



CALIFORNIA SENATE BILL 43: AN EXPANSION OF GRAVE DISABILITY

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONTROL



Overview of SB 43 & LPS

Lanterman Petris Short (LPS)

California law, enacted in 1967, that governs involuntary detentions, treatment, and conservatorships of people with behavioral health conditions.

- Under LPS, an individual can be evaluated for involuntary detention if they are a danger to themselves, a danger to others, or gravely disabled.
- Department of Mental Health (DMH) designates the facilities that accommodate involuntary holds.
- Only LPS-authorized individuals can evaluate a person for holds at an LPS-designated facility.

Senate Bill (SB) 43

Signed into law by the Governor on October 10, 2023

- First major change to the LPS law since 1967
- Updates and expands the definition of Grave Disability and makes changes to the hearsay rule in conservatorship hearings.



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What Has Changed Under California's SB 43?

1. Changes the definition of "gravely disabled"

PAST DEFINITION

"A condition in which a person, as a result of a mental health disorder or chronic alcoholism (rather than a chosen lifestyle or lack of funds), is unable to provide for his or her basic needs for food, clothing or shelter."

REVISED DEFINITION OF GRAVE DISABILITY

"A condition in which a person, as a result of a mental health disorder, a **severe substance use disorder**, or a co-occurring mental health disorder and a severe substance use disorder, is unable to provide for their basic personal needs for food, clothing, shelter, **personal safety**, or **necessary medical care**."

2. Expands the criteria for involuntary detention and treatment by adding:

- a. Individuals with **severe substance use disorders** or co-occurring mental health and severe substance use disorders, and
- b. Inability to manage **personal safety** or **necessary medical care**.

3. Redefines who qualifies for care under the State's conservatorship system.

SB 43 changes will be implemented in Los Angeles County on January 1, 2026



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SB 43 Implementation Workgroups

- Client Flow, System Mapping, System Guidelines, and Evaluation
- LPS Designation and Training
- Treatment and Care Planning
- Court Processes/Adherence to Court Orders
- Community Education and Collaboration
- Managed Care Plan Coordination



Client Flow, System Mapping, System Guidelines and Evaluation (FMGE) Workgroup

- Developed **overview of the SB 43 process** that illustrates the flow from referrals for involuntary detention to client transport to evaluation and disposition, treatment after 5150, and discharge planning, highlighting key differences post-SB 43 implementation.
 - Workflow will be shared with partners including street outreach teams, Crisis Stabilization Units, acute care hospitals, first responders, providers, etc.
- Developing a **SB 43 Toolkit** with documents, training information and workflow documents for reference before, during, and after implementation.
- **DMH is expanding the number of Hospital Liaison staff** who can assist hospitals with discharge planning to appropriate treatment and placement options.
- Developing **SB 43 evaluation metrics** including information that is received from hospitals as required by SB 929 and informed by SB 43 metrics from other counties.



LPS Designation and Training Workgroup

- Developed **online training materials** in collaboration with relevant departments and deployed them as part of training for the LPS designated workforce.
 - Cases include examples of individuals that meet criteria for necessary medical care, personal safety, and severe SUD.
 - Professionals currently designated to assess for 5150's will have the next 3 months to complete their training and to be redesignated to continue to do 5150's after January 1, 2026.
 - Anyone who does not complete the training will lose the designation authority.
- Additional **training documents/videos for law enforcement agencies and hospitals** are being created and will be deployed no later than October 2025.
- DMH and DPH-SAPC are partnering to provide support and/or training to these partners.



Treatment and Care Planning Workgroup

- Developed three **SB 43 checklists** focused on treatment and care planning for:
 - LPS designated facilities.
 - Pre-facility practitioners and programs.
 - After-discharge practitioners and programs.
- Use of the **Model Care Coordination Plan** (or hospital developed plan with required elements of the Model Care Coordination Plan).
- **Education to Hospital Association of Southern California and other hospitals** is ongoing.
- **Service Area Care Coordination Pilot** started 9/1/25
 - Includes a select number of clients both housed and unhoused to pressure test care coordination processes, workflows and aftercare treatment in advance of SB 43 implementation.
 - Pilot includes more than 75 partners including urgent care, hospitals, outpatient clinics, field-based programs including HOME, crisis response, Public Guardian, SUD providers, and Quality Assurance staff.



