



Behavioral Health Services March 2025 Events/Highlights

Ian Kemmer

Email: ikemmer@ochca.com



Community Events

March 2025 Events

March 1 - Garden Grove USD's Resource Fair - D2
 March 1 - Cal Optima Health Community Resource Fair - D5
 March 1 - Veterans Stand Down - D2
 March 4 - Anaheim Mobile Family Resource Center (FRC) Neighborhood Pop-Up Event - D4
 March 5 - Narcan Distribution - Los Alamitos Unified - D1
 March 6 - Anaheim Mobile Family Resource Center (FRC) Neighborhood Pop-Up Event - D4
 March 7 - Anaheim Ducks Tabling Event: Pride Night - D2
 March 8 - Woman Veterans Mental Health Symposium - D5
 March 8 - 13th Annual Women Veterans in High Education Conference - D4
 March 9 - Anaheim Ducks Tabling Event: UC Irvine Night - D2
 March 12 - Naloxone Training-Precious Life Shelter - D1
 March 13 - Esplanade Elementary School Fentanyl and Naloxone Training - D2
 March 13 - Anaheim Ducks Tabling Event: Fan Appreciation Night - D2
 March 14 - Pacific Coast Church Opioid overdose prevention and naloxone training - D5
 March 14 - OC Veterans Community Network & Resource Fair - D1
 March 14 - Anaheim Ducks Tabling Event: Educators Appreciation Night - D2
 March 17 - LGBTQ Center OC Nutrition and Care Fair - D2
 March 18 - Anaheim Mobile Family Resource Center (FRC) Neighborhood Pop-Up Event - D4
 March 20 - Life Changes - D2
 March 21 - Women's Health - D2
 March 22 - Operation Welcome Home Event - D1
 March 23 - Bond & Beyond Youth and Family Day - D1
 March 24 - California State University Fullerton (CSUF) - Naloxone distribution - D4
 March 26 - Cypress College- Naloxone Training - D1
 March 26 - Fullerton Free Church Annual Spiritual Event - D4
 March 27 - Naloxone training and distribution - D5
 March 27 - OC Same Day Solutions Fair - D2
 March 27 - 2025 Veterans Resource/ Health Fair
 March 27 - Opioid and Naloxone Training - Canyon High School - D2
 March 27 - Park-It Market
 March 28 - Anaheim Ducks Tabling Event: Healthcare Appreciation Night - D2
 March 28 - Student Day at Pacific Clinics/ Recovery Education Institute - D2
 March 28 - PYLUSD Wellness Parent Night - D4
 March 29 - Supervisor Chaffee's Kids Fishing Derby - D4
 March 29 - Community Health Care & Social Services Fair - D1
 March 29 - Radiant Health Centers 39th Annual Gala - D2

