

# Behavioral Health Services

## September 2025 Events/Highlights

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## Community Events

### September 2025 Events

- Sep 2 - City of Anaheim Mobile FRC Neighborhood Pop-up Event
- Sep 4 - Juliette Low School of the Arts Back to School Night - D4
- Sep 5 - GGUSD's Community Agency Resource Fair - D2
- Sep 5 - Angels' Ducks Night - D2
- Sep 6 - Angels Tabling Event: Mexican Heritage Night - D2
- Sep 6 - Angels' Fiesta Angels - D2
- Sep 10 - BHAB Study Committee Meeting - D2
- Sep 10 - Columbus Tustin Middle School's Suicide Prevention Pop-Up Event - D2
- Sep 11 - OCEA Health Fair - D2
- Sep 11 - Hope Card Project with Lion's Heart Teen Volunteers and Leaders - D3
- Sep 12 - La Habra High School's Suicide Prevention Awareness Lunchtime Activity - D4
- Sep 13 - 3rd Annual Wings of Hope: Mental Health & Wellness Resource Fair - D2
- Sep 13 - AFSP Out of the Darkness Walk - D3
- Sep 15 - Concorde Career College's Mental Health Awareness Event - D1
- Sep 16 - City of Anaheim Mobile FRC Neighborhood Pop-up Event - D4
- Sep 18 - Garden Grove Unified School District's Back to School Health Fair - D1
- Sep 19 - City of Irvine Inaugural Youth Conference - D5
- Sep 20 - 3rd Annual Recovery Happens Picnic - D2
- Sep 23 - Irvine Valley College Walk of Hope - D2
- Sep 24 - BHAB General Meeting - D2
- Sep 24 - Sonora High School's Suicide Prevention Pop-Up Event - D4
- Sep 25 - 2025 Thrive Resource Fair - D5
- Sep 25 - Clinton Corner Family Campus Community Resource & Health Fair - D2
- Sep 25 - FACCOC GoGreen & Health Expo - D1
- Sep 25 - OC Same Day Solutions Fair - D2
- Sep 25 - Sunburst Youth Academy Parent - Opioid Education and Naloxone Training - D1
- Sep 27 - Orange County Pride Festival & Parade - D5
- Sep 30 - City of Anaheim Mobile FRC Neighborhood Pop-up Event - D4

### October 2025 Upcoming Events

- Oct 1 - Vanguard University Wellness Fair - D5
- Oct 1 - OC Prevention Network Conference - D2
- Oct 8 - Golden West College Health Fair - D1
- Oct 9 - OCC Mid-Autumn Festival - D5
- Oct 10 - 18th Annual Orange County Senior Summit - D5
- Oct 15 - Community Suicide Prevention Coalition Meeting - D2
- Oct 15 - Cypress College Opioid Education and Naloxone Training - D1
- Oct 18 - 37th Annual Walk Against Drugs & Community Fair - D3
- Oct 18 - CalOptima 30th Anniversary Community Event - D2
- Oct 19 - St. Norbert Catholic Church's Community Resource Fair - D2
- Oct 22 - 19th Annual Community First Conference - D1
- Oct 22 - Los Alamitos Unified School District CPR/First Aid Staff Training - D1
- Oct 22 - 2025 OC Public Safety & Re-Entry Conference: Addiction and Recovery - D2
- Oct 26 - Hop Skip & Splash Running for a cause 5k Fun Run - D1
- Oct 30 - Anaheim Union HSD's Fentanyl Awareness Workshop - D4

November 2025 Upcoming Events

Nov 1 - Senior Resource Fair - D4

Nov 8 - Veterans Day Celebration - D5

Nov 12 - Cypress College Opioid Education and Naloxone Training - D1

Nov 15 - NAMIWalks Orange County - D2

Nov 20 - OC Same Day Solutions Fair - D4

## Program

## Highlights

### Adult & Older Adults (AOA):

- BHS Navigation
  - Staff have been trained by Quality Management Services (QMS) on quality electronic health record documentation. Staff have completed the steps to get access to IRIS, and IRIS training is pending prior to providing billable services. BHS Navigation clinicians have completed 5150 training for certification to provide assessments and holds for the clients on their clients.
- Housing & Supportive Services
  - HSS attended the Grand Opening of the MHSA Housing project, Salida Del Sol, in San Juan Capistrano on September 4, 2025.

