



# AGENDA ITEM 6

Information

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## Advocacy Spotlight: United Parents

### Item Goals

- Learn about the advocacy work of United Parents, the Commission's parents and caregivers advocacy grantee. United Parents empowers parents and caregivers to advocate for the needs of their families, as well as maintain their own wellness while navigating the challenges that come with caregiving.

### Behavioral Health Landscape

- Advocacy contracts exist because of California's unique Mental Health Services Act (now Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA)) community planning process which requires counties to seek out and support public participation; empowering historically underserved communities to participate in this process and share key insights ultimately improving behavioral health services and outcomes.
- The BHSA affirms and expands this process, ensuring community voices are heard locally and reflected in statewide policy and funding decisions.
- Parents and caregivers of children and family members with mental, behavioral, and/or emotional health conditions have long been partners in transforming the behavioral health system.

### Relevant Commission Work

- The Commission, as authorized by the State Legislature, oversees funding to community-based organizations to support the behavioral health needs of nine specific underserved populations through advocacy, training and education, and outreach and engagement activities. The Commission awarded United Parents its parents and caregivers advocacy contract in March 2024.