April 2025 Upcoming Events

Apr 1 - Anaheim Mobile Family Resource Center (FRC) Neighborhood Pop-Up Event - D2
 Apr 3 - Godinez High School's Open House Event - D2
 Apr 4 - Community Wellness Gathering & Resource Fair - D2
 Apr 5 - Olive Elementary School's Resources Fair - D2
 Apr 5 - UPLIFT U - D4
 Apr 7 - Waymakers - Fentanyl/Naloxone Workshop - D1
 Apr 8 - Anaheim Mobile Family Resource Center (FRC) Neighborhood Pop-Up Event - D2
 Apr 9 - Anaheim Unified High School Parents- Naloxone training and distribution - D2
 Apr 9 - Anaheim Mobile Family Resource Center (FRC) Neighborhood Pop-Up Event - D4
 Apr 10 - Hope Card Project with Wellness Center Central - D2
 Apr 10 - Anaheim Mobile Family Resource Center (FRC) Neighborhood Pop-Up Event - D2
 Apr 10 - La Quinta High School's Resource Fair 2025 - D1
 Apr 11 - Soulful Skills: Paint & Sip - D2
 Apr 12 - Viva Bien Resource Fair/ Viva Bien Feria de Recursos - D2
 Apr 13 - Anaheim Ducks Tabling Event: Fan Appreciation Night
 Apr 16 - Waymakers - Fentanyl/Naloxone Workshop - D1
 Apr 16 - North Orange Continuing Education-Pharmacology Class- naloxone training and distribution - D2
 Apr 16 - Community Suicide Prevention Coalition Meeting - D2
 Apr 17 - North Orange Community Education- Opioid, and Naloxone training - D2
 Apr 18 - Friendship Bracelets for Youth - D1
 Apr 19 - 2025 LGBTQ+ Youth Convening - D2
 Apr 22 - HOPportunity Awaits: Emotional Wellness, Prep Support & HIV Testing- D3
 Apr 22 - 6th WE CAN Annual Conference on Child Abuse and Maltreatment - Naloxone Training and Distribution - D2
 Apr 22 - CSU Fullerton Mental Health Resource Fair - D4
 Apr 22 - Friendship Bracelets for Adults - D1
 Apr 23 - Fullerton health fair- Naloxone training and distribution - D4
 Apr 23 - World Languages & Careers Day at CSUF - D4
 Apr 24 - Children and Family Service (CFS)- opioid overdose prevention and naloxone training and distribution - D2
 Apr 25 - Meeting of the Minds Convention - Opioid Prevention - D2
 Apr 27 - 2025 COR Community Health Expo - D5
 Apr 30 - The Power of Today: Towards Your Goals Workshop - D2

May 2025 Upcoming Events

May 1 - Huntington Beach High School Wellness Fair - D1
 May 3 - Fit for a Queen - D2
 May 6 - Break the Silence: Overcoming Mental Health Stigma - D2
 May 7 - Directing Change 2025 Awards - D2
 May 9 - Women's Health- D2
 May 9 - Soulful Skills: Doggy Therapy - D2
 May 15 - Mental Health Appreciation Night
 May 16 - Life Changes Workshop - D2
 May 17 - Hope, Health, and Harmony Event and Hope Card Project- D2
 May 17 - Hope Card Project with Love Mission Viejo - D5
 May 28 - Hope Card Project at OASIS Senior Center Mental Health Awareness Event - D5
 May 29 - Hope Card Project at Orange County Behavioral Health Regional Training: Tobacco-Free Recovery

Program Highlights

Adult & Older Adult Services (AOA):

- Housing and Supportive Services:
 - Archways Santa Ana apartments held the grand opening on March 12, 2025.
 - Orchard View Gardens held their grand opening on March 12, 2025.
 - Pelican Harbor apartments held their grand opening on March 20, 2025.
 - Miraflores and Orchard View gardens have moved in MHSA residents.
- Recovery Services:
 - The Adult Peer Support, Wellness and Supported Employment Centers contracts with Mental Health Association and Clarvida were negotiated successfully for individual contract approvals under a master contract for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

BHS Navigation

- With the implementation of Proposition 36, the Jail to Community Reentry Program (JCRP) has experienced an increase in referrals. As of March 19, 2025, JCRP had received 49 referrals, and the Behavioral Health Clinicians have spent over 62 hours working on these referrals. JCRP and SUD have established a monthly meeting to discuss updates and processes regarding the workflow for PROP 36.
- BHS Navigation is now part of the Adults and Older Adults service area and reports to Assistant Deputy Director Diane Holley