### BHSA

- Innovation:
  - PIVOT Innovation (INN) Project: INN Staff has developed specific workplans for each PIVOT component and is exploring the internal (HCA Staffing) and external resources (partners contracted for support) needed to implement the workplans. INN Staff are also engaged in discussions with various HCA Programs to ensure the individual workplans align with programs' needs during the transition to BHSA and the broader initiatives under Behavioral Health Transformation.
  - Psychiatric Advance Directives (PADs): Peer Support Specialists from the pilot sites (PACT, AOT, CARE) are continuing to introduce PADs to their clients, as appropriate. PADs Phase II activities will begin on October 1, 2025.
- Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI):
  - BHEC steering committee continues to meet regularly, and subcommittees are working on refining their goals.
  - SB 923 Transgender, Gender Diverse, Intersex Cultural Competency Training contract has been finalized. The team is working on a desk procedure and will roll out the training in the upcoming two months. All staff (County and Contractors) will be required to take this training.
- Behavioral Health Training Services:
  - Behavioral Health Training Services and Substance Use Disorder Services have finalized contract negotiations with the identified substance use service training provider for Hazelden, and training sessions are being scheduled.
  - Suite 100 at 750 The City Drive is now available and features several offices for clinical supervision, touch-down stations, and meetings. The internet and AV are in the process of being installed.
  - Two PATH Fellow Interns from CSUF, who were placed in QMS, have been in placement for about a month and have already assisted in saving the County over \$40,000 by assisting in fixing billing errors. Interns are a viable opportunity to help alleviate some of the workload while also providing valuable experience that can help encourage a pathway for future employees.
  - Recovery Education Institute, in coordination with Pacific Clinics, hosted a Behavioral Health Career Fair on September 25, 2025, from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM to help encourage a pathway for graduates of the Peer Support Specialist, Alcohol and Other Drug Certificates, etc.
  - HCA served as a convener and Continuing Education/CME provider for the 2025 Veterans Conference at Irvine Valley College on 9/18/25, alongside VA Tibor Rubin Medical Center, UC Irvine, and the OC Veterans Collaborative. Nearly 200 participants attended six panels and breakout sessions, plus a resource fair with 30 vendors

coordinated by the Strong Families, Strong Children Collaborative. Highlights included the Family Law panel led by Judge Mary Kreber-Varipapa and the UCI Research Panel on suicide, PTSD biomarkers, and the draft's impact on suicide risk. Welcome remarks came from Lorraine Daniels with HCA, Irvine Valley College leadership, and community partners, with CalOptima sponsoring meals.

- The Seeking Safety training series started on September 23, 2025, was well attended, and will continue for a total of six trainings.
- Prevention & Intervention (P&I):
  - Olive Crest FSS: The program has published parent education course calendars through October and, within just one month of the fiscal year, has reached 796 children and 155 unduplicated participants. A new partnership was also established with a local junior high school, expanding reach into the community.

### **Children & Youth Services (CYS)**

- CYS Full Service Partnerships supported 73 children and family participants in maintaining stable housing in August by utilizing flex funds to help offset rental and housing-related costs.
- OCAPICA Project FOCUS, a CYS Full Service Partnership, recently launched an Employment Series with a focus on the creative arts. This month clients were taken to "Candle Making" classes where they were inspired to start their own businesses.
- Clarvida Project RENEW, a CYS Full Service Partnership, recently partnered with Serve the People, a community-based organization, to connect program participants to assorted community-based resources, including vision and dental.
- OC CREW, the County run First Episode Psychosis program, hosted its quarterly Multi-Family Group workshop, welcoming 17 participating families. These workshops offer meaningful support to OC CREW participants by helping families strengthen their skills, enhance engagement, and learn effective strategies to support their loved ones and one another. Attendees shared that the workshop helped them feel more connected and equipped them with practical tools and resources to better support each other.
- CYS PACT facilitated a back-to-school stress management group, offering clients a supportive space to explore healthy coping strategies during times of transition. The session began with education on stress management techniques, providing participants with tools to build awareness and resilience. Clients then rotated through interactive stations featuring art and hands-on activities designed to encourage self-expression, relaxation, and stress relief. The welcoming atmosphere allowed each participant to discover grounding strategies that felt personally supportive and empowering.
- CYS North Outpatient clinic began its third Positive Parenting Program group, serving parents and caregivers of children ages 0-12.

