

Behavioral Health Services Events & Highlights February 2026

Ian Kemmer

Email: ikemmer@ochca.com

Community Events

February 2026 Events

- Feb 1 – Ducks Tabling Event – D2
- Feb 3 - City of Anaheim's Mobile Family Resource Clinic (FRC) Neighborhood Pop-up Event – D4
- Feb 3 – Ducks Tabling Event – D2
- Feb 4 - 2026 Orange County Counselor Symposium – D5
- 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 11 - SB43 Community Forum – D2
- Feb 17 - City of Anaheim's Mobile Family Resource Clinic (FRC) Neighborhood Pop-up Event – D4
- Feb 17 – CSU Fullerton Naloxone Distribution & Training Event – D4
- Feb 21 - Supervisor Sarmiento's Health and Wellness Resource Fair – D2
- Feb 24 - City of Anaheim's Mobile Family Resource Clinic (FRC) Neighborhood Pop-up Event – D4
- Feb 25 – UCI Mental Health Resource Fair – D5
- Feb 25 – Ducks Tabling Event – D2
- Feb 26 - OC Same Day Solutions Fair – D4
- Feb 26 - Orange Coast College's Lunar New Year Celebration – D5
- Feb 26 - Magnolia High School Anaheim Naloxone Distribution & Training Event – D4
- Feb 27 – Ducks Tabling Event – D2
- Feb 27 - REI Art Recovery Event – D2
- Feb 28 - City of Mission Viejo's Oso Fit - Community Health Fair & 5K Fun Run – D3

March 2026 Upcoming Events

- Mar 1 – Ducks Tabling Event – D2
- Mar 3 – Health Pathways Fair – D4
- Mar 3 – Ducks Tabling Event – D2
- Mar 4 – Fullerton College Spring Health Fair – D4
- Mar 4 – Ducks Tabling Event – D2
- Mar 6 - Ducks Tabling Event – D2
- Mar 8 – Ducks Tabling Event – D2
- Mar 10 - Anaheim High School's Open House – D2
- Mar 10 - City of Anaheim's Mobile Family Resource Clinic (FRC) Neighborhood Pop-up Event – D4
- Mar 14 - Spring 2026 Fishing Derby – D4
- Mar 17 - City of Anaheim's Mobile Family Resource Clinic (FRC) Neighborhood Pop-up Event – D2
- Mar 18 - Marshall B. Ketchum University Naloxone Distribution & Training Event – D2
- Mar 18 - Ducks Tabling Event – D2
- Mar 21 - Community Healthcare and Social Services Expo – D1
- Mar 22 - Ducks Tabling Event – D2
- Mar 24 - City of Anaheim's Mobile Family Resource Clinic (FRC) Neighborhood Pop-up Event – D4
- Mar 25 - St. Paul Lutheran Church Naloxone Distribution & Training – D4
- Mar 26 - Huntington Beach High School's Wellness Fair – D2

Mar 26 - Martin Elementary School's Resource Fair & Open House – D2

Mar 27 - Community Health Workers Regional Workforce Summit – D5

Mar 30 - Ducks Tabling Event – D2

Mar 31 - City of Anaheim's Mobile Family Resource Clinic (FRC) Neighborhood Pop-up Event – D4

April 2026 Upcoming Events

Apr 3 – Ducks Tabling Event – D2

Apr 4 – Ducks Tabling Event – D2

Apr 7 – City of Anaheim's Mobile Family Resource Clinic (FRC) Neighborhood Pop-up Event – D2

Apr 7 – Ducks Tabling Event – D2

Apr 8 – Golden West College Spring Health and Wellness Fair – D1

Apr 9 – Ducks Tabling Event – D2

Apr 12 – Ducks Tabling Event – D2

Apr 14 – City of Anaheim's Mobile Family Resource Clinic (FRC) Neighborhood Pop-up Event – D4

Apr 18 – Olive Street Elementary School Resource Fair – D2



Program Highlights

Adult & Older Adult (AOA)

- Intensive Outpatient (FSP & PACT):
 - PAU and PACT PAU celebrated the TET Lunar New Year on February 5, 2026 to ring in the Year of the Horse, which symbolizes energy, independence, and vitality. A total of 15 clients and 7 family members attended and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to celebrate traditions, enjoy different cultural foods, and participate in fun games.
 - Project SHINE-OC FSP also hosted a TET celebration event on February 19, 2026, with 46 clients in attendance.
- Outpatient (County & Contract):
 - Beginning February 19, 2026, the Open Access North and South clinics will serve as centralized access points for adult mental health services. This change is designed to enhance coordination and consistency across clinics, provide a single, simplified entry point for individuals seeking adult mental health care, and improve overall efficiency and client experience

