



Behavioral Health Services August 2025 Events/Highlights

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Community Events

August 2025 Events

Aug 2 - Back-to-School Health & Wellness Fair - D1
 Aug 3 - Angels' Tabling Event: Family Sunday - D2
 Aug 5 - Garden Grove National Night Out - D1
 Aug 6 - Opioid Overdose Prevention & Naloxone Training - D3
 Aug 7 - City of Huntington Beach National Night Out - D1
 Aug 7 - City of La Palma's National Night Out - D1
 Aug 8 - Connect-OC Coalition Meeting - Out of County
 Aug 9 - TGR Learning Lab's Back-To-School Resource Fair - D4
 Aug 9 - Angels Stadium Clinic - D2
 Aug 11-13 - CIT International Conference - D2
 Aug 12 - Angels' Tabling Event: LA Dodgers Game - D2
 Aug 19 - 2025 OCDE School Based Mental Health Summit - D5
 Aug 23 - Angels' Clinic in the Park - D2
 Aug 27 - Breastfeeding Resource Fair - D2
 Aug 27 - Irvine Valley College Health Fair - D3

September 2025 Events

Sep 2 - City of Anaheim Mobile FRC Neighborhood Pop-up Event
 Sep 4 - Juliette Low School of the Arts Back to School Night - D4
 Sep 5 - GGUSD's Community Agency Resource Fair - D2
 Sep 5 - Angels' Ducks Night - D2
 Sep 6 - Angels Tabling Event: Mexican Heritage Night - D2
 Sep 6 - Angels' Fiesta Angels - D2
 Sep 10 - BHAB Study Committee Meeting - D2
 Sep 10 - Columbus Tustin Middle School's Suicide Prevention Pop-Up Event - D2
 Sep 11 - OCEA Health Fair - D2
 Sep 11 - Hope Card Project with Lion's Heart Teen Volunteers and Leaders - D3
 Sep 12 - La Habra High School's Suicide Prevention Awareness Lunchtime Activity - D4
 Sep 13 - 3rd Annual Wings of Hope: Mental Health & Wellness Resource Fair - D2
 Sep 13 - AFSP Out of the Darkness Walk - D3
 Sep 15 - Concorde Career College's Mental Health Awareness Event - D1
 Sep 16 - City of Anaheim Mobile FRC Neighborhood Pop-up Event - D4
 Sep 19 - City of Irvine Inaugural Youth Conference - D5
 Sep 20 - 3rd Annual Recovery Happens Picnic - D2
 Sep 23 - Irvine Valley College Walk of Hope - D2
 Sep 23 - City of Anaheim Mobile FRC Neighborhood Pop-up Event - D4
 Sep 24 - BHAB General Meeting - D2
 Sep 24 - Sonora High School's Suicide Prevention Pop-Up Event - D4
 Sep 25 - 2025 Thrive Resource Fair - D5
 Sep 25 - Clinton Corner Family Campus Community Resource & Health Fair - D2
 Sep 25 - FACCOC GoGreen & Health Expo - D1
 Sep 25 - OC Same Day Solutions Fair - D2
 Sep 27 - Orange County Pride Festival & Parade - D5
 Sep 30 - City of Anaheim Mobile FRC Neighborhood Pop-up Event - D4

October 2025 Upcoming Events

Oct 1 - Vanguard University Wellness Fair - D5

Oct 10 - 18th Annual Orange County Senior Summit - D5

Oct 15 - Community Suicide Prevention Coalition Meeting - D2

Oct 18 - 37th Annual Walk Against Drugs & Community Fair - D3

Oct 19 - St. Norbert Catholic Church's Community Resource Fair - D2

Oct 22 - 19th Annual Community First Conference - D1

Program Highlights

Adult & Older Adults (AOA):

- Move-ins have started at Francis Xavier and Salida Del Sol.

