



Behavioral Health Services Events & Highlights March 2026

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Community Events

March 2026 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 11 – Senate Bill 43 Community Forum – D2
- Mar 14 - Spring 2026 Fishing Derby – D4
- Mar 14 - Help with Heart Trauma-Awareness Symposium – D1
- Mar 17 – Duck’s Captains Challenge – D2
- 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 - Huntington Beach Easter Family Fun Day – D1
- Apr 4 – Ducks Tabling Event – D2
- Apr 7 - Public Health Fair 2026 CSUF – D4
- 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 8 - Senate Bill 43 Community Forum – D4
- Apr 9 – Ducks Tabling Event – D2
- Apr 12 – Ducks Tabling Event – D2
- Apr 14 - OC Same Day Solutions Fair – D5
- Apr 14 – City of Anaheim’s Mobile Family Resource Clinic (FRC) Neighborhood Pop-up Event – D4


Apr 15 - Community Suicide Prevention Coalition Meeting – D2
Apr 18 – Olive Street Elementary School Resource Fair – D2
Apr 21 - Sexual Assault/Mental Health Day of Education and Outreach – D5
Apr 25 - Children & Family Health Fair – D2
Apr 28 - CSU Fullerton 5th Annual Student Wellness Resource Fair – D4
Apr 29 - Columbus Tustin Middle School's Lunchtime Wellness Activity – D2

May 2026 Upcoming Events

May 6 - Applied Medical Community Resources Expo – D3
May 7 – Santa Ana College Wellness Faire – D2
May 12 - Mental Health Appreciation Night - D2
May 22 - 2026 Meeting of the Minds Conference – D2
May 28 - Mariana High School's Wellness Fair – D1
May 29 - Westminster High School's Mental Health & Wellness Fair – D1

Program Highlights

Adult & Older Adult (AOA)

- BH Navigation:
 - In collaboration with CalOptima, Housing and Supportive Services and BHS Navigation have been implementing transitional rent (TR) since Jan. 2026. We had our first individual complete the process and get authorized for TR this month. The teams continue to receive several TR referrals and inquiries daily and assist individuals with accessing this benefit.
- Housing & Supportive Services:
 - On March 19, 2026, in collaboration with the Corporation for Supportive Housing, HSS hosted the Orange County MHSAs Housing Services Training for BHS county and contracted staff who assist with housing services. The annual Housing California conference brings together leaders in the field of affordable housing and homelessness. This year's conference "Rooted in Community: Realizing California's Promise Together" featured panels on understanding and preparing for Transitional Rent, changes to federal housing policy and key updates on funding of housing for health from DHCS, County behavioral health and Managed Care Plans. The information and insights gained from the Housing California conference will inform the implementation of BHSAs Housing Interventions and enhance the development of effective strategies and solutions. 

BHSA

- Innovation Projects (INN):
 - PIVOT INN Project:
 - In March, INN staff maintained a strong focus on advancing the PIVOT Workforce component. Activities included planning for and supporting the Empowering the Workforce meeting held on March 5, 2026, which aimed to gather community input to inform the design of a centralized internship program. Progress also continued under the FSP Reboot component, with project partners facilitating ongoing meetings with BHS FSP Programs to assess current processes and identify strategies to prepare contracted providers to meet ACT fidelity standards. Key transition planning efforts will focus on establishing processes and workflows for FSP teams linking to MAT and SUD services, as well as defining ACT/ICM levels-of-care indicators and transition guidelines. For the remaining three PIVOT components, activities are progressing through continued discussions between County staff and Leadership regarding project implementation planning.
 - Young Adult Court (YAC):
 - On March 6, 2026, six young men graduated from the program. To date, a total of 69 young men have graduated. The young men who participate in YAC and successfully complete services have their felony charges cleared.

