-reach screening was conducted.
- Mental Health Collaborative Courts has implemented a Clinical Step Up Committee for Mental Health Diversion (MHD) for clients that are having difficulties and need more structure. This will include referrals to other courts such as WIT.
- CONREP: All CONREP and EASS staff have moved to new building 200 as of May 23, 2025 and all CONREP clients are enjoying the new building.
- On June 18, 2025 CONREP will tour the Independent Placement Panel (IPP) staff from Department of State Hospitals (DSH) to Seaside Terrace housing facility in Fountain Valley and the new CONREP office location.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD):

- Pacific Education Services (PES) will discontinue MAT Services after June 30, 2025. OCHCA is currently working with PES and county-operated clinics to arrange for smooth transitions for clients to our clinics or another nearby MAT provider.
- Monte Cristo Withdrawal Management program is not accepting referrals until future notice.
- Prop 36 currently has 87 pleas.
- The county-operated SUD Aliso Viejo clinic has moved as of May 23, 2025 to 27141 Aliso Creek Road, Aliso Viejo.

- 2nd Crossings TV Interview (Vietnamese) Fentanyl is Forever was taped May 12, 2025 and will be airing on May 19, 2025 and May 20, 2025. 2nd Univision TV Interview (Spanish) Fentanyl is Forever was taped on May 29, 2025. Both tapings were no cost.

Community Education Presentations

- SUD will be addressing the opioid crisis and providing Naloxone training and distribution at the upcoming events:
 - Clarvida: Fentanyl Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution, 5/02/25, Tustin
 - Fullerton College (Staff): Fentanyl Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution, 5/07/25
 - West Buena Park Child Guidance Center: Fentanyl Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution, 5/08/25
 - Clarvida: Fentanyl Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution, 5/12/25, Santa Ana
 - Anaheim High School (Families from Community Schools): Fentanyl Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution, 5/14/25
 - Clarvida: Fentanyl Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution, 5/14/25, Garden Grove
 - Jamboree Housing: Fentanyl Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution, 5/15/25, Buena Park
 - Dental Hygienist Association Conference: Fentanyl Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution, 5/16/25, Anaheim
 - Cypress Police Department Open House - Naloxone Education and Distribution, 5/17/25
 - Project Focus: Fentanyl Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution, 5/21/25, Garden Grove
 - Children and Family Service: Fentanyl Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution, 5/21/25, Orange
 - Westminster Therapeutic Residential Center: Fentanyl Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution, 5/23/25
 - Clarvida Project Renew: Fentanyl Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution, 5/27/25, Anaheim
 - Clarvida: Fentanyl Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution, 5/28/25, Fullerton
 - Casa Alegre: Fentanyl Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution, 5/28/25, Anaheim

Highlights of the Month

- AOA: Resident at Illuma Apartments has made meaningful progress in managing his mental health and continues to develop healthy coping strategies that strengthen his emotional well-being. Through ongoing therapy and consistent support from his case manager at Home First North, he has cultivated greater self-awareness and learned to identify triggers, establish boundaries, and prioritize self-care. His growing confidence in expressing his needs and maintaining a supportive network reflects his continued commitment to long-term stability and wellness.
- STEPS FSP celebrated one of their clients graduating from Care Court, a first ever Care Court graduation in Orange County.
- JCRP obtained consent from a client to collaborate with his mother due to concerns about his mental health. The client had faced multiple unsuccessful attempts at voluntary treatment, prompting worries about his well-being. JCRP established rapport with the client to better understand his needs and identified the need for additional support. After evaluating his mental health history and current situation, JCRP assisted in completing a CARE Petition. The client's mother was informed of this plan and expressed gratitude, as she had felt overwhelmed trying to submit the petition herself.
- OC O&E had been trying to engage a participant living in Talbert Park for several months, and after every attempt, he would politely refuse and move to a different part of the park. OC O&E came across him recently, this time while he was under the influence of methamphetamines and alcohol. When asked if he would be interested in going to a sobering station or to a detox, he said "yes!" Due to medical complications however, the sobering station and detox could not take him without his medication and a letter from his doctor. OC O&E confirmed his CalOptima and took him to a Primary Care Physician and explained to him what he needed to get from his doctor. OC O&E team arranged to pick him up at the park the following day to take him to a detox. OC O&E was elated when they arrived at the park gates at 7:30AM and saw him there and ready to go. The team is happy to share he is still in treatment!
- CAC: Our Crisis Assessment Team (CAT) and Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT) teams had made multiple attempts to engage a high-risk individual experiencing mental health challenges. Despite their persistence and trauma informed approach, the client remained disengaged and resistant to care, preventing a safe linkage to needed crisis stabilization services. A recent collaborative effort involving multiple agencies marked a turning point. In partnership with a local fire department, OC4Vets and Westminster Police Department, our PERT team successfully engaged the individual in a coordinated outreach. Through this joint response the client was placed on a 5150 psychiatric hold and safely transported to the emergency department for further evaluation without incident.

- CYS: A Clarvida STAY FSP transitional aged youth client soon to graduate from program and transition to outpatient services gave a presentation to both STAY staff and community partners in April for Autism Awareness Month. The client works as an Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Tech and credits their time with STAY for sparking a professional interest in behavioral health. The client is contemplating higher education and becoming a psychologist after graduating from college.
- Forensics & Justice Involved: CARE court had it's first CARE Court Graduation in May 2025. The client was previously on LPS conservatorship and was referred by PG's office. Client was unhoused, and now will continue to participate in FSP programming along with other goals for future independent living.
- SUD: After a physical injury that left him in pain, this adult male client found himself transitioning from heroin to using fentanyl daily. He sought treatment after significant challenges in his personal life, yet he still experienced relapses. He returned to treatment for ongoing support toward his recovery and was able to establish a therapeutic relationship that has greatly impacted his overall recovery. He continued to endure his personal challenges, remained in treatment, and is now over a year that he has maintained his sobriety. He is continuing to gain great success in his day-to-day life and is supported by his sobriety