

# Behavioral Health Commission Director's Report

April 15, 2026

## Observances & Holidays

### MONTH OF APRIL

For many Sacramento County residents, April brings longer days, warmer weather, and a sense of renewal. It is also a month filled with 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. April offers many opportunities to learn, reflect, and honor the diverse experiences of our community.

- **ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH.** Focuses on understanding alcohol misuse, raising awareness about risks, and encouraging conversations about seeking help.
- **STRESS AWARENESS MONTH.** Highlights the causes of stress and promotes effective strategies for coping and stress reduction.
- **NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH.** Emphasizes the importance of families and communities working together to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect.

### APRIL 2

- **AUTISM AWARENESS DAY.** An international observance dedicated to raising awareness about autism and reducing stigma. Organizations around the world use this day to educate communities and support ongoing research.

### APRIL 2-9

- **PASSOVER.** Also known as Pesach in Hebrew, is one of the major and most sacred celebrations in Jewish tradition, commemorating the Israelites' Exodus from Egypt. It is a holiday that focuses on the communal celebration of the seder, which is the first of several unique rituals that take place during the week.

### APRIL 6-12

- **NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK.** Recognizes the contributions of public health and highlights issues important to improving health in communities across the nation.

### APRIL 7

- **WORLD HEALTH DAY.** Observed globally each year, focusing on a different health issue that affects communities around the world.

#### APRIL 9

- **NATIONAL ALCOHOL SCREENING DAY.** Raises awareness about the harmful effects of alcohol misuse and encourages individuals to seek support when needed.

#### APRIL 10

- **DAY OF SILENCE.** Held every year on the second Friday of April, a Day of Silence is a student-led observance that brings attention to the bullying and silencing of lesbian, bisexual, gay, and transgender (LGBTQ+) students. Participants take a vow of silence for the whole day, to represent the experiences of silenced LGBTQ+ youth. The day is sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN).

#### APRIL 22

- **EARTH DAY.** Celebrated internationally to raise awareness about issues affecting the planet and to raise awareness for and celebrate the efforts in place to protect the environment.

#### APRIL 25

- **NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY.** Provides a safe, convenient, and anonymous way for Americans to dispose of unused or expired prescription medications, helping prevent drug misuse and accidental overdoses. Find a location at [DEA National Rx Take Back](#).

#### APRIL 29

- **NATIONAL FENTANYL AWARENESS DAY.** While recent data shows progress in reducing fentanyl overdose deaths, nearly half of teens still do not know that counterfeit prescription pills often contain lethal amounts of fentanyl. The observance raises awareness about these risks and encourages communities to learn how to prevent overdose and support youth safety. Please visit [Home | National Fentanyl Awareness Day | April 29](#) to find out what you can do to help.

### Homeless Initiatives

- Behavioral Health Bridge Housing is preparing to begin serving families at Grow Florin on May 1. The program has been recognized by the grantor for Sacramento County's innovation and collaboration.
- Behavioral Health Bridge Housing project Auburn Oaks will close by April 10 as construction for permanent supportive housing is completed. Staff are coordinating resident transitions to new locations.
- Behavioral Health Bridge Housing occupancy utilization is 87.7%

## Crisis and Court/Justice Involved

### CRISIS UPDATES:

- 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 Community Wellness Response Team remain available 24/7.
- Bilateral referral and collaboration agreements between the Community Wellness Response Team, WellSpace Health, 988, and first responder agencies including Fire, Emergency Medical Services, and Law Enforcement are scheduled to be heard by the Board of Supervisors in April. These agreements reflect strong collaboration to support effective responses to behavioral health crisis calls.

### COURT/JUSTICE INVOLVED UPDATES

- The first Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court graduation occurred in March.

## Behavioral Health – Adult Outpatient

- ***How We Can Respond Together - Fentanyl and Methamphetamine***, a Community Conversation hosted by Supervisor Serna, District 1, will be held via Zoom on April 12, 2026, at 6:00PM (see attachment: [Community Conversation – District 1 Flyer](#)). To register, go to [Community Conversation - District 1 Meeting Registration](#). For questions, contact [DHS-SUPT@saccounty.gov](mailto:DHS-SUPT@saccounty.gov).
- Recover Medical Group telehealth services will end on June 30, 2026.
- WellSpace Health held a groundbreaking celebration on April 7, 2026, for the new Mental Health Rehabilitation Center. This ceremony demonstrates progress toward adding 32 beds to the county's subacute treatment capacity.