- Psychiatric Advance Directives (PADs) Phase II:
 - Phase II project activities remain ongoing and on track. INN staff continue to focus on supporting the successful implementation of PADs across the three pilot programs (PACT, AOT, and CARE). In March, the Multi-County Project Manager completed trainings for the mobile crisis team. As a result, the CAT team is now equipped to introduce PADs to individuals in the community, when appropriate, and access PAD documents in the field when available. Additionally, the project's marketing partner facilitated a series of podcast-style interviews with PADs facilitators across participating counties for use in social media campaigns. Program staff from the pilot sites also continue to participate in PADs Facilitator Workgroups. These sessions support facilitators across counties in deepening their understanding of PADs, strengthening implementation practices, and engaging in ongoing discussions regarding PADs history, enforceability, and overall implementation goals.
- 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.
 - Centralized Internship Program is scheduled to place 20 bachelor's level student interns from CSUF starting May 2026.
 - The Centralized Internship Program is also coordinating the recruitment, interviews, and placement of master's level clinical interns from multiple local universities for Fall onboarding. Interns will be placed across several Behavioral Health Services programs to support service delivery, strengthen academic partnerships, and enhance our behavioral health workforce pipeline.
 - Centralized Internship Program successfully coordinated with contracts to establish an MOU with Palo Alto University, with a focus on MSW students to intern at HCA.
 - SCRP funded remaining loan repayment for HCA staff with commitment to work within BHS and hard to fill positions. A total of two staff on the waitlist received \$5,000 each. Then an additional 15 staff received up to \$1,400 for previously awarded recipients for a total of \$30,000 awarded in March 2026.
- Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI)
 - OEI has finalized the Equity Exchange Newsletter and released the first issue.

- Start Well Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Services: At Start Well's February Community Webinar, Supporting Young Children through Anxiety and Stress, they had 82 participants (including 25 in their Spanish break-out room). The entire Start Well staff was there and stayed on answering questions for thirty minutes after it ended. They noted great engagement and participation with the audience – which was a mixture of parents and educators.
- Wellness Prevention Center (WPC) - Family Support Services: WPC's partnered with Planned Parenthood, who participated as a guest speaker during a BILY peer support session. This connection was established through WPC's allcove San Juan Capistrano center. WPC staff identified an opportunity to expand the partnership into Family Support Services programming, and Lupita facilitated bringing Planned Parenthood into the peer support space.

Children & Youth Services (CYS)

- CYS Full Service Partnership (FSP) programs supported 82 children, families, and TAY participants in maintaining stable housing in February by utilizing flex funds to offset rental and housing-related costs.
- In February, CYS staff at the Youth Reporting Center partnered with Probation and the Orange County Department of Education to take eight youth to the California Science Center—offering many their first museum experience. Youth responded very positively to the interactive, hands-on learning environment, which fostered engagement, curiosity, and pro-social connection. Staff noted strong enthusiasm and interest in future educational outings.
- Six county-operated outpatient clinicians have completed Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) training and certification through PCIT International, the State-designated Center of Excellence responsible for training, certification, and fidelity monitoring. PCIT is an evidence-based therapy that coaches caregivers in real time to strengthen positive parent-child interactions and effectively manage challenging behaviors.
- The Multi-Family Group (MFG) workshop through OC CREW, the County's First Episode Psychosis program, relaunched on August 16, 2025, and continues to show increasing engagement. The February session drew 20 attendees, reflecting steady growth since relaunch. Families report ongoing improvements in communication, coping skills, and understanding of psychosis, reinforcing the workshop's value in supporting outcomes and sustained connection to behavioral health services.
- OCAPICA's FSP, Project FOCUS, hosted its annual Winter Gathering with over 160 participants and family members in attendance. The event promotes community connection, celebrates cultural diversity, and recognizes participant achievements and success stories.

Crisis & Acute Care (CAC)

- Crisis and Acute Care services has been selected as a finalist in the social media campaign category for our First Responders for Mental Health campaign. The Epic Awards recognize

the most creative and effective efforts in communication and marketing campaigns and initiatives, and they describe the work as “transcending innovation and craft” in communications. It is judged by leaders in the field from across the Country. Winners will be announced at the CAPIO (CA Public Information Officers: annual conference in May.

- On March 3, 2026, Crisis & Acute Care participated in the Department of Health Care Services Review meeting on SMHS & DMC Availability of Services.
- On March 10, 2026, the Crisis & Acute Care Management team presented to the Orange County EMS Facilities Advisory Committee on the Crisis of Care Continuum.
- On March 11, 2026, the OC Health Care Agency hosted the second of five community events, in District 2, 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.
- Effective April 1, 2026, Exodus will no longer incur costs associated with Mind OC lease for the Orange Campus Crisis Service Unit (CSU) and Crisis Residential Program (CRP).
- Wellness and Suicide Prevention (WSP):
 - WSP staff partnered with OC Links and other BHS team members to share BHS resources at the California Senate Bill 43 Community Forum, held at Delhi Center in the city of Santa Ana. WSP also shared resources at the Pacific Clinics Recovery Education Institute’s art exhibit and workshop event in Orange. Many community members expressed their gratitude and positive experiences while calling OC Links and being evaluated by the Crisis Assessment Team sharing that they are now thriving as clients at the County’s Wellness Centers and REI. Contract provider Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services was also in attendance.
 - Didi Hirsch, hosted an annual potluck for participants, program alumnae, and staff to connect, strengthen supportive relationships, and honor the memory of those they have lost. Several attendees shared reflections about their healing journeys and the impact of the support received. This year’s theme was “The Love We Carry”.
- Contracted Providers:
 - In February, contracted provider Partners4Wellness, co-hosted a Veterans Art and Resource Expo with the Tierney Center and Coastline College. Over 200 veterans and their families, college staff, and students participated. The event fostered connection among students, veterans, and community members. Attendees created 140 dog tags and ceramic art objects at the Partners4 Wellness booth art workshops. BHS and WSP were also present. Our team distributed over 30 boxes of naloxone and participants created over 15 uplifting Hope Cards. Staff reported a significant rise in inquiries about our services compared to last year’s 100 guests.
 - In February, Partners4Wellness also co-hosted with UCI, a Mental Health Resource Fair with over 250 students, staff, and community members in attendance. HCA’s BHS program, OC Links, contracted provider Didi Hirsch also tabled. There were

