

MEETING MINUTES

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Date: November 13, 2024

Time: 2:30 PM

Location: Bishop COB Room 101, Lone Pine Wellness Center (satellite/virtual) and via Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Michelle Saenz called the meeting to order at 2:36 PM. All attendees introduced themselves.

MEMBERSHIP IN ATTENDANCE

In Person: Supervisor Trina Orrill, Michelle Saenz, Claude Peters

Virtual: Lynn Martin

COMMUNITY & STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

In Person: John Laux, Vanessa Ruggio, Gina Ellis, Kelly Nugent, Jody Veenker, Lucy Vincent, Cathy Rigney, Anna Scott, Lily Fregoso, Vivian De La Riva, Araceli Morales

Virtual: Jennifer Sargent, Alexis Safarik, Dana Crom, Nate Derr, Frank SmithWaters, Rose Colon, Shelley Scott, Dari Pogach, Shane Scott, Josh Ellsworth

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION ITEM)

Minutes from September 11, 2024 meeting Supervisor Orrill moved to accept with requested edit. (#5A EPI-CAL explanation of acronym to be added): Mr. Peters seconded the motion. Motion carried: Supervisor Orrill– Aye, Mrs. Saenz – Aye, Mr. Peters – Aye, Ms. Martin - Aye.

4. CARE ACT (COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE, RECOVERY, AND EMPOWERMENT ACT) PRESENTATION (INFORMATIONAL ITEM)

Mrs. Anna Scott shared a slide show presentation with BHAB members and participants. Care Court is being implemented on December 1, 2024. The Purpose of the Care is to help community individuals who meet eligibility enter into a care plan with County Behavioral Health through a civil pathway. It is a first step for individuals not seeking services voluntarily (rather than being considered for LPS conservatorship). The petition can be filed by anyone. 3 potential outcomes include: (1) Early engagement (voluntarily enter into BH services), (2) Voluntary enrollment in a care agreement, (3) Court can order a care plan. A 4th outcome is a move towards LPS conservatorship if appropriate. Criteria: person referred must have a diagnosis of schizophrenia or other psychotic disorders.

The court may order a prioritization of housing resources for individuals enrolled in Care Court. There is recognition of our limited housing availability. Please refer to the attached PowerPoint for details. Mrs. Scott and Dari Pogach answered meeting attendees' questions and discussion ensued. Ms. Pogach shared links to resources and information with everyone. She remarked that Inyo County is not alone in being a small frontier county using a program developed for urban counties. She noted that we have a passionate team of service providers.

5. STAFF REPORTS (INFORMATIONAL ITEM)

- a. Behavioral Health Updates – Mr. Laux introduced himself and explained to meeting attendees that he is settling into his position as HHS Deputy Director of Behavioral Health. Although this was his first BHAB meeting with County of Inyo, he has served on boards like this one in the past. Current priorities include the integration of Behavioral Health Services (mental health and substance abuse). This is already a Behavioral Health Advisory Board with five members, which is what the state requests. Our challenges include the presence of a consumer under age 25 and a member representing a school. Cleanup requirements include changes to Bylaws and SB1025 includes changes to veteran services. Mrs. Ellis welcomed Mrs. Laux to the team and highlighted some of his experience. She expressed that Mr. Laux “hit the ground running with a 10-day intensive Audit.” She continued that he has already traveled to Sacramento on our behalf. She and Mr. Laux met on SB43 today. SB43 adds another facet to LPS conservatorship – the inclusion of individuals with substance use disorders.
- b. Family Strengthening Team Updates – Jody Veenker reported the following: The team is serving 6 families; 1 set to graduate next Thursday. They have space to take on more. Families are setting and meeting their goals - making great progress. We are continuing to outreach. Schools are identifying families that can benefit from services.
- c. SUD Updates – Cathy Rigney reported the following. DUI - enrollments are down. Oct: 5 new enrollments. 4 were 3-month, 1 18-month, 1 was non-compliant. 6 completions: 1 was an 18-month. 1 client finished 12 of 18 months. We had 4 3-month completions. SUD – Oct: 17 enrolled clients, incarcerated persons are also being served. We are outreaching for IOP services at local community events. A few new referrals have come in as a result.
- d. Wellness Center Updates – Vanessa Ruggio reported: Groups, showers and laundry services are ongoing. Staff is very active in the CCMU, and the CCMU Vehicle has been approved. Wellness Center has a new fulltime case manager. South County has been referring persons also. Mrs. Ellis added that the new Wellness Center sign has been received.
- e. Progress House Updates – Kelly Nugent reported: 5 full-time residents including 2 respite, 2 potential respite. Remodeling is still pending. Residents are taking advantage of the nice weather, taking therapeutic drives, and attending groups at Wellness Center.

6. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA) (DISCUSSION ITEM)

Mrs. Ellis reminded the group that it is almost time to work on our Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), due by June 2025. She also repeated what was discussed at a previous meeting – that veteran services will be included in the updated plan. We will keep this as a standing item on the BHAB Agenda.

Name change for Mental Health Services Act (MHSA): Mr. Laux shared that part of the changes in WIC language for the BHAB includes stronger language for BHAB to be the public meeting for public input for the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) – the new name replacing MHSA.

7. AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS

Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA)

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday December 11, 2024, at 2:30pm at the Bishop COB Room 103, at Lone Pine Wellness Center (in-person, virtually) and via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 4:12 PM.



THE COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE, RECOVERY, AND EMPOWERMENT (CARE) ACT

An Overview

Inyo County
Health and Human Services Department



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An Overview of the CARE Act

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CARE Act

- » Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Act, was signed into law in California on September 30, 2022.
- » CARE Act can be viewed on the California Legislative Information website here (code sections 5970 – 5987):

https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayexpandedbranch.xhtml?tocCode=WIC&division=5.&title=&part=8.&chapter=&article=

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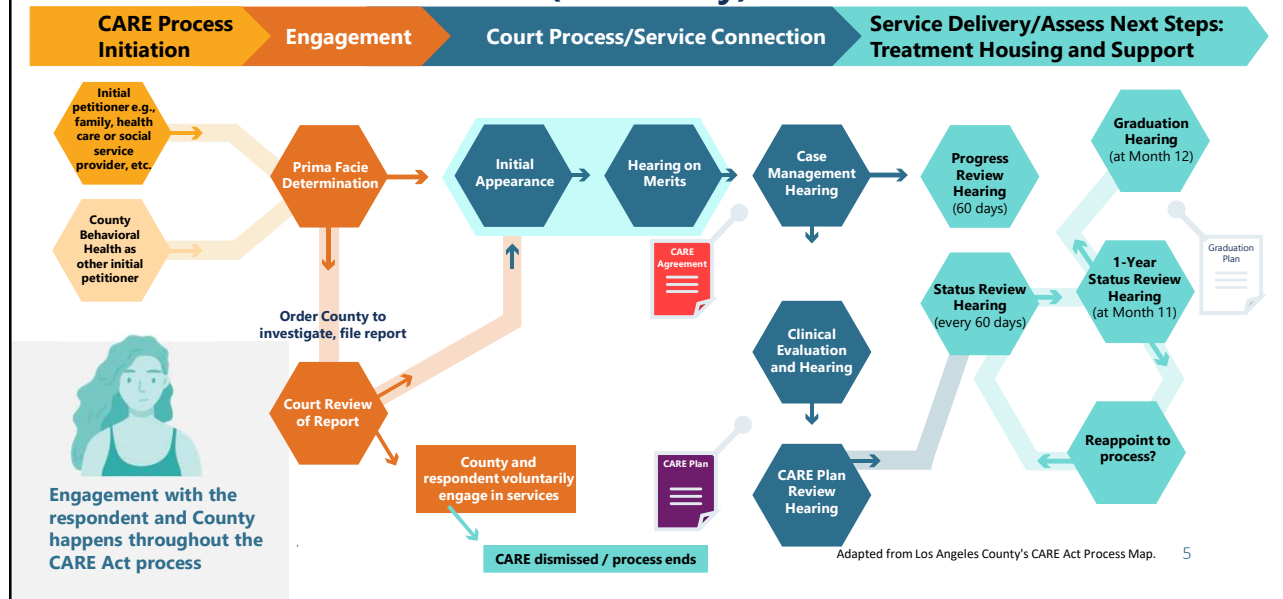
What does the CARE Act do?

- » **New Pathway to Services:** The CARE Act creates a new pathway to deliver mental health support services to eligible individuals who have schizophrenia spectrum disorders.
- » **Formal Activation:** A Petition activates the court and the County Health and Human Services Adult Services program to engage the client the CARE Court process.
- » **Anyone Can Activate:** A Petition can be filed by anyone (Family, Adult Services, Public Defender)
- » **Three Outcomes:** The CARE Court process will result in one of the following outcomes:
 - Voluntary enrollment in alternative program.
 - Voluntary enrollment in CARE Agreement.
 - Court ordered CARE Plan.

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What Does the Court Process Look Like? (LA County)



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Different Paths After the Petition Overview of Similarities & Differences



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What's in a CARE Agreement or CARE Plan?



For more information, visit the training [Overview of CARE Agreement & CARE Plan](#) and [California Welfare and Institutions Code \(W&I Code\) section 5982](#).

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Roles within the CARE Act

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Overview of CARE Act Roles



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“Respondent” is a legal term to refer to the person participating in the CARE Act Process. You’ll hear this term being used in the court room and potentially other settings.

Participant/Respondent

» Potential clients/respondents are adults with a diagnosis of Schizophrenia Spectrum or other psychotic disorders and who are:

- Severely symptomatic interfering with activities of daily living (ADLs).
- Not stabilized.
- Unlikely to survive safely/independently.
- Deteriorating, and support is needed to prevent further deterioration.
- Likely to benefit from the CARE process with participation in CARE Act being the least restrictive alternative.

For more information, visit the [CARE Act Eligibility Criteria](#) brief and [Eligibility in Practice](#) training materials.