BHSA

- Innovation:
 - PIVOT Innovation (INN) Project: INN Staff is regularly meeting with HCA Program Staff and contractors to develop workplans for each of the PIVOT components. Workplans will identify specific activities, staffing and resources, timeline, and budget needed to project goals. INN Staff are also working with the evaluation vendor to develop an evaluation plan for each component. These workplans will expand the scope and budget for the current contractors and may require Board of Supervisors.
 - Psychiatric Advance Directives (PADs): Peer Support Specialists from the pilot sites (PACT, AOT, CARE) continue to introduce PADs to their clients, as appropriate. In July, a total of 41 PADs were introduced to members. INN Staff facilitates monthly meetings to gather feedback on successes, challenges and lessons learned during implementation of the digital platform.
 - Phase I of the project ended on June 30, 2025; and Phase II will begin on October 1, 2025, pending Board of Supervisors approval. The County's participation in statewide and collaborative activities with contractors and partnering counties will be paused during this break; however, local activities with Peer Support Specialists and pilot sites will continue.
 - On August 12, 2025, INN Staff was invited to present about the PADs project at the 2025 CIT International Conference hosted in Anaheim, CA. They collaborated with the OC Sheriff's Department and the PADs Multi-County Project Manager to share lessons learned about the County's participation and partnership on this statewide project. The presentation was well attended, and participants expressed interest in the group returning to present at next year's conference.
- Disaster Response:
 - BHS Disaster Response (DR) staff supported HCA employees after the sudden death of a CHS staff member on August 8, 2025. They responded on-site to IRC Main Jail on several occasions, including the day of the incident, providing support to staff individually and as a team. DR staff will continue to be available on an on-call basis to offer resources and assistance to all County staff affected.
- Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI):
 - BHEC steering committee continues to meet regularly, and subcommittees are working on refining their goals.
 - SB 923 Cultural Competency Training for Transgender, Gender Diverse, and Intersex will be rolled out once the contract is finalized. This training will be required for all County and contractor staff.
- BHSA:
 - The BHSA Integrated Plan Portal is now accessible. The team is currently reviewing the system to identify best practices and approaches to determining responsibilities and timelines for completing the document.
 - BHSA Website: Various websites with HCA/BHS previously referencing MHSA now reference BHSA.
 - BHSA staff are compiling and updating CPP information for distribution to the BHAB as well as other interested stakeholders.

- Thrive Together Orange County(TTOC):
 - TTOC began FY 25-26 by completing four provider consultations with a 100% conversion rate into program referrals. By July 31, progress toward annual goals included 90 primary screenings (30% of goal), eight full assessments (21%), 14 case management sessions (13%), and 18 outreach activities (75%). Families and providers praised TTOC for breaking down barriers to care, with partners appreciating access to specialized expertise for high-needs youth.
- Behavioral Health Training Services:
 - All BHSA teams, including BHTS, OEI, MHSA, INN, and PEI, are now co-located on the second floor of 750 The City Drive, right above the BHTC.
 - 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 setups are in the process of being installed.

Children & Youth Services (CYS)

- In June, CYS Full Service Partnerships supported 79 children and family participants maintain stable housing by utilizing flex funds to help offset rental and housing-related costs.
- CYS PACT and OC CREW facilitated a community-based socialization group at Irvine Regional Park, giving participants the opportunity to engage in outdoor and mindfulness activities that promote self-awareness, connection with nature, and meaningful interactions with peers.
- CHOC Project Health Full Service Partnership (FSP) recently held a School Supplies Drive, distributing over 200 backpacks to program participants and their families, including assorted school supplies and specialty items such as scientific calculators. The event was organized by a CHOC personal service coordinator and was a collaboration between the FSP and community-based organizations, including Crossline Food Pantry and Saddleback Peace Center.
- Project FOCUS Full Service Partnership hosted its annual “Back to School” drive recently, providing backpacks and school supplies and a series of mental health workshops for parents and children. Topics included time management, scheduling during the school year, practicing self-care, and balancing social and emotional needs. FOCUS also partnered with community-based organizations and local businesses to supply hygiene tools and haircuts. Personal service coordinators and community resource coordinators took parents and children back to school shopping in an effort to practice problem solving, budgeting, and planning skills.
- Project RENEW Full Service Partnership recently hosted a family workshop and onsite group featuring psychoeducation on parenting styles, the five “Love Languages”, healthy communication practices, and boundaries.

Crisis and Acute Care (CAC):

- August 5th and 6th, 2025, BHS staff, County and community stakeholders participated in a Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Mapping Workshop led by Policy Research Associates (PRA), a nationwide leader in SIM Mapping. A SIM is a framework used to map out how people with mental health or substance abuse disorders interact with and move through the behavioral health and criminal justice systems. The goal is to ensure use at every possible intercept to divert individuals back to the behavioral health system and decrease the length of stays in legal justice systems.
- August 11-13, 2025: 2025 Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) International Conference in Anaheim.
 - Orange County’s OC Links and Crisis Assessment Team (CAT) staff participated in tabling at the 2025 CIT International Conference in Anaheim.