many interactive activities at the resource tables including therapy dogs, mental health focused activities, art workshops etc. Students learnt coping skills, practicing gratitude, and the links between physical and mental health along with resources in the community.

Forensics & Justice-Involved

- CONREP Updates:
 - DSH conducted their quarterly visit with CONREP. The program received positive feedback regarding the structure of our annual case presentations. The team was recognized for the organization and consistency of presentations, and additional enhancements were incorporated to further strengthen clinical clarity and multidisciplinary collaboration.
 - A dedicated Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) workgroup was established to address the increasing volume of referrals and to develop standardized processes for assessing and addressing the treatment needs of this population. This effort is focused on improving placement readiness, reducing delays, and ensuring appropriate treatment pathways are identified.
 - A psychologist has been hired and assigned to support SB 317-related responsibilities, strengthening the program's capacity to meet statutory requirements and improve timeliness of evaluations and service coordination. With this hire, CONREP is fully staffed. This milestone enhances program stability, improves caseload distribution, and supports timely completion of clinical and court-related responsibilities.

Quality Management Services (QMS)

- The QMS team responded to the DHCS Triennial review for SMHS and Annual reviews for SUD (DMC-ODS and SUBG) as part of the first integrated contract review. This involved thousands of documents and many staff hours with a few key staff managing it as leads.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD)

- Recovery Beach has closed its door offering residential treatment and withdrawal management. Capacity has not been impacted as bed capacity has increased for one of our providers.
- Pending approval for the submitted application on Proposition 36 Health Implementation and funding through the state.

Community Education Presentations

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

3/2/26	Cypress	Cypress College – Cannabis Educational Workshop for Wellness Center staff
3/4/26	Fullerton	Fullerton College – Naloxone Distribution and Resource Table
3/4/26	Los Alamitos	Los Alamitos Unified School District’s CPR class – Naloxone Training/Distribution
3/6/26	Costa Mesa	OC GRIP (Gang Reduction Intervention Partnership) – Opioid/Fentanyl Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution
3/9/26	Anaheim	Magnolia High School Independent Learning Center – Opioid/Fentanyl Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution
3/11/26	Santa Ana	SB 43 Regional Community Forum – Naloxone Distribution
3/12/26	Anaheim	West Coast University Dental Program – Opioid/Fentanyl Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution
3/17/26	Cypress	Cypress College Student Health and Wellness Center ‘Spring into Health’ Resource Fair – Alcohol and other drug prevention resources
3/18/26	Stanton	Pyles STEM Academy – Opioid/Fentanyl Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution
3/18/26	Fullerton	Ketchum School of Pharmacy – Opioid/Fentanyl Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution
3/18/26	San Juan Capistrano	Salida del Sol – Monitor-Secure-Destroy workshop with opioid information
3/20/26	Anaheim	Savanna High School – Opioid/Fentanyl Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution
3/25/26	Cypress	Cypress College – Opioid/Fentanyl Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution
3/25/26	Costa Mesa	Newport Mesa Unified School District DELAC (District English Learners Advisory Committee) Resource Fair – table with alcohol and other drug prevention materials
3/25/26	Fullerton	Nar-Anon – Opioid/Fentanyl Education and Naloxone Training/Distribution
3/30/26	Orange	OC Same Day Solutions Fair, Naloxone Distribution

