

BHSA Community Planning Process Stakeholder Toolkit

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Project goals

An accessible, inclusive, plain-language guidebook to help community members meaningfully participate in the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Community Planning Process (CPP).

- 1.**
Help partners understand and engage in the CPP.
- 2.**
Support community voice in planning and oversight.
- 3.**
Promote equity, transparency, and accountability.

Community engagement

- Discussions from project initiation with California Health and Human Services Agency, California Behavioral Health Planning Council, and Department of Health Care Services
- Review of the CalMHSA toolkit for counties to develop similar format and approach
- Attending community planning webinars and county planning meetings
- Soliciting feedback from partners on current processes
- Partner interviews – completed by November 20, 2025
- Listening sessions on November 6 and December 11, 2025
- Final listening session in January 2026



Toolkit Outline

- **Who** are counties required to consult with and who should stakeholders advocate for?
 - Expanded stakeholder list under the BHSA
 - BHSA Priority Populations
- **What** to advocate for?
 - Understand the funding streams
 - Is your issue related to BHSA or not?
 - Interpret county plans and funding allocations
 - Understanding policy



Toolkit Outline

- **When** to advocate?
 - Community Planning dates for each county
 - Three-year and annual cycles
- **Where** do you go?
 - How to navigate bureaucratic systems
 - Information specific to each county
- **How** do you advocate?
 - Best practices for community engagement and advocacy
 - Guidance on strategies
- **Ask** counties for:
 - Technology, accessibility, stipends, ages, translation, travel support, child care, elder care, technical assistance, etc.
 - Meaningful participation and partnership

Next Steps

Interviews with partners

- State, county, and individuals identified by the Commission
- Incorporate community input

Community partner listening session

- Held November 6, 2025
- Open to state partners and community members
- Content suggestions

First draft delivery

- December 1, 2025
- Listening session December 11, 2025 to solicit design and user-friendliness feedback

Final project delivery

- January 23, 2026
- “Toolkit 101” forum
- Ongoing assessment/refinement