BHSA

- Disaster Response:
 - Rachael Farraiolo from the Disaster Response team presented at the Operational Area Executive Board and Emergency Management Council Meeting on February 11, 2026, regarding the Mental Health Response and Recovery Collaborative (MHRRC). The purpose of the collaborative is to build awareness regarding the importance of mental health presence during emergency responses. Rachael hopes to build new relationships with leaders in the first responder world and beyond as to encourage collaboration during future responses. From this presentation, BHS Disaster Response was invited to participate in an active shooter drill at Honda Center in April.
- Innovation Projects (INN):
 - PIVOT INN Project:
 - In February, INN staff primarily focused on activities related to the PIVOT Workforce component. Efforts included reassessing the component workplan to align with current staffing capacity and available resources; gathering information on the existing behavioral health internship process to identify needs and gaps in the development of a centralized internship program; planning for the Empowering the Workforce engagement meeting taking place on March 5, 2026; and initiating exploration of strategies to expand the behavioral health workforce, with particular emphasis on community health workers. Work under the Full Service Partnership (FSP)

Reboot component also continued. Adult FSP Program staff met regularly with PIVOT contractors and began discussions related to substance use disorder services and data/outcomes. The remaining three components remain paused while INN staff work to identify activities that align with BHS priorities and mandates. Updates on these components will be provided in future reports.

- During the month, INN staff also met with San Bernardino County to share insights and lessons learned to date from the project. These discussions have been valuable in supporting counties as they determine the most effective approach for their own implementation efforts.
- Young Adult Court (YAC):
 - On February 27, 2026, 6 young men graduated from the Young Adult Court program. Individuals who participate in and successfully complete YAC services have their felony charges cleared. To date, a total of 63 young men have graduated from the program.
- Psychiatric Advance Directives (PADs) Phase II:
 - Phase II project activities are ongoing and remain on track. The PADs platform went live on February 2, 2026 across all participating counties. INN Staff will continue focusing on the successful implementation of PADs within its three pilot programs (PACT, AOT, CARE); however, individuals in the community may independently access the site and complete their PAD. The Multi- County Project Manager will provide in-person trainings for the OC CAT Team beginning February 25, 2026 and extend trainings into March to accommodate program's schedule and needs.
- BHTS & Centralized Internship Program:
 - BHTC Guidelines for booking conference rooms in Suite 130 and Suite 100 have been updated and will be distributed. 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 being installed.
 - Health and Wellness Coaching (HWC) with UCI will start its fourth cohort on July 19, 2026. HWC has six cohorts, each lasting six months, with weekly classes to support BHS staff and contract providers in delivering integrative and holistic health coaching to clients with various physical and behavioral health conditions. HWC aims to support members' wellness, enhance overall health and well-being, and promote behaviors that improve both physical and behavioral health outcomes, such as strengthening linkage and coordination with primary care.
- Prevention & Intervention:
 - Start Well Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Services: HCA Contracted Consultants and the Program Director are nationally endorsed by the Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health – this is a rigorous endorsement process which ensures the consultants are highly competent in providing non-clinical infant and early childhood mental health family services.

Children & Youth Services (CYS)

- CYS Full Service Partnerships supported 75 children and family, and TAY participants in maintaining stable housing in January by utilizing flex funds to help offset rental and housing-related costs.
- CYS contract Clarvida Tustin outpatient clinic will be relocating to their new location on March 2, 2026. The new clinic address is 18302 Irvine Blvd., Ste. 375, Tustin, CA 92789. The new location is approximately one mile from their current location so there are no anticipated concerns about accessibility. The Clarvida Tustin outpatient clinic provides services to children, youth (ages 0-20) and their families.
- CYS County-operated outpatient programs adopted the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Youth Screening Tool (YST) as a formalized process for linking youth with the appropriate system of care. This began as a pilot program in July 2024.
- CYS Service Chief, Liceth Ramirez, is providing monthly lectures to UCI Pediatric Residents on how to navigate access to services with Children and Youth Services. Residents have been highly engaged and reported that these sessions provide valuable, in-depth information on services available to support children, youth, and families.

Crisis & Acute Care (CAC)

- On February 11, 2026, the Orange County Health Care Agency hosted the first of five community events, titled, California Senate Bill 43 (SB 43) Updates: Understanding the Impact to our Community. The event covered the overview of the SB 43 expansion, regulation changes, and planning for Hospitals and First Responders. Substance Use Disorder System of Care and resources were also discussed. Over 85 individuals from our community attended including Behavioral Health and Hospital providers, Consumer and Family advocates, Law Enforcement/First Responders and members of our Criminal Justice community.
- The Crisis Assessment Team (CAT) began in-person training on Psychiatric Advance Directives (PADs) on February 25 and continuing through this month. PADs are legal documents that allow individuals to outline their mental health treatment preferences and designate a decision-maker before a crisis occurs. This training will help the team understand how PADs support person-centered care, improve communication, and guide interventions during behavioral health crises.
- Community Suicide Prevention Coalition Quarterly Meeting: Our Wellness and Suicide Prevention team welcomed over 50 guests from local organizations, partners, and community members at our first CSPC meeting of the year. The vision for this meeting was to summarize findings from 2025 while instilling hope for suicide prevention efforts as funding becomes more volatile. The agenda included outcomes from our Wellness and Suicide Prevention team's 2025 Light Up Hope suicide prevention media and outreach campaign, a review from the HCA Research Office on suicide mortality in Orange County

with preliminary data for 2025, and we learned about contracted provider Didi Hirsch Orange County's Suicide Support Services.