Success Stories

AOA

- Intensive Outpatient (FSP & PACT):
 - STEPS FSP program had one client completing the Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification Training and passing the certification exam. STEPS FSP team assisted the client in getting enrolled with certification training and facilitated flexible programming, allowing the client to remain active with FSP programming and activities. The client is currently awaiting his certification number, and his FSP case manager has begun working with him to create a resume to begin exploring employment opportunities as a peer support specialist.
- BHS Navigation:
 - BH Navigation located a client who had fallen out of services at our contracted bridge shelter. BH Navigation was able to connect the case manager and client back to Santa Ana clinic. The client was housed shortly after and has had a very difficult time adjusting to living on their own due to barriers presenting in their mental and physical health, including multiple hospitalizations. BH Navigation assisted with linkage to IHSS and Cal AIM ECM services and collaborated with their clinician to advocate for a higher level of MH treatment.
 - BH Navigation received a referral for a client who needed reengagement into mental health services. The MHS met with the client at their residence for support and to address their barriers to staying in mental health treatment, including transportation to mental health appointment. The client is now taking their prescription medication and is motivated to go back to school. The BH Navigation has also linked them to peer support specialist certification training.
- Housing & Supportive Services:
 - Home First North Telecare member living at our MHSA property, Buena Esperanza, consistently had high suicidal ideation but engaged consistently with the team. He engaged in therapy, medication management, and case management to support him with reducing his suicidal ideation and depressive symptoms. He then planned to move out of Buena to an independent apartment, recently moved out and has been thriving in his new environment after years of being at Buena Esperanza.
 - A client has been working with BHBH since April 2025 and experienced homelessness on and off since 2020. Support from City Net made it possible to complete her full formal federal probation. She has also been consistently employed part-time throughout her time in the shelter. City Net was able to permanently house the client.

BHSA

- Boys and Girls Club of Garden Grove (BGCGG) - Early Childhood Education Mental Health
 - A child was referred to BGCGG ECMH services due to concerns including elopement, difficulty with transitions, and challenges with peer interactions. The consultant collaborated closely with program staff and the child's parents. Interventions included psychoeducation, modeling of strategies, and the implementation of structured supports such as visual schedules, timers, and a token reinforcement system. The consultant also supported the parents throughout the assessment process with the school and pediatrician. As a result, the parents actively participated in their first Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting and were able to advocate for appropriate support. Since engaging in ECMH services, the child has demonstrated a reduction in elopement behaviors, improved transitions, and decreased frequency of tantrum behaviors. The child has also increased participation and engagement in program activities.
- Innovation Projects
 - For the first time in the Young Adult Court project, a young man graduated with honors. He attended all of the Transition and Processing (TAP) groups and activities that focus on areas such as reintegrating into the community, mental health and self-care, relapse prevention, healthy goodbyes, life after probation and finding positive relationships.

Crisis & Acute Care (CAC)

- Wellness and Suicide Prevention's (WSP) contracted program Didi Hirsch providing 988 services, received appreciation from some callers:
 - "I feel much better; I have gained confidence that next time I will know how to seek help before doing any harmful action... I really feel that I have a bit more control now... Thank you for your help!"
 - "I feel like this conversation really gave me everything I needed tonight, and I want to thank you so much for being the person I was able to talk to. Not as my distraction, but as a way to really get through it in a positive and healthy way. The way this night will end is better than how it started so I really do thank you so much."

Forensics & Justice Involved

- Mental Health Collaborative Courts:
 - Recently, MHCC had a graduate who started off in one of our other courts (WIT) and thrived when their treatment was transferred over to Opportunity Court. This client initially was resistant towards engage in care for their mental health and was struggling progressing in WIT court. Although her transition to Opportunity Court was still a bit of a struggle, the client eventually started to work with her treatment team and probation; which led to her successful graduation from Opportunity Court on 3/25/2026. Her progress has allowed her to lead a healthier life for herself and reconnecting with family she had lost contact with since the time of her arrest. She is now on a path towards long-term success both personally and professionally and wish her nothing but the absolute best in her continued efforts.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD)

- One of the providers reported a recent success story about a client with a long history of substance use and multiple recent treatment episodes. The client initially struggled with identifying triggers and had limited coping skills. Despite significant challenges, the client remained engaged in services and committed to change. Through outpatient treatment, they developed meaningful coping strategies, learned to manage trauma-related symptoms, and built confidence in their ability to maintain recovery. The client has made steady progress, transitioning to a lower level of care and entering recovery services. They have taken important steps toward stability, including securing transportation, finding employment, and enrolling in college courses to support ongoing growth and structure. The client is also working with child welfare services and has begun supervised visits as part of their efforts to reunify with their children. They report reduced symptoms, increased use of healthy coping skills, and a renewed sense of hope. Their journey reflects resilience, determination, and the positive impact of comprehensive SUD treatment. The client is optimistic about their future and remains focused on strengthening their recovery and rebuilding family connections.