

Behavioral Health Commission Director's Report

March 18, 2026

Observances & Holidays

MONTH OF MARCH

- For many Sacramento County residents, March brings the first signs of spring, longer days, and a renewed sense of energy. It is also a month filled with important observances that highlight wellness, equity, cultural traditions, and community connection. Raising awareness and reducing stigma remain essential as individuals and families across the county navigate behavioral health needs. March offers many opportunities to learn, reflect, and honor the diverse experiences of our community.
- **SOCIAL WORK MONTH.** This month encourages us to recognize the vital contributions of social workers and the positive impact they have on individuals, families, and communities. Social workers play a critical role in promoting well-being, advancing equity, and supporting people through life's most challenging moments.
- **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH.** This month-long celebration honors the historic achievements and contributions of women throughout U.S. history. It is a time to recognize the leadership, resilience, and impact of women across generations, and to reflect on the ongoing work toward gender equity.

MARCH 1

- **SELF-INJURY AWARENESS DAY.** Raising awareness (educating people who do not self-injure and reaching out to people who do) leads to understanding and empathy, decreasing judgment and fear, and reducing the number of people who feel alone and suffer in silence.
- **ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY.** Highlights the importance of living life with dignity regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, skin color, height, weight, or other characteristics. The symbol of Zero Discrimination Day is a butterfly.

MARCH 2

- **WORLD TEEN MENTAL WELLNESS DAY.** Puts the spotlight on the challenges affecting teenagers and the families who support them. The World Health Organization reports that half of all mental health issues begin by age 14.

MARCH 3

- **PURIM.** A joyful Jewish holiday celebrated with costumes, festive meals, and community gatherings. Purim is widely recognized for its lively traditions, yet it is often underacknowledged. Held on the 14th day of the Hebrew month of Adar (usually in March or April), Purim commemorates the day Esther, Queen of Persia, saved the Jewish people from persecution by Haman, an advisor to the Persian king.

MARCH 4

- **HOLI.** A popular ancient Hindu festival, Holi celebrates the arrival of spring, the end of winter, the blossoming of love and for many, it is a festive day to meet others, play and laugh, forget and forgive, and repair broken relationships.

MARCH 6

- **EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY.** Employee appreciation is directly tied with job satisfaction, workplace happiness, and employee morale. When you show your employees that you care, it can also boost motivation, increase engagement, foster loyalty, and increase productivity.
- **NATIONAL DAY OF UNPLUGGING.** Encourages people to try a 24-hour digital detox from sundown to sundown. It is a day to unplug, relax, reflect, be active, spend time outdoors, and connect with loved ones.

MARCH 8

- **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY.** Observed annually all around the World. It is a day to reflect on and celebrate the social, political, economic and cultural accomplishments of women, and to bring awareness to the fight for gender equality.

MARCH 17

- **ST. PATRICK’S DAY.** The feast day of St. Patrick, a patron saint of Ireland. Originally celebrated with religious feasts and services, St. Patrick's Day became a secular celebration of Irish culture when it reached the United States alongside Irish immigrants.

MARCH 20

- **EID AL-FITR.** Meaning “Festival of Breaking the Fast,” Eid al-Fitr is the holiday that follows the month of Ramadan. Celebrated for up to three days, it begins with the sighting of the moon and includes festive meals, gift-giving, and time with loved ones.
- **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HAPPINESS.** Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012, this observance recognizes happiness and well-being as universal human goals and important considerations in public policy. This day serves as a reminder of the value of collective well-being and the role communities play in supporting quality of life.
- **NOWRUZ – IRANIAN AND AFGHAN NEW YEAR.** Nowruz, meaning “new day”, is an ancestral festivity marking the first day of spring and the renewal of nature. It includes rituals, ceremonies and cultural events, as well as the enjoyment of a special meal with loved ones. New clothes are worn, visits are made to family and friends, and gifts, especially for children, are exchanged.

MARCH 22-28

- **NATIONAL DRUG AND ALCOHOL FACTS WEEK.** This annual observance focuses on the science of drug use and addiction that educates and empowers youth to make informed decisions around substance use and their health.

MARCH 31

- **CESAR CHAVEZ DAY.** Cesar Chavez Day is an American national commemorative holiday A national commemorative holiday celebrating the birth and enduring legacy of civil rights and labor leader Cesar Chavez. The day promotes community service in honor of his life and work.

Homeless Initiatives

Grow Florin will be ready to begin accepting referrals for small families starting April 10.

Crisis and Court/Justice Involved

CRISIS UPDATES:

- Respite sites proposed to sunset have developed transition plans and are coordinating with Behavioral Health Services for closure on June 30, 2026.
- The new hours of operation for the Mental Health Urgent Care Center (MHUCC) are:
 - Monday – Friday: 8:00AM – Midnight (last walk-in at 10:00PM)
 - Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays: 8:00AM – 8:00PM (last walk-in at 6:00PM)
 - The Mental Health Treatment Center and Crisis Wraparound Response Team remain available 24/7.

COURT/JUSTICE INVOLVED UPDATES

- Behavioral Health Services continues to partner with Correctional Health monthly to support the implementation of the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Justice-Involved initiative.
- Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court: First graduation is happening this month!
- Community Crisis Intervention Team has partnered with Sacramento Fire since July 2025, and the Fire Department has expressed strong satisfaction with the collaboration.

