

Behavioral Health Services

December 2025 Events/Highlights

Ian Kemmer

Email: ikemmer@ochca.com



Community Events

December 2025 Upcoming Events

- Dec 3 - Angels Kids Holiday Party - D2
- Dec 9 - OC Supervisor Katrina Foley's Career Fair - D5
- Dec 9 - Older Adult Mental Health Training for Professionals - D2
- Dec 11 - Monitor, Secure, Destroy Presentation - D2
- Dec 15 - City of Anaheim's Neighborhood Posadas - D2
- Dec 17 - City of Anaheim's Neighborhood Posadas - D2
- Dec 18 - City of Anaheim's Neighborhood Posadas - D4
- Dec 19 - Addressing the Opioid Crisis Fentanyl Education and Naloxone Training - D4

January 2026 Upcoming Events

- Jan 13 - City of Anaheim's Mobile Family Resource Clinic (FRC) Neighborhood Pop-up Event - D4
- Jan 20 - City of Anaheim's Mobile Family Resource Clinic (FRC) Neighborhood Pop-up Event - D4
- Jan 21 - Behavioral Health Integrated Plan Regional Community Forum - D5
- Jan 22 - Behavioral Health Integrated Plan Regional Community Forum - D2
- Jan 24 - 2nd Annual Community Resources Fair at Katella High School - D2
- Jan 26 - Behavioral Health Integrated Plan Regional Community Forum - D4
- Jan 27 - City of Anaheim's Mobile Family Resource Clinic (FRC) Neighborhood Pop-up Event - D4

February 2026 Upcoming Events

- Feb 3 - City of Anaheim's Mobile Family Resource Clinic (FRC) Neighborhood Pop-up Event - D4
- Feb 6 - 3rd Annual Veterans Art & Resource Expo - D5
- Feb 7 - OC Black History Parade & Unity Festival - D2
- Feb 10 - City of Anaheim's Mobile Family Resource Clinic (FRC) Neighborhood Pop-up Event - D4
- Feb 17 - City of Anaheim's Mobile Family Resource Clinic (FRC) Neighborhood Pop-up Event - D4
- Feb 24 - City of Anaheim's Mobile Family Resource Clinic (FRC) Neighborhood Pop-up Event - D4
- Feb 26 - OC Same Day Solutions Fair - D4
- Feb 28 - City of Mission Viejo's Oso Fit - Community Health Fair & 5K Fun Run - D3

Program Highlights

Adult & Older Adults (AOA)

- Housing & Supportive Services (HSS):
 - HSS has been working with the CalAim services team and CalOptima to launch the new Transitional Rent benefit for MediCal eligible individuals with serious behavioral health conditions who are homeless on January 1, 2026.
- Peer Mentoring Services:
 - The Clarvida Peer Mentoring Program hit a major milestone this year, celebrating 10 years of service to the Orange County mental health community. The program remains committed to the mission of assisting clients in recovery from severe and persistent mental illness to achieving independence through pursuit of recovery goals and supporting linkages to behavioral health resources in the community.
 - In the first half of FY 25-26, Track 1 met all contract goals by achieving a 98.2% client satisfaction rating, 97.6% goal completion rate, and 83.6% unduplicated enrollment out of the total number of annual, received referrals. In the first half of FY 25-26, Track 2 met 2 out of the 3 contract goals. Currently, Track 2 has 99.1% in client satisfaction rating based on satisfaction surveys administered to Clients upon discharge and 100% unduplicated enrollment out of the total number of referrals received. At present, Track 2 has a rate of 65.7% successful client linkages to community mental health services. This is 4.3% short of our goal of 70%, but historically it is the highest percentage we have achieved to date.
 - Track 2 currently serves 7 hospital sites and is in the process of beginning a collaboration with Anaheim Global Hospital. The program recently hired a Peer-Veteran to begin working with Military Veterans throughout Orange County who are in need to linkage to behavioral health services. Additionally, Peer Mentoring Services resumed collaboration with the Crisis Assessment Team (CAT), establishing a new workflow to assist CAT clients with linking to outpatient behavioral health services. Month after month, there has been steady growth in CAT referrals, increasing from 0 referrals to 7 in the last few months, receiving positive feedback from both partners and clients.
- Recovery Services:
 - The mid-year report reflects strong progress in expanding engagement, promoting recovery, and supporting employment readiness across services. A major accomplishment was the successful implementation of Work Order Day, which provided structured volunteer opportunities for members to build confidence, develop coping and life skills, and prepare for competitive employment. Participation and engagement increased, with members demonstrating trust and commitment to their recovery. Employment services also played a key role in helping members secure and maintain jobs, while volunteer activities reinforced job readiness and a sense of purpose.
 - Job fairs successfully connected members with local employers, creating valuable career pathways. Overall, attendance and group participation rose, supported by enhanced staffing and peer mentor certification, ensuring quality services and individualized support. These achievements highlight continued growth, and the effectiveness of program supports in fostering mental, emotional, and vocational well-being while strengthening community connection and resilience.
 - Community engagement remained strong through cultural celebrations, art fairs, and seasonal events, which drew high attendance and showcased creativity and diversity.