### **Crisis and Acute Care (CAC):**

- On September 2, 2025, the Crisis and Acute Care Managers attended Mental Health Crisis Intervention Training II (CITII), a course designed for law enforcement officers on handling crisis situations involving individuals with serious mental illness and developmental disabilities. CAT Leadership observed the training to gain a deeper understanding of the material taught, thereby better aligning with law enforcement partners and remaining informed on the training content.
- The Wellness and Suicide Prevention team (WSP) participated in a variety of resource fairs at Orange County schools and events throughout the County while also facilitating the HCA's annual Light Up Hope Campaign for Suicide Prevention Awareness month. The Light Up Hope Campaign is an active partnership with community agencies and organizations through which messages of hope and awareness relating to suicide prevention are shared. The County's CAN Building and other landmarks across Orange County, including John Wayne

Airport, were lit up in teal and purple, the colors representing suicide awareness, to highlight the messaging which also occurred through events, social media and local media outlets. As part of the campaign, John Wayne Airport has the trees near the John Wayne statue lit up in the suicide prevention colors of purple and teal along with the signage both physical and digital up as well.

- The Wellness and Suicide Prevention (WSP) also participated in the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Annual Orange County Out of Darkness Walk at Irvine Civic Center in Irvine on September 13th. This event was attended by more than 700 community members and provided the opportunity for the community to come together to remember those we have lost to suicide while sharing resources for suicide prevention, reducing stigma, and working to create opportunity to build hope and connection for those who may be at risk for suicide.
- The Wellness and Suicide Prevention's (WSP) contracted program Partners4Wellness organized an outreach event called "Symphony in the Park" an event highlighting mental health resources for OC residents as well as organizations who serve the disabled community. This event was attended by over 750 residents with 125 residents who completed art activities. 988 Crisis and Suicide Lifeline Stickers and Magnets were also distributed for Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Partner4 Wellness also hosted 27 Mindful Expressions Cultural Art workshops in August with 211 individuals from vulnerable and at-risk TAY communities including DV survivors, foster care youth, SUD, homeless youth, participating, to name a few.
- The Wellness and Suicide Prevention's (WSP) Hope Card Project was hosted for Lion Heart. Lions in Action is a community service event where members Grades 6-12 from the award-winning Lion's Heart Teen Volunteers and Leaders organization engage in meaningful service. With over 100 students in attendance, 50 cards were created to uplift community members in need.

### **Forensics & Justice Involved:**

- AB 109 and Jail to Community Re-entry Program (JCRP) teams recently worked together to support a client during his time in custody and ensure a smooth transition back into community-based services upon release. During engagement, a JCRP team member identified that the client was an AB 109 participant who expressed interest in reconnecting with the AOA Santa Ana Clinic and his former psychiatrist. JCRP coordinated with the AB 109 team to confirm the client's status and facilitate the linkage. As a result, the AB 109 clinician scheduled both an intake appointment and a psychiatric follow-up, which the client successfully attended. This collaboration demonstrates the shared commitment of both programs to strengthening continuity of care for justice-involved individuals. Building on this success, AB 109 and JCRP are finalizing a Best Practices Guide to support ongoing coordination and improve outcomes for future clients.
- Several BH Links and AB 109 staff attended the Veteran Health and Wellness Conference on Thursday, September 18, 2025.
- All BH Links and AB 109 staff will be attending the LEAP (Listen-Empathize-Agree-Partner) series starting on September 10, 2025, September 25, 2025, and October 8, 2025. Two BH Links staff are becoming trainers to support with teaching other county staff the LEAP process.

### **SUD**

- The Fentanyl is Forever multimedia campaign received a "Gold" Aster Award. For the last 25 years, the Aster Awards have honored talent and excellence in health care communications.
- On September 20, 2025, the 3rd Annual Recovery Picnic took place at Centennial Park in Santa Ana, bringing together over 850 participants to celebrate Recovery Month.