- The 3rd Annual Veterans Art & Resources Fair took place on February 2, 2026. BHS and our Hope Card Project were invited to return as resource vendors and art booths at this community resource fair hosted by the Tierney Center, Coastline College, and our contracted partner Partners4Wellness. The BHS team distributed over 30 boxes of naloxone as veterans, their family members, and college staff created over 15 uplifting cards to share with community members. This year's event welcomed over 200 attendees, and we experienced a significant rise in inquiries about our services compared to last year's 100 guests.
- The first California Senate Bill 43 Community Forum took place on February 11, 2026. OC Links, the SUD Team, the Office of Care Coordination, College Hospital, and the OC Sheriff's Department tabled at the SB43 community forums. Over 85 community members, law enforcement partners, and BHS programs attended the February Forum. OC Links looks forward to joining the next forum on March 11, 2026, in Santa Ana. Additional community forums are being scheduled for the upcoming months.
- On February 25, 2026, the Wellness and Suicide Prevention team participated in UCI's Mental Health Resource Fair, hosting a BHS resource table and engage with college students and staff members through an interactive wellness activity. This event is held by UCI and our contracted partner Partnes4Wellness, and welcomed an estimated 400 attendees.

Data Analytics & Evaluation (DAE)

- A resource guide featuring HCA's Correctional Health Services programs and services was published in the OC Navigator! This resource guide is designed to help family members and loved ones understand the health care and support services available to individuals while in custody at the Orange County Jail. Link for more information:
https://ocnavigator.org/m/ocn/272?resource_id=114093401

Forensics & Justice-Involved

- Jail to Community Re-Entry Program (JCRP) collaborated with the Orange County Sheriff's Department and is working on a process to permit JCRP to bring approved iPads into custody. This process will ensure that JCRP can facilitate telehealth interviews for clients awaiting placement in long-term care facilities.
- LPS Forensics is working with County Counsel to implement changes in the method of obtaining needed clinical information from HCA partner programs, District Attorney and OCSJ. These changes will relieve bottlenecks that have interfered with completion of court ordered evaluations.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD)

- Pacific Education Services is no longer delivering services as part of DMC-ODS. The last date of services was February 6, 2026.
- The Western Pacific Mobile Unit first day offering services was February 2, 2026.
- Comprehensive Treatment Center of Anaheim, formerly known as Comprehensive Treatment Center of Santa Ana, began delivering services on January 20, 2026, in their new building in Anaheim. New address: 1420 N. State College Blvd Anaheim, CA, 92806.
- Cedar House, located in Beaumont, California has begun to serve Orange County clients for both withdrawal management and residential treatment services with a capacity to serve up to 6 clients.
- The Orange County Friday Night Live Program, contracted through the Orange County Department of Education, has established nine new chapters during this fiscal year.

Community Education Presentations

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

2/11/26	Orange	SB 43 Community Forum
2/17/26	Fullerton	CA State University Fullerton - Opioid Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution
2/17/26	Placentia	Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District - Opioid Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution
2/18/26	Yorba Linda	OCDE Resource Fair - Resource table with prevention information and services
2/19/26	Brea	Brea Senior Center – Monitor, Secure, Destroy educational workshop
2/26/26	Anaheim	Magnolia High School Independent Learning Center Staff - Opioid Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution
2/26/26	Placentia	OC Same Day Solutions Fair - Naloxone Distribution

Success Stories

BHSA

- P&I: The Priority Center – Services for Families with Young Children:
 - A mother was referred to The Priority Center by her child’s school for parenting support for her 5-year-old daughter. As a single parent, she reported concerns about her daughter’s defiant behaviors at school and at home, frequent meltdowns when faced with frustration, and inattentiveness. She expressed interest in learning new parenting strategies. Together, the mother and the mental health worker developed a plan to address defiant behaviors by establishing clear boundaries and consequences, utilizing a Triple P Program tip sheet focused on cooperation with instructions. By the end of the program, the mother reported significant improvements, including enhanced school performance marked by an academic achievement award, increased compliance, and reduced frequency and intensity of meltdowns. The mother expressed gratitude for the services and the support provided during times she felt unsure how to respond.