- CAC Health Service Manager, Letty Luna-Pinto, co-led a workshop OC Sheriff Department, Captain Frank Gonzalez and Melissa Losoya, Dispatch Supervisor, on Creating and Implementing a 911 Diversion Program.
- Crisis & Acute Care Sr Manager, Vanessa Thomas and Health Service Manager, Erika Punchard, represented BHS and partnered with the Orange County Sheriff Department Assistant Sheriff Nate Wilson to present workshops on creating a Gold level Regional Crisis Intervention Team.
- The Crisis Assessment Team (CAT) has partnered with the cities of Brea, Fullerton, La Habra and Placentia to implement a Regional Response Crisis Model. Starting September 2nd, 2025, CAT will station a mobile response team consisting of a Behavioral Health Clinician and a Mental Health specialist at the HOPE Center in Fullerton to respond to behavioral health related calls in those cities.

Forensics & Justice Involved:

- CARE court had it's first CARE Court Graduation in May 2025. The client was previously on LPS conservatorship and was referred by PG's office. Client was unhoused, and now will continue to participate in FSP programming along with other goals for future independent living.
- Mental Health Collaborative Courts (MHCC):
 - The MHCC team has successfully opened all active clients in the Electronic Health Records system and is now working towards actively billing on those client's chart.
 - The amendment to transition the Assisted Intervention (AI) Court clients to be served by Whatever It Takes FSP (WIT) come the new fiscal year has been finalized.
 - Initiative to decrease Telecare's court presence in WIT Court to focus on billing come the new fiscal year has begun.
 - The steering committee approved a new AI progress report template intended to provide more comprehensive updates to the court and improve efficiency between Telecare and OCHCA.
 - A Clinical Step-Up Committee for Mental Health Diversion (MHD) has been implemented for clients that are having difficulties and need more structure. This will include referrals to other courts such as WIT.
- Adult Outpatient Treatment (AOT) has received 22 referrals, of which 8 have been linked to voluntary outpatient treatment.
- Two clinicians have been hired for the BH Links Program and are currently training in their new roles. They are in the process of obtaining their Medi-Cal credentialing to ensure they can effectively support in-reach and linkage services both pre- and post-release. These efforts are aligned with the goals of the CalAIM Justice Involved Initiative, which emphasizes coordinated care for justice-involved individuals transitioning back into the community.
- In partnership with Project Kinship, the AB 109 Program is fully staffed and actively conducting screenings across all four designated probation sites. All AB 109 Screeners, including the Service Chief II, are Medi-Cal credentialed. A total of 45 referrals were received from probation, with 28 clients screened. Of those screened, 27 were referred to treatment, and 15 successfully enrolled. Additionally, one CDCR virtual in-reach screening was conducted.

SUD

- Assessment for Residential Treatment (ART) decentralization pilot started with Aliso Viejo. Debbie Standingwater is now assigned to our Aliso Viejo location providing ART assessments, reducing barriers for South County community members.
- The DHCS SUD Integrated Care Conference took place from August 19, 2025 through August 21, 2025. At the conference, Mark Lawrenz kicked off the workshop telling the story of how

and why the SUD team launched the Fentanyl is Forever OC multi-media campaign at a workshop titled "Life-Saving Messaging: Addressing the Fentanyl Crisis in Orange County."

Quality Management Services (QMS):

- The QMS team has completed initial implementation of payment reform procedures for contracted providers.
 - The next step will be training of contracted providers to support payment reform.
 - County contract monitors will also be trained to support new contracting monitoring expectations based on payment reform.
- Staff from QMS were invited by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and the Institute for Health Improvement (IHI) to participate in a collaborative with CalOptima Health, as one of the County's Managed Care Plans (MCP) to develop strategies to improve health outcomes for share members through new and improved data exchange protocols and quality improvement initiatives.
- MCST staff were acknowledged by a new SMHS provider during a BOS meeting for being exceptionally helpful and responsive to new provider during initial onboarding process.

Community Education Presentations

- SUD addressed the opioid crisis and providing Naloxone training and distribution at the following events:
 - 8/5/25, Lake Forest: City of Lake Forest National Night Out - Resource Table and Naloxone Distribution
 - 8/6/25, Anaheim: Anaheim Hills North Child Guidance Center - Opioid education and Naloxone Training/Distribution
 - 8/7/25, Huntington Beach: City of Huntington Beach National Night Out - Resource table and Naloxone Distribution
- The 3rd Annual Recovery Happens Picnic will be taking place Saturday, September 20, 2025 from 10:00am - 2:00pm at Centennial Park in Santa Ana.

Highlights of the Month

- AOA: A client's consistent involvement with his Homes First North case managers has helped him build a balanced routine and deepen his understanding of the factors impacting his emotional well-being. Client stated, "Thanks to Home First, I've been able to grow and build confidence in myself. Their support helped me believe that I could create a better, more stable life." Client is well on his way to long-term wellness and independence.
- Forensics: CONREP restored someone to competency on outpatient treatment. The mother of the client emailed a beautiful email thanking BHS for all the support and impact the program had on the client.