## Community Education Presentations

- SUD addressed the opioid crisis and providing Naloxone training and distribution at the following events:
  - 9/2/25, Santa Ana: LGBTQ Center OC - Opioid Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution
  - 9/8/25, Fullerton: Topaz Elementary School - Opioid Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution
  - 9/12/25, Anaheim: West Coast University Dental Hygienists Class - Opioid Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution
  - 9/17/25, Anaheim: Gilbert High School - Opioid Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution
  - 9/18/25, Garden Grove: Concorde Career College Dental Hygiene Program - Resource table and naloxone distribution
  - 9/25/25, Los Alamitos: Cottonwood Church - Opioid Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution

## Success Stories

- AOA: Intensive Outpatient (FSP & PACT)
  - The PACT South is immensely proud of a client who graduated from the program this month. He came to program with significant challenges including multiple incarcerations and family conflict. With PACT South team's help and support, he engaged in services, adhered to medication regime, participated in the Wellness Center activities, and remained sober. For over a year, he maintained his treatment progress, improved his family relationship and avoided further incarcerations.
- AOA: BHS Navigation
  - The BHS Nav team received a referral to re-engage an Aliso Viejo AOA clinic client who had missed appointments. The team connected with her over the phone and built the trust and rapport for the client to agree to meet them at her unsheltered location in the community. During our meeting, the client was successfully re-linked to mental health services by scheduling appointments with her psychiatrist, clinician, and nurse at the Aliso Viejo Clinic. She was also assisted with reinstating General Relief (GR) benefits, and transportation was coordinated for her to meet with her PIO and attend a court hearing at Harbor Justice Center for a pending domestic violence case. Most recently, the client was successfully matched to housing following advocacy efforts on her behalf. She has already begun the process by signing initial paperwork and is now on the path toward permanent stability. The client is now reconnected to essential services and actively participating in her care plan.
- BHSA: P&I
  - Start Well: An ECE program director shared that coaching support transformed her leadership approach, shifting her role from "fixer" to "supporter." She reported increased confidence in mentoring staff, addressing children's behaviors, and establishing program policies aligned with her center's culture. She credited this support with helping her reduce stress, find creative solutions, and strengthen her leadership.
  - Boys & Girls Club of Garden Grove: A consultant recently supported a preschool teacher and family after concerns arose that a child was not receiving needed behavioral services following an assessment. The consultant guided the parent in navigating the process, coordinated follow-up, and connected the family to case management. The child is now receiving services, showing improvement in the classroom, and the parent reports greater confidence.

- CYS: An 18-year-old arrived at the Western Youth Services (WYS) Outpatient Clinic as a walk-in referral, stating they needed help. The staff immediately connected the youth with a clinician for support. During the meeting, the team learned the youth had been on the way to purchase a rope to end their life before deciding to come to the clinic instead. It was discovered that the youth was a former client who remembered the support they had once received at WYS. Believing they could find that help again during this difficult time, they left home and walked to the clinic to seek assistance. The WYS staff quickly involved the crisis team, who arranged for the youth to be transported to a hospital for crisis care and stabilization. Importantly, the youth were able to use the skills they had learned about accessing resources and supports to help save their own life. These skills allowed them to cope with a serious setback while continuing their journey toward recovery.
- Forensics: AB 109 and Jail to Community Re-entry Program (JCRP) teams recently worked together to support a client during his time in custody and ensure a smooth transition back into community-based services upon release. During engagement, a JCRP team member identified that the client was an AB 109 participant who expressed interest in reconnecting with the AOA Santa Ana Clinic and his former psychiatrist. JCRP coordinated with the AB 109 team to confirm the client's status and facilitate the linkage. As a result, the AB 109 clinician scheduled both an intake appointment and a psychiatric follow-up, which the client successfully attended. This collaboration demonstrates the shared commitment of both programs to strengthening continuity of care for justice-involved individuals. Building on this success, AB 109 and JCRP are finalizing a Best Practices Guide to support ongoing coordination and improve outcomes for future clients.