Court Processes Workgroup

- **Identified and modified documents consistent with requirements for involuntary holds and conservatorship processes under SB 43.**
- The Superior Court will make information regarding SB 43 document changes available on their website and link to DMH's LPS SB 43 website.
- DMH and DPH-SAPC will participate in the **Training Event for Mental Health and Probate Court personnel** on October 10, 2026.
- DMH will offer training to other Mental Health Justice Partners in the coming months.



Community Education and Collaboration (CEC) Workgroup

- Launched the [LPS-SB 43 website](#) on the DMH website. DPH-SAPC and Superior Court websites will hold similar content or link to the DMH website.
- Developed **informational/educational materials and social media assets** for community audiences and stakeholders that will be available in various languages to ensure a wide range of access.
- The CEC Workgroup will utilize DMH's **well-established stakeholder engagement process** beginning September 2025 to work with clients, providers, and other stakeholders and ensure information is shared and feedback is received from our communities.



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Managed Care Workgroup

- Coordinating an **SB 43 overview and open forum with all LA County Medi-Cal Managed Care plans** in September 2025.
 - The purpose of this overview and forum will be to hear feedback and gain insight from Managed Care partners for upcoming SB 43 implementation in order to support system-wide alignment and coordination.



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Capacity Building – Treatment

To date, implementation of the BHCIP Strategy for six of the seven state funding rounds has resulted in DMH awards of \$348,684,410 for six County capital treatment bed projects, Crisis Care Mobile Units and a planning grant. The strategy also included building out DMH and DPH-SAPC's contracted provider networks.

Approximately \$1 billion in grants have been given to behavioral health providers for construction of new behavioral health treatment beds that will expand the County bed continuum capacity. DMH and DPH-SAPC are pursuing the last and final round (\$800 million statewide) with awards expected in 2026. The six DMH capital projects will add:

- 34 Acute Inpatient beds at Los Angeles General Medical Center (LAGMC)
- 64 Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC) beds at LAGMC
- 32 Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) beds at LAGMC
- 16 Crisis Residential Treatment Program (CRTP) and 8 Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) chairs at High Desert Regional Health Center
- 32 MHRC beds for the Transition Aged Youth (TAY) population at the LA County Care Community on the Metro State Hospital Campus
- 16 PHF, 16 MHRC, and 16 ERS beds at the Olive View Continuum of Care Facility



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Capacity Building - Treatment

LA General Medical Center Restorative Care Village (RCV)

- DPH-SAPC has one non-BHCIP funded capital project under development to provide residential withdrawal management services.
- The Mental Health Urgent Care Center (MHUCC) operated by Exodus Recovery is moving to the LAGMC campus and expanding from 27 to 35 chairs.
- DPH-SAPC has expanded its continuum of care every year since implementing the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System in 2017.
 - DPH-SAPC continues open soliciting and contracting for DMC services to expand all treatment levels of care to maximize access.
 - DPH-SAPC is strengthening the financial and organizational foundation of its provider network through its value-based payment reform approach to support this ongoing growth.



Capacity Building - Housing

- **Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH)**

- Funding will result in the creation of approximately 890 new beds and 43 new family units across Los Angeles County, which will more than double the number of total DMH IHP beds.
- BHBH funding resulted in approximately 450 new Recovery Bridge Housing and Recovery Housing beds added for individuals and families with SUD, and approximately 45 Housing Navigators across DPH-SAPC's network.

- **Community Care Expansion (CCE)**

- 19 Adult Residential Facilities (ARFs) and 5 Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs) comprise 1,108 beds that will be preserved and deed restricted for a period of five years to meet DMH client needs.
- DMH also began accepting applications from licensed residential care facilities interested in receiving CCE-Operating Subsidy funding for qualified residents through DMH's Enriched Residential Care (ERC) Program. 114 facilities had been determined eligible for the CCE-OSP program and 102 had executed grant agreements including 55 ARFs and 47 RCFEs
- Skid Row Action Plan. In coordination with JWCH Institute to operate a 48-bed RCFE at the Skid Row Campus, DMH is funding 24 beds at the site which opened in July 2025. DMH will have its first project-based site for its ERC Program and will use its beds for clients who have some of the most complex cases in the area

- **Permanent Supportive Housing**

- 16 new development properties will provide 1,156 new units of affordable housing, of which 509 are MHSA-funded units specifically dedicated for DMH clients.
- DMH committed MHSA/BHSA funds totaling \$33.9 million to serve as capital match funding for four projects and \$11.1 million per year for five years to serve as local match funding for 374 rental subsidies across seven projects
- DPH-SAPC committed a total of \$5 million per year to serve as local match funding for up to 120 rental subsidies for permanent housing units under HomeKey+