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Petitioner

- » A petitioner could include:
- Family Member
 - Roommate/Housemate
 - Mental Health Professional
 - Medical Professional
 - First Responders
 - Public service agencies, such Behavioral Health (BH), Adult Protective Services (APS), Public Guardian or Public Conservator (PG/PC)
 - Homeless Outreach Worker
 - The Client/Respondent

For more information, visit [CARE Act Resources For Petitioners](#).

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Volunteer Supporter

- » An adult chosen by the respondent to provide support throughout the CARE process and to promote the respondent's preferences, choices, and autonomy.

Work with the client on how to maintain autonomy and decision-making authority over their own life.

Includes navigating a CARE agreement or CARE plan, developing a graduation plan, & establishing a Psychiatric Advance Directive (PAD).

Work with the client on communicating the client's preferences for the plan.

In all instances, respect the client's preferences, values and beliefs.

For more information, visit the [Supporter Role in the CARE Act brief](#) and [The Supporter Role in the CARE Act](#) training materials.

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Inyo County Health and Human Services

Adult Services Program and Behavioral Health Division

- » Adopt Petition Ownership
- » Investigate
- » Offer Voluntary Enrollment in Alternative Treatment Service
- » Facilitate CARE Agreement/Plan Development
- » Case Management, Court-Ordered Treatment

For more information, visit the [CARE Act Fact Sheet](#) and [2022 California Welfare and Institutions Code](#).

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Housing & Community Supports Providers

- » Counties each have different types of potential housing providers that may engage with the CARE Act, that may include:
 - Housing First Models, including
 - Bridge/Interim Housing Models
 - Rapid Rehousing
 - Permanent Supportive Housing
- » Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) funding

For more information, visit the [CARE Act Fact Sheet](#) and [2022 California Welfare and Institutions Code](#).

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Judicial & Legal

Counsel for Health and Human Services

- Representing county Health and Human Services
- County counsel or other designated attorney

Legal Aid/Public Defender

- Representing the respondent's interests and rights
- Court-appointed regardless of ability to pay

Judge

- Neutral arbiter
- Will strive to conduct CARE proceedings in informal, non-adversarial atmosphere
- Can provide a "black robe" effect, encouraging adherence

For more information, visit the [CARE Act Fact Sheet](#) and the [Legal Roles in the CARE Act](#) brief.

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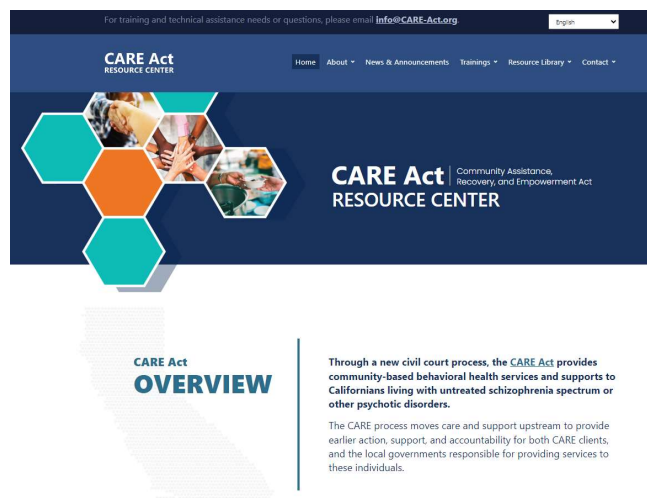
CARE Act Resource Center

» Resources

- Training and Resource library
- Upcoming Trainings
- County Directory
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

» Ways to contact

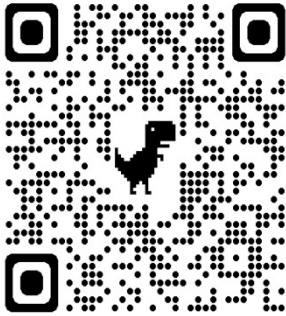
- [Listserv](#)
- [Technical assistance \(TA\) request form](#)
- [Data TA request form](#)
- [Stakeholder feedback form](#)
- Email: info@CARE-Act.org



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Available Trainings and Resources



CARE-Act.org

New to the CARE Act?

View these recommended CARE Act Resources to get started with the basics.



The CARE Act at a Glance

[Resource Details](#)



The CARE Process Flow to Treatment, Housing, and Support

[Resource Details](#)



CARE Act Eligibility Criteria

[Resource Details](#)



Volunteer Supporter Toolkit

[Resource Details](#)



Legal Roles in the CARE Act

[Resource Details](#)



Supporter Role in the CARE Act

[Resource Details](#)

New to the CARE Act?

View these recommended CARE Act Trainings to get started with the basics.



CARE Act 201: The Client's Journey Through the CARE Act

[View Training Material](#)



CARE Act 202: The CARE Agreement & CARE Plan

[View Training Material](#)



CARE Act Eligibility in Practice

[View Training Material](#)



The Supporter Role in the CARE Act

[View Training Material](#)



Role of the Family in the CARE Process

[View Training Material](#)



Practical Approaches to Housing for the CARE Act

[View Training Material](#)

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Questions?

CARE-Act.org | info@CARE-Act.org

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Slide 18

PDO Consider adapting with county CARE website and email address.
Patricia Doxey, 2024-06-06T02:34:12.752