- Wellness Center Central worked on a major creative project, the BHSA 2026 Art Calendar, which was completed on schedule, reflecting member dedication and collaboration.

BHSA

- Boys & Girls Club of Garden Grove (BGC GG): Early Childhood Education (ECE) Mental Health Consultation
 - In November, BGC GG began working with a classroom that demonstrated significant dysregulation. The children exhibited a range of behaviors that created constant conflict, difficulty with transitions, and overall sense of chaos. Through programmatic restructuring, BGC GG collaborated with the ECE provider to reorganize the classroom to more developmentally appropriate groups, supported the implementing structures and routine, and introduced proactive tools like fidgets for waiting periods. The provider was open and engaged in applying relationship-based and Social Emotional Learning strategies, which lead to more predictable routines and calmer daily interactions. Children began using regulation tools effectively, transitions improved, and the provider felt more confident. The growth was showcased during the Winter Concert, where the children participated with confidence and regulation. In addition, children were also connected to needed community resources, strengthening support beyond the classroom.
- MECCA - Early Intervention for Older Adults
 - Gift Drive for Our Older Neighbors was launched by MECCA in October 2025 and by November, more than 90 gifts had been donated, reflecting sustained community engagement and effective inter-agency coordination. Subcontracted agencies supported the initiative by contributing culturally appropriate items and promoting the campaign within their respective networks. Beyond material support, this initiative functioned as a structured social support intervention by reinforcing dignity, social connectedness, and community belonging, protective factors associated with improved emotional well-being and resilience among older adults.

Children & Youth Services (CYS)

- CYS Full Service Partnerships supported 65 children and family participants in maintaining stable housing in November by utilizing flex funds to help offset rental and housing-related costs.
- On December 15, 2025, Rady Children's Health (formerly CHOC) began providing services under a new contract with HCA. Through this agreement, the CHOC Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) is now available to HCA Medi-Cal clients. The IOP serves children and youth ages 12-17 with serious emotional disturbances who require a highly structured outpatient treatment program. The program accepts referrals for children and youth who need a step-down level of care following hospital discharge or a higher level of care to stabilize symptoms and divert from psychiatric hospitalization.
- CYS County Outpatient sent six clinicians through training to become certified in Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) by PCIT International, the Center of Excellence (COE) identified by the State to train, certify, and oversee fidelity of PCIT implementation County Behavioral Health providers.
- New Alternatives Wraparound received 200 turkey donations from community partners and were able to provide each of their families with a full holiday dinner for Thanksgiving.
- Rite of Passage Short Term Therapeutic Program received generous donations from Laura Smith & Joyce Simon of the Orange County Chapter of Childhelp and were able to

provide full Thanksgiving meals for all of the youth, making the holiday feel warm and joyful. Throughout the year, the group also visits regularly, sometimes bringing their friendly dogs to offer comfort, companionship, and plenty of tail wags. Their kindness helps create a sense of connection and support for the youth.