BHS/MHSA Program Planning and Administration Program

- Prevention Services and Supports for Youth, which has contracts with two Providers; Waymakers and Phoenix House will be terminating June 30, 2025. The current services will not be resolicited as they do not meet the criteria for continuance under BHSA guidelines.
- PIVOT INN Project: The Innovation (INN) Staff have continued internal planning meetings. A preliminary kick off meeting was held on March 10 & 11, 2025, with project partners, HCA champions, and INN staff to further develop the project activities and goals for each component.
- Psychiatric Advance Directives (PADs): Peer Support Specialists from the pilot sites (PACT, AOT, CARE) are continuing to introduce PADs to their clients, as appropriate. On March 10, 2025, INN Staff met with the CARE staff to provide a demo of the PADs platform and address any questions about the project and/or pilot.
- INN Staff launched the initial pilot of the PADs digital platform on February 24, 2025. From February 24-28, 2025, a total of 31 clients across the 3 pilot sites (PACT, AOT, CARE) were informed/educated about the benefits and use of a PAD. The data for March will be available on April 7, 2025 and reported in the next BHS Update.
- On March 21, 2025, the Young Adult Court (YAC) program graduated 8 young men from the program. The young men who participate in, and successfully complete, YAC services have their felony charges cleared. This was the largest graduation since the launch of this project. To date, the YAC program has graduated 46 youth.
- BHS Disaster Response created a resource guide on OC Navigator that includes resources to help community members prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. It also includes behavioral health tip sheets for specific groups (older adults, kids and individuals living with disabilities) that may have been affected by a disaster.
- BHSA Community Program Planning Listening Sessions:

- Council on Aging - March 6, 2025 - 40 participants in many different threshold languages (including Korean, Spanish, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Farsi)
- Wellness Prevention - March 19, 2025 - 25 participants (15 Spanish and 10 English)
- Access Cal - March 20, 2025 - Participant count being finalized. (Cambodian, Spanish)

Children & Youth Services (CYS)

- Children & Youth Services (CYS) East implemented Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) this month, facilitating its first group series in Spanish for caregivers of youth ages 0-12 years old. Triple P will be offered ongoing at CYS East, with groups being offered in both English and Spanish, and cohorts being made available for caregivers of youth ages 0-12 years old and teens 12-17 years old.
- The Orange County Parent Wellness Program (OCPWP) will close April 30, 2025, and existing staff will move to CYS Outpatient programs. Current clients are being linked with CalOptima, Kaiser, or other community resources for continued services.
- Clarvida Project RENEW recently held a Valentine's themed Youth Group featuring crafts, skills-building, and psychoeducation on healthy ways to express love and kindness towards adults and peers.
- STAY Process recently started a "Relationships Unfiltered" group teaching Transitional Age Youth about healthy boundaries, attachment styles, and break-up recovery that is well attended and popular amongst the clients.

Crisis and Acute Care (CAC):

- Crisis Assessment Team (CAT) operates around the clock and will be having the HVAC system upgraded. This project will begin on March 24, 2025 with an anticipated completion date of May 12, 2025. The project will be split in two phases and each phase will last about 3 weeks. Staff will be temporarily re-located to a different suite to accommodate the construction.
- Effective March 20, 2025, Aliso Ridge Behavioral Health, an Acute Psychiatric Hospital, cannot admit into their facility new patients who are on any involuntary psychiatric holds pursuant to Welfare & Institutions Code Section 5150 et seq.
- County Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) has submitted an application, with OC Emergency Medical Services (EMS), to become designated as a Triage to Alternative Destination (TAD) Behavioral Health Site. This would allow Orange County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) providers to transport individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis that meet OCEMS-approved criteria, directly to the County Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU), thereby preventing unnecessary emergency department utilization for behavioral health crises. This process is anticipated to start within the calendar year.
- OCLinks staff member Michelle Manchester, Service Chief I, attended the Southern Counties Regional Partnership (SCRIP) Conference, Transforming the Landscape of Behavioral Health Service Delivery, March 18-19, 2025.
- Kevin Von Luft, BHCI, and Dulce Gonzalez, MHS, with the Crisis Assessment Team (CAT) are piloting the use of retrofitted Highlander vehicles to safely transport clients to crisis stabilization receiving facilities. Since the start of the pilot, six successful transports have been completed for those needing a higher level of care, improving efficiency, and ensuring clients receive timely access to care.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD):

- BHS continues to onboard new providers, increasing the capacity of its adult residential treatment services and has a current adult bed capacity of 265 residential treatment beds and an additional 86 beds for withdrawal management Services
- As of March 28, 2025, 163 individuals have been assessed for Prop 36, and so far, 36 have been accepted into the program.

