



**Departments of Mental Health (DMH) and Public Health - Substance Abuse
Prevention and Control (DPH-SAPC)
Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Update
Behavioral Health Commission Meeting
May 14, 2026**

In response to various discussions and inquiries regarding stakeholder engagement strategies for the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Community Planning Process (CPP) towards the development, approval and implementation of the BHSA Integrated Plan (IP), DMH, in collaboration with DPH-SAPC, launched a robust planning process that included a diverse group of stakeholders and community partners. We worked to ensure our stakeholders were representative of the diverse populations of Los Angeles (LA) County and were successful in establishing representation that surpassed State guidelines. We regularly seeking to expand our stakeholder base, and welcome partnership with the Board of Supervisors and the Behavioral Health Commission.

DMH and DPH-SAPC have engaged in 39 BHSA forums, townhalls, planning sessions, and formal stakeholder meetings with a variety of community stakeholders. The core of the planning took place in two large monthly formal stakeholder convening sessions. The attachment shows highlights of CPT and Community Planning Team membership participation.

Each meeting is accessible virtually, with one hybrid meeting per month, and one fully virtual meeting per month. All meetings include American Sign Language (ASL) translation, Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART), and translation in both Spanish and Korean. Each meeting is announced to our listserve of 7,134 recipients. The QR code and link to join our listserve can be shared and is included below. Materials and recordings of these meetings can be found on our website at the links below.

We've attached the e-mail announcement for our next meeting on May 12, 2026, at 510 S. Vermont Ave from 9:30am to 12:30pm in which we will review the new Portrait of LA report. In person and virtual links for attendance are included in the announcement. Please share with your communities.

We welcome the opportunity to work more closely with each Supervisorial District and the BHC on strategies to educate communities across the County on the need for their input and feedback going forward and to promote opportunities for greater stakeholder participation as we move towards implementation of the BHSA IP.

If you have any questions, please contact Kalene Gilbert, Mental Health Program Manager IV, DMH BHSA Administration, at (213) 943-8223 or Kgilbert@dmh.lacounty.gov.

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Highlights of Participation for the Community Planning Process (CPP) & Community Planning Team (CPT) Membership:

For FY 2025-26, below is a summary of stakeholder engagement efforts for the CPP and the recruitment of representatives for CPT membership.

- **Stakeholder Activities**
 - March-January 20, 2026, DMH and SAPC
 - As of January 20, 2026, we completed a total of formal 26 Stakeholder Meetings and Subject Matter Forums to receive stakeholder feedback and input for the development of the draft Integrated Plan (IP). Across the 26 meetings held, 450 unduplicated individuals representing 224 unduplicated organizations/stakeholder groups, participated in at least one session.
 - Partnered with the Commission to hold a community Town Hall in preparation for BHSA.
 - Partnered with the LA County Office of Child Protection for a BHSA focused Youth Behavioral Health Convening to educate youth stakeholders on BHSA and received their input and feedback.
 - Since January 20, 2026, to date, DMH and SAPC
 - Held an additional 4 Stakeholder Engagement Sessions.
 - Held a DMH/SAPC Budget Forum.
 - Convened 5 Youth Engagement Meetings.
 - In March 2026, the draft BHSA IP was publicly posted for 30-day through April 8, 2026. Stakeholders were offered multiple platforms for submitting their written input and feedback for the draft BHSA IP during this period.
 - Our final stakeholder session addressing the draft BHSA IP Plan was the Public Hearing on April 9, 2026, hosted by the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC).
 - In addition to Stakeholder engagement:
 - DMH provided monthly updates and presentations and dialogue sessions for the 7 Underserved Cultural Community groups held monthly and open to the public,
 - Actively worked to recruit new stakeholders through 24 presentations on evenings and weekends in community settings such as libraries through the Beyond the Walls Initiative covering all 8 service areas, and
 - Made multiple presentations to community groups when requested including presentations for Managed Care organizations, First Five LA, and ICAN.
 - All feedback and input collected over the course of this period was catalogued and can be referenced in the draft BHSA IP appendices.
- Materials and recordings can be accessed at anytime at the following links:
 - [BHSA Announcements - Department of Mental Health](#)
 - [2025 BHSA/MHSA Announcements - Department of Mental Health](#)
 - [Mental Health Services Act Archives - Department of Mental Health](#)

- In addition, we have a listserv in which individuals can sign up to receive regular updates to their email. At this time we have 6,400 recipients of our listserv. Those interested in signing up can do so at the following link and QR code.



- We also offer a general mailbox, triaged daily for community and stakeholders to ask their questions and receive live follow up on issues that matter to them most. The stakeholder mailbox address is:
communitystakeholder@dmh.lacounty.gov.