

Behavioral Health Services Act Definitions (BHSA)

988 – The three-digit phone number and text number for the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, a nationwide network that provides mental health crisis care and suicide prevention to individuals experiencing a suicidal, mental health and/or substance use related crisis. The number can also be utilized by someone who may be worried about a loved one for guidance and support.

1115 Waiver – This waiver gives the Secretary of Health and Human Services authority to approve experimental, pilot, or demonstration projects that promote the objectives of the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) programs.

Access to Care – The timely and appropriate use of health services to achieve the best possible health outcomes.

Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) - A community-based approach to mental health treatment for people with serious mental illnesses. ACT is a person-centered, recovery-based model that uses a multidisciplinary team to provide a range of services in the community.

BH Connect – Behavioral health community-based organized networks of equitable care and treatment that enhance community-based behavioral health care services to support individuals facing significant behavioral health challenges across the full continuum of care.

Behavioral Health Accountability Set (BHAS) - A set of performance measures that DHCS selects for annual reporting by County Behavioral Health Plans (BHPs).

Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) - Provides housing and supportive services for individuals in the community who are homeless and living with serious behavioral health concerns, including serious mental illness, and/or substance use disorder that prevent them from accessing help and moving out of homelessness.

Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) - Program funded to construct, acquire, and rehabilitate real estate assets or to invest in needed mobile crisis infrastructure to expand the community continuum of behavioral health treatment resources.

Behavioral Health Outcomes, Accountability, and Transparency Report (BHOATR) - Provides public visibility into county results, disparities, spending, and longitudinal impact on homelessness.

Behavioral Health Services (BHS) - A division within the OC Health Care Agency (HCA) that works to prevent substance use and mental health disorders in all ages by intervening early and appropriately during behavioral health emergencies to provide the correct treatment at the right place, by the right person and program(s) to assist individuals during times of crisis achieve and maintain the highest quality of health and wellness using the full continuum of care model.

Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) - The Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), also known as Proposition 1 and was passed by California voters in March 2024, replaces the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) of 2004. It reforms behavioral health care funding to prioritize services for people with the most significant mental health needs while adding the treatment of substance use disorders (SUD), expanding housing interventions, and increasing the behavioral health workforce. It also enhances oversight, transparency,

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and accountability at the state and local levels. Additionally, the Behavioral Health Services Act creates pathways to ensure equitable access to care by advancing equity and reducing disparities for individuals with behavioral health needs. This is considered the Modernization of the Mental Health Services Act.

Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Coordinator - The BHSA Coordinator is responsible for planning, supervising, coordinating, and implementing BHSA activities and operations. The program coordinator will collaborate with community agencies and organizations to facilitate program-planning activities and to coordinate and supervise the work in achieving program goals and objectives. A key function of this role is to monitor program effectiveness, and coordinate assigned activities with other divisions, departments, outside agencies, and the public.

Behavioral Health Services and Supports (BHSS) - Includes early intervention; outreach and engagement; workforce; education and training; capital facilities and technological needs; and innovative pilots and projects. Funding majority of this component is to be used for intervention in the early signs of mental illness or SUD. Utilization of 51% of county's funding for Early Intervention services and supports must be allocated for people 25 years of age and younger.

Behavioral Health Transformation (BHT) - The efforts to implement Proposition 1 approved by voters in March 2024 to reform the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA).

Board of Supervisors (BOS) - The Board of Supervisors oversees the management of County government and many special districts. The Board's legislative and executive activities are conducted at public meetings with certain personnel and legal matters discussed in closed sessions.

CalAIM- A multi-year DHCS initiative to improve the quality of life and health outcomes of our population by implementing broad delivery system, program, and payment reform across the Medi-Cal program.

Capital Facilities and Technological Needs (CFTN) – A program under BHSA that funds the development of public behavioral health services, including construction, renovation, and technology upgrades.

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) - The federal agency that provides health coverage to more than 160 million through Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and the Health Insurance Marketplace. CMS works in partnership with the entire health care community to improve quality, equity and outcomes in the health care system.

Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) - A multiyear, multi-department package of investments that supports behavioral health for all California's children, youth, and their families. Efforts focus on promoting social and emotional well-being, preventing behavioral health challenges, and providing equitable, appropriate, timely, and accessible services for emerging and existing behavioral health (mental health and substance use) needs for children and youth ages 0-25.

Chronically Homeless - With respect to an individual or family, the individual or family is homeless and lives or resides in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter continuously for at least 1 year or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years; and has an adult head of household (or a minor head of household if no adult is present in the

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household) with a diagnosable substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, post-traumatic stress disorder, cognitive impairments resulting from a brain injury, or chronic physical illness or disability, including the co-occurrence of 2 or more of those conditions.

Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act – Provides community-based behavioral

health services and supports to Californians living with untreated schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorders who meet certain health and safety conditions through a civil court process. The CARE Act is intended to serve as an upstream intervention for individuals experiencing severe impairment to prevent avoidable psychiatric hospitalizations, incarcerations, and Lanterman-Petris-Short Mental Health Conservatorships.

Community-Defined Evidence Practices (CDEP) - An alternative or complement to evidence-based practices

that offers culturally anchored interventions that reflect the values, practices, histories, and lived-experiences of the communities they serve. These practices come from the community and the organizations that serve them and are found to yield positive results as determined by community consensus over time.

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) - A long-term, systematic plan to address issues identified in the

community health assessment. The purpose of the community health improvement plan is to describe how the health department and the community it serves will work together to improve population health in the jurisdiction.

Community Program Planning (CPP) - A systematic and collaborative process that assesses community needs, sets clear goals and objectives, develops and implements effective programs and services and evaluates and improves outcomes.

County Executive Officer (CEO) – The County Executive Officer manages the County of Ventura government agencies, finances, projects, and services, and appoints officials of the county. The CEO is appointed by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors.

Culturally Competent - A set of congruent behaviors, attitudes, and policies that come together in a system, agency, or among professionals and enable that system, agency, or those professionals to work effectively in cross-cultural situations.

Data Collection – A process of systematically gathering information (data) on a topic to answer a research question or evaluate the outcomes of a service/program. Data are usually collected through surveys, interviews, records review, or other methods.

Demographic Survey - A document collecting information on age, gender, ethnicity, race, primary language, disability status, housing status, and behavioral health needs.

Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) - Improves access to quality healthcare for Californians by ensuring hospital buildings are safe, offering financial assistance to individuals and healthcare institutions, and collecting and publishing healthcare data.

Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) - The department within the California Health and Human

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Services Agency that is responsible for financing and administering the state's Medicaid program, Medi-Cal, which provides health care services to low-income persons and families who meet defined eligibility requirements.

Disability Insurer – Defined by DHCS as a commercial disability insurer that covers hospital, medical or surgical benefits as defined in Insurance Code section 106(b).

Early Intervention – The proactive approach of intervening, interfering or interceding at the manifestation of a behavioral health condition, with the intent of preventing or measurably improving the condition from becoming severe and disabling and to reduce disparities in behavioral health.

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) - The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment benefit provides comprehensive and preventive health care services for children under age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid.

Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) - The range of treatment and services of well-documented effectiveness. An evidence-based practice has quantitative and qualitative data showing positive outcomes and has been subject to expert/peer review that has determined that a particular approach or strategy has a significant level of evidence of effectiveness.

Fiscal Year (FY) - The budget year for Ventura County begins on July 1st and ends on June 30th of each year.

Full-Service Partnerships (FSP) - Full-Service Partnerships (FSP) assist the most vulnerable individuals by providing intensive, community-based outpatient services. Support is designed for individuals who have the greatest barriers to accessing care including: individuals of all ages who are living with a Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) or Serious Mental Illness (SMI); unserved or underserved; and are unhoused, at risk of being unhoused, involved in the criminal justice system, frequent users of inpatient psychiatric treatment, culturally or linguistically isolated, and/or have complex medical needs.

Health Care Agency (HCA) - The Health Care Agency (HCA) is a regional interdisciplinary health jurisdiction and an accredited health department, charged with protecting and promoting individual, family and community health through partnership and coordination of public and private sector resources. The HCA's primary focus is to protect and promote the health and safety of the community as a whole, continually planning in anticipation of changes so that services are sustainable and relevant, meeting needs of the community.

Health Equity - The right to access high-quality and affordable healthcare services and supports for all populations, including Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) - A comprehensive set of standardized performance measures developed by the National Committee for Quality Assurance. It allows consumers to compare health plan performance to other plans and national benchmarks. HEDIS measures track actual care received, covering important dimensions of care and service.

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High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) - An individualized, team-based, collaborative process that provides a coordinated set of services and supports.

Homelessness – An individual or family whose primary residence, public or private, is not designed for or ordinarily used for habitation, including shelters.

Housing Interventions - Supports the range of needs for target populations and help provide stable housing in coordination with care, to improve health outcomes. Housing interventions may include rental subsidies, operating subsidies, shared housing (e.g., recovery housing), family housing, non-federal share for Medi-Cal transitional rent (post federal approval), project-based housing assistance, including master leasing, and capital development projects and other as defined by Department of Health Care Services.