Quality Management Services (QMS):

- Quality Management Services (QMS) is in the process of re-organizing the broad array of services into newly defined, specialized teams to provide continue improvement to QMS' customer service.
- For the month of February 2025, the Health Information Management (HIM) team processed a total of 186 requests for client records. Most requests received this month were from COR. Most of the COR requests went to clients.
 - Starting page totals: 14,089
 - Redacted/removed: 1,464
 - Ending page totals: 12,625
- Designation Team had their first 5150/5585 training and testing class that contained updated SB43 information.
- The test has presented to all the designated hospitals on February 24, 2025 on the upcoming changes when SB43 is implemented.
- The team saw the highest pass rate to date in 5150 training, when out of over 40 people to test, only two did not pass.
- IRIS Liaison team continues to work with IT to improve the billing rule and continues to support the billing team in working on suspended charges. Staff are also working with programs to correct progress note errors so that the services can be billed.
- Corrective actions have been resolved for state reviews for both Specialty Mental Health Services and Substance Use Disorder programs.

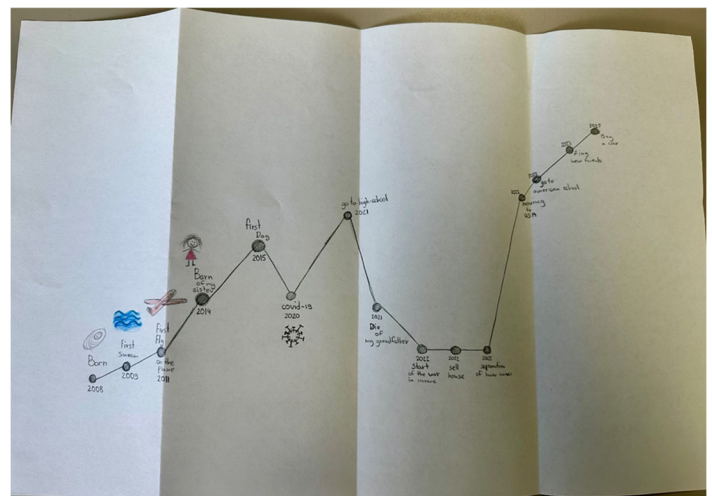
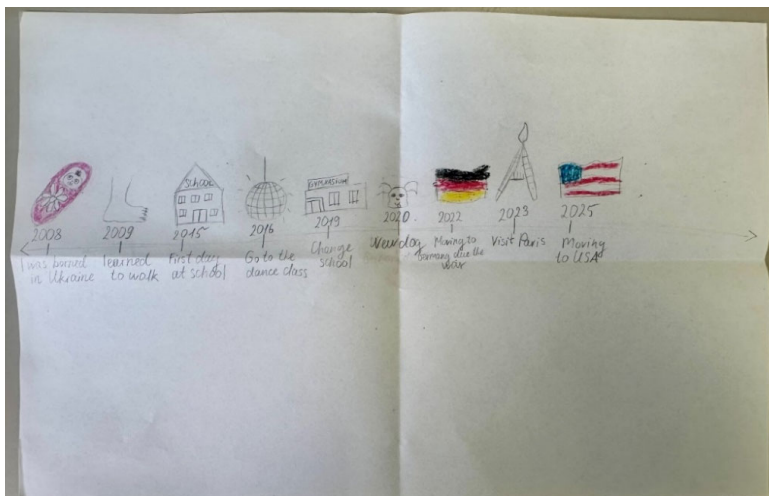
Community Education Presentations