Behavioral Health – Adult Outpatient

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA) No. BHSA 003

- Congratulations to the awarded providers: Asian Pacific Community Clinics, Bay Area Community Services (BACS), El Hogar Community Services, Hope Cooperative, Pacific Clinics, Telecare Corporation, and Turning Point Community Programs.
- Recommendations related to these awards remain on track to be presented to the Board of Supervisors in May 2026.

- These programs will play a key role in advancing the goals of the Behavioral Health Community-Based Organized Networks of Equitable Care and Treatment (BH-CONNECT) and meeting the requirements of the Behavioral Health Services Act.
- Behavioral Health Services will meet with all awarded providers to support transition planning and ensure a smooth handoff.
- A collaborative six-month transition timeline will be established to maintain both continuity and quality of care.
- Current Full Service Partnership programs will be renewed for a ramp-down period, while new programs will begin ramping up on July 1. This approach is designed to support a stable transition and maintain high-quality services for the community.

HEALTHY BEGINNINGS SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PERINATAL PROGRAM

- Bridges Professional Treatment Services has been awarded the contract for the Perinatal Substance Use Disorder Program, which will include outpatient treatment, residential treatment, and sober living services. The program is scheduled to go live on July 1, 2026.
- Residential treatment services will include a 16-bed program with an average 90-day stay, with the option for participants to remain for up to 12 months based on need.
- A workgroup of more than 30 organizations is currently meeting to help design a comprehensive program model. Anyone interested in participating may contact Kim Grimes at GrimesK@saccounty.gov.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES-SCREENING AND COORDINATION (BHS-SAC)

- Behavioral Health Services-Screening and Coordination is the primary entry point for Behavioral Health Services and became the new Call Center on January 1, 2025.
- Total inquiries received:
 - 2024: 20,456
 - 2025: 35,657
 - Mental Health: 18,181
 - Substance Use Disorder: 7,643
 - Both: 1,896

CENTRALIZED PLACEMENT POOL FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT

- The Centralized Placement Pool for Substance Use Disorder residential treatment is placing individuals into treatment within 10 days.

Behavioral Health – Child and Family

- Paradise Oaks Youth Residential Treatment Program will begin accepting intakes by April 2026.
- Safer Sacramento Youth Prevention Initiative is a partnership with the Department of Health Services and the Sacramento County Office of Education. This initiative continues to perform strongly on social media, focusing on education and resources related to substance use, mental health, and wellness. Follow us on the following social media pages: Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok
- The Department of Health Services and the Sacramento County Office of Education are partnering to add substance use screening and support services to five pilot school campuses beginning March 2026.
- Three providers are moving forward with contracts to deliver Day Treatment Intensive services, a brand-new level of care for Sacramento County.
- Open enrollment for competency remediation services will be posted soon, as the County is preparing for a new procurement.
- On March 3, the County posted the procurement for Full Service Partnership Wraparound services, which will close on April 13.

Behavioral Health Services Act

- The draft Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Three-Year Integrated Plan for Fiscal Years 2026–2029 is currently available for public review. It was posted on February 16, 2026, and remains open for its 30-day public comment period.
- Community members are encouraged to review the draft and provide feedback to help shape local behavioral health priorities, identify opportunities for improvement, and strengthen services across Sacramento County.
- A public hearing is being held today during the Behavioral Health Commission General Meeting, where members of the public are invited to provide additional comments on the draft plan.
- For more information, to review the draft plan, and to submit feedback, please visit:
DRAFT Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Three-Year Integrated Plan for Fiscal Years 2026–2029

Behavioral Health Commission and Committees

- Sacramento County Behavioral Health Commission (BHC): Established to promote transparency, accountability, and community engagement in behavioral health services. Learn more about the [Sacramento County Behavioral Health Commission](#).
- The Clerk of the Board has provided proposed term limits for Behavioral Health Commission members to establish the staggered three-year structure required by the Bylaws. Under the Bylaws, the Board of Supervisors is responsible for equitably staggering appointments. Once the term limits are confirmed, updated appointment letters will be issued to all Commissioners.

- **MEETING DATES**

- **Behavioral Health Commission Meetings:** Third Wednesday of the month, 6:00–8:00 PM
 - Next meeting; Wednesday, April 15, 2026
- **BHC Executive Committee:** First Thursday of the Month, 6:00–7:30 PM
 - Next meeting; Thursday, April 2, 2026
- **BHC Adult Prevention & Treatment Committee:** Second Monday of the Month, 6:00–7:30 PM
 - Next meeting; Monday, April 13, 2026
- **BHC Youth Prevention & Treatment Committee:** First Monday of the Month, 6:00–7:30 PM
 - Next meeting; Monday, April 6, 2026
- **BHC Crisis & Justice Involved Continuum Committee:** Second Thursday of the Month, 4:00–5:30 PM
 - Next meeting; Thursday, April 9, 2026

Administration

County budgets have been submitted. The accounting structure was fully overhauled to align accounting practices with the Behavioral Health Outcomes, Accountability, and Transparency Report.

Recruitment

Behavioral Health Services (BHS) continues to face a workforce crisis due to the statewide shortage of behavioral health professionals. Community members are encouraged to apply, as many positions are currently available. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis!

Explore current openings, application instructions, benefits information, employee testimonials, and more on the [BHS Employment webpage](#).

BHS is committed to building a workforce that reflects the diversity of our community. We are seeking applicants from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences - clinical, professional, and lived - who bring energy, compassion, and enthusiasm for public service.

Learn about
services &
programs:



Behavioral Health
Services
Employment Page



QR Codes – BHS Resources: Handout #5