Children & Youth Services (CYS)

- **CYS East:**
 - A client initially entered care for symptoms of depression and soon experienced a period of frequent psychiatric hospitalizations, creating significant challenges in treatment continuity and medication management. Despite these obstacles, the care team remained engaged and coordinated closely across services, including comprehensive psychological assessment. Over time, the client achieved increased stability, made substantial gains in personal growth, and remained engaged in treatment for an extended period. Ultimately, the client successfully discharged from the program after a year and nine months of services and transitioned to a lower level of care, reflecting sustained improvement and resilience.
- **New Alternatives Inc. Wraparound:**
 - The family was referred to Wraparound in August by Social Services Agency for assistance after the youth and sibling returned to their parent’s care, following concerns about the youth’s severe defiance and aggression. The care coordinator supported the parent in creating a positive home environment through family bonding activities, self-care strategies, and advocacy skills. The parent partner provided resources, coached the parent on de-escalation techniques, and helped establish consistent routines for the children. The youth partner engaged the youth in soccer, encouraged social skills development, and promoted healthy emotional expression. By program completion, the youth demonstrated improved behavior at home and school, and the parent felt confident in maintaining family stability.

Forensics & Justice Involved

- JCRP
 - AB109 contacted JCRP in hopes of collaborating for a client who was frequently reincarcerated. JCRP worked with AB109 to develop multiple plans to put in place for the client's discharge. JCRP assisted with filing a CARE petition and collaborated to refer the client to the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) FSP for structured mental health services. The client was successfully connected to AOT FSP and picked up on the day of release.
- AB109:
 - The AB 109 staff were persistent in connecting a client to essential services despite significant challenges. Engagement efforts began in late 2023 and continued through 2025, with initial referrals to Opportunity Knocks (OK). Despite periods of disengagement and multiple setbacks, the team remained committed. Throughout 2025, repeated disruptions impacted treatment continuity, but collaborative efforts with JCRP ensured ongoing advocacy and linkage attempts. Family support was instrumental, and the client made several attempts at substance use treatment programs, including Roque Center Detox, Phoenix House, and Hope House, though none were completed. Recognizing complex needs, the team consulted with JCRP and CARE Court for a structured approach. A breakthrough came in late 2025 when the client was approved for CARE Court, providing intensive support and accountability. Through coordinated efforts among mental health specialists, program leads, and justice representatives, the clinician-built rapport and secured the client's agreement to participate in services. A transition plan was developed to connect the client to Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Full-Service Partnership (FSP) upon release, reducing barriers and promoting stability.
- CONREP:
 - After transitioning from a state hospital to community outpatient treatment in 2019, the client maintained psychiatric stability, medication compliance, and sobriety. He actively participated in therapy, 12-Step meetings, and sponsor check-ins, with consistent negative drug screens. The client successfully completed community college in 2024 and enrolled as a full-time student at California State University, Long Beach, where graduation is expected in Spring 2026. The client is considering graduate studies or full-time employment. Supported by family and strong coping strategies, they have shown insight into mental health and substance use triggers, meeting all treatment goals. The client is expected to restore to sanity by this summer, marking a significant milestone toward independence and discharge readiness.
- Mental Health Collaborative Courts:
 - Opportunity Court celebrated another successful graduation this month with a participant who demonstrated true grit. Growing up, this participant didn't have the love and support from his family that he deserved; his mother's untreated mental illness meant that he often had to rely on himself. As an adult, he began drinking to

cope with the stresses of life. One fateful day, after a long day working at a restaurant, followed by a long night drinking at the bar, while driving his foot slipped off the brake, and he rolled into a palm tree, resulting in an arrest and a DUI charge. When his attorney talked with him about Collaborative Courts, he resolved to make a change. "I knew I needed this, I needed it for a long time but I just couldn't do it on my own." Although it wasn't easy keeping up with program requirements, he soon learned that having a strong support network made all the difference. "This program and this team have been here every time I needed them. Sometimes very unexpected times, like showing up with diapers for my kids."

Substance Use Disorder (SUD)

- Incarcerated for the past two years, client began substance use disorder treatment services, after experiencing continued legal trouble throughout their youth and into adulthood. The client has been proactive in addressing issues with behavioral health, increasing their insight into the addiction cycle and increased knowledge about the nature of such, such as a disease. Client experienced a large spectrum of emotions throughout their time while in the program; experiencing highs and lows as it relates to hopes of being in long term recovery. The client worked on creating a relationship with a spiritual dimension of life, working on faith, and developing an understanding of a higher power that they could have a personal relationship with. Client was able to have resolve for their recovery during this difficult time and successfully transition to the next level of treatment in their recovery journey. Clients continue to thrive, being of service, and helping the community. Client remains hopeful to see their future unfold as they strengthen in their recovery and dedicate to a life of sobriety.