

BHSA Community Planning Process Stakeholder Toolkit

Riann Kopchak

*Assistant Deputy Director of Legislative
and External Affairs*

December 15, 2025



Commission for
Behavioral Health

bhsoc.ca.gov

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