- SUD will be addressing the opioid crisis and providing Naloxone training and distribution at the upcoming events:
 - CalOptima Health Community Resource Fair - Naloxone Distribution, 3/01/25, Laguna Niguel
 - Anaheim Mobile FRC Naloxone Distribution, 3/04/25, Anaheim
 - Precious Life Shelter - Fentanyl Education & Naloxone Training, 3/12/25, Los Alamitos
 - Esplanade Elementary School - Fentanyl Education & Naloxone Training, 3/13/25, Orange
 - Pacific Coast Church - Fentanyl Education & Naloxone Training, 3/14/25, San Clemente
 - Anaheim Mobile FRC Naloxone Distribution, 3/18/25, Anaheim
 - Cypress College Naloxone Training, 3/26/25, Cypress
 - Same Day Solutions Fair, Second Baptist Church, 3/27/25, Santa Ana
 - Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District Parent Night, 3/28/25, Placentia
 - Saint Joachim Catholic Church Parent Workshop, 3/30/25, Costa Mesa
- Meeting of the Minds Mental Health Conference; April 25, 2025;
 - Anaheim/Second District. Crisis and Acute Care (CAC) managers will be presenting regarding the Crisis and Acute continuum of care.

Highlights of the Month

- AOA- Intensive Outpatient: A client from Opportunity Knocks (OK) FSP obtained housing after being homeless and living in a tent for a few months, and was able to renew his radiologist license, gained employment, and has been able to pay for his housing independently. Another OK FSP member secured a voucher through the Anaheim Housing Authority after many years of homelessness and successfully completed legal requirements and is no longer on parole.
- AOA- OC4Vets: Veteran who was co-enrolled in Military Diversion worked very hard in therapy to heal from traumas experienced in the military that led to excessive alcohol use that resulted in DUI and legal involvement. Throughout treatment, the veteran experienced other hardships such as homelessness while attempting to also attend school, work, study and take the MCAT exam. Through their work with their clinician, they were able to develop skills to manage significant stressors and manage the demands of the court program. This month, they graduated the Military Diversion program, with a powerful graduation speech, inspiring others in the program to continue to move ahead. Through the collaboration of the Military Diversion program, the clinician and work of the veteran looking forward to entering medical school in the next year.
- BHS Navigation: The OC O&E South SPA has been working with an individual experiencing homelessness since December 2024. He was living in his car and had two cats. Highly motivated, he secured a job in Seattle, Washington, starting in March but needed help with travel expenses. Our team contacted several agencies and successfully arranged for a plane ticket, allowing his cats to fly with him. Thanks to the team's dedication and collaboration, he is now working in Seattle and has ended his homelessness.

- Over the course of several weeks, OC O&E North SPA progressively engaged an elderly female who had been experiencing chronic homelessness for 10 years. The OC O&E outreach worker built a trusting relationship with the client, placed her in an emergency shelter, and on March 25th, linked her to a Full Service Partnership that serves seniors. The client is now living in a room and board and is thankful to be starting a new chapter in her life. "I was always feeling hopeless," she said, "and now I have hope again."
- MHSA- Prevention and Intervention: Phoenix House (PH) was conducting a group at Mission Viejo High School that had two Ukrainian students in attendance. During the lesson on self-concept, PH staff had the students create a timeline of their life to show how events and other people may influence their thoughts and feelings about themselves. The two Ukrainian students wrote about how the war in Ukraine affected the trajectory of their lives and caused them to end up in America. The students expressed that they were grateful to be in America and that they are safe and using this opportunity through Phoenix House to express themselves was helpful with processing their feelings. Below are two examples that the participants approved to be shared to demonstrate their experiences.



- On February 3, 2025, five Disaster Response (DR) responders provided support in Fullerton to 250 employees who witnessed a commuter plane crash into their place of employment last December. DR arrived at 6:00 A.M. and were available to provide support to these employees as they returned to work for the first time since the traumatic incident. Responders spent four hours onsite meeting with people (all of which were native Spanish speakers) and linking them with resources such as no-cost therapy and social services assistance.