

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN ORANGE COUNTY

A YEAR IN REVIEW, A LOOK FORWARD

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BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH
SERVICES

BHAB'S 2024 RECOMMENDATIONS: BHS RESPONSE

Data & Reporting — Current Status

-  Data systems and calculations reconfigured to meet new State reporting requirements
-  Data sources and methodologies updated in response to regulatory changes
-  Dashboard mock-up developed to capture recommended data elements
-  Final release dependent on data validation and software procurement
-  No implementation timeline established at this time

Targeted Community Education and Outreach:

- A total of 27 targeted presentations and 346 tabling events, which informed the community about access to services through OC Links, Crisis Services, and OC Navigator.
 1. Crisis Assessment Team
 2. Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan Goals
 3. Crisis of Care Continuum CAC SCII PP
 4. CCMU BHJIS Workgroup-Presentation
 5. The Critical Role of Means Safety in Suicide Prevention
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 7. Mobile Crisis, BHB and PERT
 8. 911 Diversion/OCLinks
 9. CIT From Start to Gold (Crisis Continuum)
 10. SB 43 Hospital Training
 11. OC Links Dashboard Presentation
 12. Light up Hope OC Suicide Prevention Campaign
 13. SB 43 First Responder Training

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2025

Major Accomplishments

Payment Reform — Countywide Initial Implementation Underway

- Payment reform infrastructure is live; billing, rates, contracts, and EHR changes are actively implemented countywide.
- *Why it matters:* Positions OC for fiscal sustainability and State compliance.

BH CONNECT Incentive Program — \$3.5M Earned

- OC successfully completed its first BH CONNECT submission, earning **\$3.5M**, with infrastructure in place to pursue up to **\$133.5M through 2029**.
- *Why it matters:* Demonstrated performance tied directly to revenue.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2025

Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) Expansion & Fidelity

- Systemwide EBP implementation/expansion underway, including High Fidelity Wraparound, FFT, MST, PCIT, CSC, and DTI (contracts approved; implementation set) with additional EBPs continuing to roll out.
- *Why it matters:* Supports outcomes, billing, and long-term sustainability.

Crisis Continuum Expansion & 988

- Expanded crisis response capacity through new RFPs, regional CAT deployment, 911 diversion, and public awareness campaigns.
- *Why it matters:* Improves access, response, and coordination across the crisis system.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2025

Bed Capacity Growth & System Flow

- Active expansion of acute, LTC, and residential capacity to support SB 43 readiness and reduce ED and jail bottlenecks.
- *Why it matters:* Addresses high-visibility system pressure points.

Closed-Loop Referrals (CLR) — Countywide Launch

- Countywide CLR initiative launched using CHORUS, with multi-agency alignment underway.
- *Why it matters:* Improves navigation, access, and continuity of care.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2025

BHSA Integrated Planning & Transformation

- BHSA Integrated Plan and early operationalization development underway with cross-division leadership and multi-year planning horizon.
- *Why it matters:* Moves OC from compliance to strategic system design.

SB 43 Implementation & Readiness — Go-Live January 1, 2026

- SB 43 has been implemented through cross-system planning, first responder tools, online and in-person trainings, and community education in advance of the January 1, 2026 effective date.
- **Why it matters:** OC is entering SB 43 with trained partners, informed communities, and operational tools in place—reducing risk and improving crisis response and public safety outcomes.

LOOKING AHEAD 2026

-  **Payment Reform & System Integration**
 - Payment Reform — continued implementation and stabilization
 - CalAIM / BHSA integration
 - BHSA Integrated Plan execution
-  **Clinical & Statutory Implementation**
 - SB 43 — post-go-live implementation and monitoring
 - Prop 36
 - Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) expansion
 - Master Plan on Aging alignment

LOOKING AHEAD 2026

-  **Infrastructure & Capacity Development**
 - BHOATR infrastructure
 - Housing intervention infrastructure
 - Administrative infrastructure
-  **Quality, Data & Accountability**
 - Data and reporting enhancements
 - External Quality Review (EQR) readiness and follow-up
-  **Operational Standardization & Workforce Support**
 - Policies & Procedures (P&Ps)
 - Workforce training and capacity building



Thank you!