Individual Placement and Support (IPS) for Supported Employment – An evidence-based practice for helping people with mental health and substance use disorders find and keep jobs that demonstrates the benefits of employment in recovery.

Innovations - Time-limited projects that are designed to evaluate the effectiveness of new or changed approaches in the behavioral health system of care.

Institutionalization – Any type of inpatient, skilled nursing facility, long-term, or emergency department setting and includes involuntary detention and treatment.

Integrated Plan (IP) – Legislative text outlining the requirements that county behavioral health services must develop every three years. The integrated plan aims to ensure counties develop a comprehensive and coordinated approach to behavioral health services, addressing the needs of vulnerable populations and leveraging resources to achieve better outcomes.

Intensive Case Management (ICM) - A team-based and recovery-focused model that offers a comprehensive set of community-based services for individuals with significant behavioral health conditions based on the unique needs of each client.

Justice-Involvement – Youth and adults who are going to, living in, or transitioning from a public correctional facility. Also includes youth and adults who have been arrested since receiving behavioral health services or at any point during the 12 months prior to receiving services.

Level of Care (LOC) - The intensity of effort required to diagnose, treat, preserve, or maintain an individual's physical or emotional status. In the context of Full-Service Partnerships, it is an intensive service program for consumers experiencing and/or at risk of institutionalization, homelessness, incarceration, or psychiatric in-patient services.

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) - California voters passed the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), Proposition 63, in November 2004. It became state law on January 1, 2005. MHSA supports the state's mental health programs through a 1 percent tax on personal incomes above \$1 million. It also created the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) to drive transformational change across the state's public and private mental health systems.

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Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) - A local board or commission that reviews and approved procedures used to ensure citizen and professional involvement in all stages of planning processes.

Overdose – A toxic amount of drug, or combination of drugs, including prescription, illicit, or alcohol, overwhelms the body.

Policy - A policy that is applicable to all Agency services, divisions, and programs.

Procedure - The specific steps required to implement a policy, applicable to all agency services, divisions, and programs.

Program Evaluation – A systematic process of collecting data about the activities, characteristics, and outcomes of a service/program to make judgments about effectiveness, implement program improvement, assist with decision-making, and inform stakeholders.

Proposition 1 (Prop 1) - Approved by voters on March 5, 2024, a legislative measure aimed at enhancing behavioral health services and addressing homelessness within the state. This proposition is closely linked to Senate Bill 326 (SB 326), known as the Behavioral Health Services Act. California's Proposition 1, in conjunction with SB 326, seeks to modernize and enhance the state's approach to behavioral health and homelessness by amending existing laws, reallocating funds, and investing in critical infrastructure.

Quality of Life – An individual's perception of their position in life in context of the culture and value systems in which they live and in relation to their goals, expectations, standards, and concerns.

Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) - A diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder found in children and adolescents ages 17 and younger.

Serious Mental Illness (SMI) - A severe disabling condition which impairs behaviors, thoughts, and/or emotions found in adults 18 and older.

Social Connection – The degree to which an individual has the number, quality, and variety of relationships that they want to feel and have belonging, support and care.

Stakeholders – A person, group, or organization that has a personal or professional interest in, or impact on, processes reflecting the views of an entire population.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) - A condition that affects a person's brain and behavior and leads to an inability to control the use of a legal or illegal drug or medicine.

Suicide – Death caused by self-directed injurious behavior with the intent to die as a result of the behavior.

Transitional Age Youth (TAY) – A term for those between the ages of sixteen (16) and twenty-five (25) years of age. Specifically, services targeted to reach at-risk and underserved TAY.

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Underserved Cultural Populations - Those who are unlikely to seek help from providers of traditional mental health and substance use disorder services because of stigma, lack of knowledge, or other barriers, including members of ethnically and racially diverse communities, members of the LGBTQ+ communities, victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse, and veterans, across their lifespans.

Untreated Behavioral Health Conditions – An individual’s behavioral health condition that has not been diagnosed or attended to with appropriate and timely care.

Vulnerable Populations - A group of people who are at a higher risk of poor physical or behavioral health from historically marginalized communities.

Workforce - All employees working at specific organization.

Workforce Education and Training (WET) - Designed to support public behavioral health workforce through recruitment, retention, and training of qualified public behavioral health employees.

Reference Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 5963.03-0.6 (2024)
 S.B. 326, § [790], 2023-2024 Leg., Reg. Sess. (Cal. 2023)