- Mary's Path Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) serves youth who are young moms, learning to parent, many for the first time. Mary's Path partnered with Bank of America to provide a financial literacy training to all the youth to enhance their independent living skills as they prepare for transition out of the STRTP. Mary's Path STRTP also worked with Planned Parenthood to provide sexual and reproductive health classes for the youth.

Crisis and Acute Care (CAC)

- College Hospital Costa Mesa will convert its Adolescent Inpatient Unit (17 beds) to SB 43 beds for adults living with severe Substance Use Disorders. on January 12, 2026. This strategic transition aligns with the implementation of Senate Bill 43, effective January 1, 2026.
- CAC's Wellness and Suicide Prevention (WSP) Team members attended the 19th Annual Angels Baseball Foundation's Kids Holiday Party on December 3, 2025 which welcomed over 600 attendees, including families with children from organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, Easterseals Southern California, Families Forward, KidWorks, Olive Crest, OC Rescue Mission, Orangewood Foundation and Project Access. The WSP team provided fun swag for the kids and shared valuable resources with families through Angels.OCNavigator.org. For the second year in a row, attendees created heartfelt holiday cards for the Hope Card project to spread messaging of hope and joy. The children, alongside their caretakers and staff, handmade 35 cards to share their words of encouragement for the community.
- On December 4, 2025, Crisis Assessment Team (CAT) partnered with the QMS Designation Team and OC Sherrif Department for a School Resource Officers training on 5585 holds, covering key steps, notifications, legal considerations, and appropriate disposition options for youth in crisis.
- From December 8-9, 2025, Acute Care leadership attended the 2025 Behavioral Health Care Symposium in Sacramento. Central topics covered were the expansion of community-based services through BH-CONNECT, the Behavioral Health Services Act modernization to prioritize treatment, housing and workforce capacity and SB 43 and CARE Court operational and legal changes that will impact involuntary treatment protocols and compliance strategies statewide.
- On December 11, 2025, CAC partnered with law enforcement to support CIT training by sharing an overview of OC Links and the CAT PERT response model, highlighting how we can collaborate to strengthen field coordination, streamline referrals, and improve outcomes for individuals in crisis.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD)

- Twin Town Treatment Centers Outpatient Contracted Provider began providing services at their newest location in Laguna Hills, which is located at 23521 Paseo De Valencia, Suite B5, Laguna Hills 92653.
- Phoenix House Residential Treatment and Withdrawal Management Services has resumed taking referrals.
- There were two Prop 36 graduates in the month of December.

Community Education Presentations

- SUD addressed the opioid crisis and providing Naloxone training and distribution at the following events:

12/5/25	Costa Mesa	Sonora Elementary School - Opioid Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution
12/8/25	Cypress	Anaheim Union High School District, Independent Learning Center - Opioid Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution
12/19/25	Placentia	Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District - Opioid Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution

Success Stories

AOA:

- Housing & Supportive Services - City Net for BHBH:
 - After enrolling in the BHBH program and CalAIM, a client has worked tirelessly to meet his self-sufficiency goals. With guidance from his case manager, the client has been able to utilize the services from both programs to become financially stable and physically healthy before pursuing permanent housing. By the end of October, the client accomplished what he once had said was impossible: he accepted a permanent housing opportunity! Upon moving in, the client met with his case managers once more to share how the continuous support of the team and their ability to collaborate with Cal AIM to provide the client with robust support for all his needs was invaluable to his success.
- Housing & Supportive Services - Residential Rehabilitation (Res Rehab):
 - Upon initial admission, a female resident placed in our Co-Occurring Residential Rehabilitation (Res Rehab) program had been using crystal methamphetamine for several years and was also facing significant legal issues related to her substance use. The integrated treatment approach addressing both substance use and mental health within a board-and-care (B&C) environment allowed the client to fully focus on her recovery. Over time, she became increasingly motivated to take back her life. She recently graduated from the Res Rehab program and is now working full-time at a local market, where she has obtained her own insurance and benefits. She is well on her way to achieving her goals of supporting herself, obtaining independent housing, and no longer requiring federal assistance.
 - Male resident placed at one of the Res Rehab facilities had been living at a basic B&C for many years until financial circumstances forced its closure, at which time he was transferred to the Res Rehab B&C. During this transition, he struggled at times with substance use and an increase in mental health symptoms. The support and services provided by facility staff, the psychiatrist, and HCA helped keep him motivated and on track. Despite numerous setbacks and roadblocks, he recently completed the Res Rehab program and was accepted into a local Residential Facility for the Elderly (RFE), where he has quickly become one of the administrator's most valued and respected residents.
 - A male Stanford resident was the first client to graduate from the Care Court program and successfully met all his treatment goals.
 - A female Palm Village resident will be graduating with her Associate of Arts (AA) degree this month and plans to pursue higher education.
 - A male Caring Village resident will be awarded the Exemplary Award this month for leading the living skills group and serving as a positive role model for other residents. He has come a long way, demonstrated significant progress, and is an excellent example to his peers.

CYS:

- Clarvida Project RENEW:
 - A middle school-aged participant began services with challenges including substance use, emotional dysregulation, poor communication, and school refusal. The Personal Service Coordinator (PSC) and a Parent Partner have worked closely with the participant and their mother to address home triggers, improve parenting strategies, and promoting healthy communication. Mother and participant have shown positive responses, with the participant reporting reduced substance use and considering full abstinence. Continued implementation of interventions has led

to noticeable improvements in the parent-child relationship and the participant's overall functioning.

- CYS East Clinic:
 - A young person was referred to outpatient mental health services following a psychiatric hospitalization related to a suicide attempt. Through ongoing treatment, the youth focused on building emotional regulation skills, improving school engagement, and increasing self-awareness. Over time, the youth demonstrated meaningful progress, including improved emotional stability, increased participation in school activities, and the development of academic supports through a school accommodation plan. The youth continues to engage in services to strengthen interpersonal relationships and maintain academic success.

CAC:

- OC Links:
 - OC Links staff demonstrated the power of compassionate listening and timely intervention through an inspiring success story. A caller reached out to OC Links feeling overwhelmed by severe anxiety. While the caller confirmed he was safe, he expressed an urgent need for support. OC Links Behavioral Health Clinician, Nicolette, engaged with empathy and professionalism. Through active listening and validation, she created a safe space for the caller to share his feelings. Although he was unsure about accessing CAT services, the caller reached out six times, each time asking to speak with Nicolette. Her patient and consistent support helped him feel heard and respected. By the sixth call, Nicolette guided him in creating a plan: obtaining his prescribed medication that evening and using coping strategies to manage his anxiety. She also discussed safety planning and scheduled a follow-up call for the next day to ensure continued support. During the follow-up, the caller shared his progress: "I was able to get my medication, and I don't need anything further right now. Thank you so much, Miss Nicolette. Thank you for treating me like a normal person." Reflecting on the experience, Nicolette said: "Working at OC Links is so much more than answering calls. This call will stick with me forever. I love that those in need feel they can call OC Links and get help no matter the time or situation. I felt proud to help that caller, and I will never forget him."

SUD:

- Prop 36 client reported to 86 days sober for the first time in their adult life and that their father had moved from across the country to be near and the client for support. Client continues to be in their recovery journey.
- Prop 36 client that recently graduated received praised from the judge for their continued recovery since March 2025 and has shown to be a role model to other clients. The client has begun working on connecting with their children.