### FULL SERVICE PARTNERSHIP AWARDS

- 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 for these awards remain on track to be presented to the Board of Supervisors in May 2026.
  - These new 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), as well as meeting the requirements of the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA).
  - Behavioral Health Services is meeting regularly with awarded providers to support transition planning.

- Current Full Service Partnership programs will be renewed for a ramp down period, while new programs begin ramping up on July 1, 2026, to ensure continuity of care.

## Behavioral Health – Child and Family

- Both Innovation 7 providers, Color The Block (zip code 95823, Florin area) and Neighborhood Wellness Foundation (zip code 95838, Del Paso Heights area) have secured sites and are undergoing renovations, while progressing toward Medi-Cal certification as new Behavioral Health Services providers.
- The Full Service Partnership Wraparound procurement closed April 10, 2026, and the evaluation process has begun.
- Paradise Oaks Youth Residential Treatment Program will begin accepting intakes by April 2026.
- A Perinatal Workgroup is underway to develop the Healthy Beginnings Behavioral Health Services Perinatal Program. If interested in joining, contact Kimberly Grimes at [grimesk@saccounty.gov](mailto:grimesk@saccounty.gov). The program is scheduled to go live on July 1, 2026.

## Behavioral Health Services Act

### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (BHSA) IMPLEMENTATION

- The Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) goes into effect July 1, 2026.
- The first Draft Three-Year Integrated Plan was posted for 30-day public review and comment from February 16 to March 18, 2026.
- The Behavioral Health Commission conducted a public hearing at their General Meeting on March 18, 2026.
- The final BHSA Integrated Plan, incorporating and addressing substantive feedback, will go to the Board of Supervisors for approval in June 2026 and is due to DHCS by June 30, 2026.

### HEY NEIGHBOR – 2026 PARTNERSHIP

- "Hey Neighbor" is an awareness initiative launched by the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) in collaboration and partnership with counties
- The Hey Neighbor Campaign aimed to raise awareness of Sacramento County Behavioral Health Services, promote access to care, and highlight client and staff stories. It focused on increasing visibility of key services, including crisis services, Behavioral Health Services – Screening and Coordination (BHS-SAC) referrals, and Substance Use Prevention and Treatment services, while supporting stigma reduction across the community.
- 2024-2025 Campaign Highlights
  - **The Sacramento Kings delivered 6.516 million combined impressions**, driven by DOCO plaza boards, arena IPTV screens, and digital placements.

- **Sacramento Republic FC generated 522.6K combined impressions**, providing strong value and reaching Hispanic, family, and youth audiences.
  - **Call volumes for Behavioral Health Services – Screening and Coordination (BHS-SAC), 988, and CWRT increased steadily throughout the campaign**, aligning with increased visibility.
  - **BHS presence expanded across digital, social, broadcast, and in-person channels**, supporting stigma reduction and improved awareness.
- Building off the success of 2024-25, BHS is partnering with the Sacramento Kings and Sacramento Republic FC again this year
  - This year, we will aim to boost awareness of Behavioral Health Services programs and services and increase community understanding of how and where to access support.

## 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, May 20, 2026
  - **BHC Executive Committee:** First Thursday of the Month, 6:00–7:30 PM
    - Next meeting: Thursday, May 7, 2026
  - **BHC Adult Prevention & Treatment Committee:** Second Monday of the Month, 6:00–7:30 PM
    - Next meeting: Monday, May 11, 2026
  - **BHC Youth Prevention & Treatment Committee:** First Monday of the Month, 6:00–7:30 PM
    - Next meeting: Monday, May 4, 2026
  - **BHC Crisis & Justice Involved Continuum Committee:** Second Thursday of the Month, 4:00–5:30 PM
    - Next meeting: Thursday, May 14, 2026

## 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