

INFORMATIONAL NOTES

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Date: August 13, 2025

Time: 2:30 PM

Location: Bishop COB Room 100, Lone Pine Wellness Center (satellite/virtual) and via Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

No Quorum; Informational Meeting only. Chairperson, Michelle Saenz, began the Informational meeting at 2:42 pm. All attendees introduced themselves.

MEMBERSHIP IN ATTENDANCE

In Person: Michelle Saenz, Claude Peters

Virtual: none

COMMUNITY & STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

In Person: Perla Gastelum, Lucy Vincent, Melissa Best-Baker, Vivian De La Riva, SerAaron Vitale, Liliana Fregoso, Karen Simerlink

Virtual: Kelly Nugent, Lori Bengochia

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Upcoming events shared by Ms. Saenz: Overdose Awareness Event on August 25, 2025, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at Barlow gym and Sun Fun & Sobriety at Three Creeks on August 23, 2025 from 9 to 10 am. (Flyers attached).

Ms. Saenz also told the group that the Annual Suicide Prevention Walk would be taking place on California Indian Day, September 26, 2025. It will begin at 7 am. Community Night will be held on September 25, 2025.

Ms. Saenz informed BHAB members that she had met with Optum, who runs the 988 line from San Diego. She recommends that we inform them about where we are to help them navigate calls from Inyo County residents.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION ITEM)

Minutes from July 9, 2025 meeting. Tabled for lack of quorum.

4. STAFF REPORTS (INFORMATIONAL ITEM)

- a. Behavioral Health Updates – **Please refer to the Behavioral Health Staff Update Reports (attached) for all Staff Reports in this section.** Mrs. Best-Baker told BHAB Members and attendees that the position of Deputy Director of Behavioral Health is being flown, and that a new clinical Trainee will join the Inyo County Behavioral Health Adult Team. She also told the group that interviews for the position of Drug and Alcohol Counselor have been conducted and that we may have a candidate. She asked the BHAB Members what type of information they would like to see in the Program Reports. Some of the ideas shared: include numbers that show comparisons of services from year to year.
- b. DUI (Driving Under the Influence) Program Updates – Carri Coudek was not present; please refer to the attached report
- c. SUD Updates – Please refer to the attached report
- d. Progress House Updates – Ms. Nugent told BHAB members and meeting attendees that Progress House passed their annual inspection without any deficiencies! She also shared that the census is climbing: 6 residents, 1 respite stay, another incoming resident on Friday. One full-time staff position has been filled, and 1 part-time position is still being flown.

5. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (BHSA), (STANDING INFORMATIONAL ITEM)

- a. BHSA Overview – Lori Bengochia made a presentation. She said the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) aka BHT Behavioral health Transformation represents a big change for us. The State requires meaningful connection with 29 groups. BHAB members may be asked to review narratives and be ambassadors to the community and/or be an advisor on the integrated plan. She will give updates at upcoming BHAB meetings. (Her presentation is attached.)
- b. Older Adult Outreach update – Karen Simerlink made a presentation on Support Services available for older adults. (It is attached.)
- c. Family Strengthening Team Update – Jody Veenker was not present; please refer to the attached report.
- d. Wellness Center Program Update – please refer to attached report

6. CARE ACT UPDATES (INFORMATIONAL)

Tabled

7. MOBILE CRISIS RESPONSE (DISCUSSION)

- a. CCMU Program Update – Vivian De La Riva shared that CCMU hit the 1-year mark on July 1, 2025. Please refer to the attached report.

8. OLD BUSINESS (INFORMATIONAL OR DISCUSSION ITEM)

9. AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) (standing informational item)
- CARE Act Updates (Informational)
- Review of access to services

Meeting adjourned at 3:58 pm.

Inyo County Behavioral Health Program Updates

August 2025

Family Strengthening Team Updates – Jody Veenker

Services Provided

The Family Strengthening Team is currently serving 9 families and has 1 other in the orientation phase. One family closed out of services this month due to not being able to meet consistently to work on goals.

Key Data / Statistics

- Clients Served: 17 adults, 24 kids
- Referrals & Orientations: 1 family currently learning about program

Staffing Update

Jody has been supporting BH division with 3-4 PC CARE sessions weekly. Ethan and Stormie have been utilizing summer schedules to introduce children to outdoor sports and job application routines. They helped several children catch their first fish this month, get their first work permit, turn in resumes, and prep for interviews! They also helped a set of parents complete Triple P Standard so they are better able to maintain relationships and manage misbehaviors with positive parenting strategies.

Program Highlights

We are gearing up for our next Inyo Mono Wraparound social August 2. This will be a pool party and BBQ at Keoughs and we are anticipating between 50 to 75 participants again.

Challenges / Barriers

Our big interdivisional/interdepartmental challenge we are working to address is making sure that CANS assessments are being completed and shared through Child & Family Team meetings so that this universal assessment tool is used for all the case planning every agency serving the family uses. Every child receiving a behavioral health service already receives a CANS assessment, but the CFT review is an important step toward integrated service delivery.

DUI Program Update – Carri Coudek

Key Data / Statistics

July DUI:

NEW ENROLLMENTS:	Wet & Reckless (W & R)) = 0
	First Offender-3 months = 3
	Multiple Offender-18 months = 2

Inyo County Behavioral Health Program Updates

August 2025

July DUI:

COMPLETIONS:

(W & R) = 0

First Offender-3 months = 1

Multiple Offender-9 months = 1

Multiple Offender-18 months = 0

Multiple Offender-12 of 18 months
(eligible restricted license) = 2

Staffing Update

Recruitment ongoing for Addiction Counselor and Addiction Counselor Supervisor.

Challenges / Barriers

Having staff to cover all the different classes that have to be offered on a regular schedule if staff are out for vacation or illness and ensuring coverage for the classes after hours (after 5:00 PM).

SUD Program Update – Carri Coudek

Key Data / Statistics

Active SUD clients: 9

Drug Court clients: 6

ASAM Assessments in July 2025: 7

Staffing Update

Recruitment ongoing for Addiction Counselor and Addiction Counselor Supervisor.

Program Highlights:

Began enrollment into a new young adult program in collaboration with Probation to provide two weekly groups for individuals aged: 18-25.

Planning for outreach for participation in several outreaches:

2nd Annual Sun Fun and Sobriety August 23, 2025

Overdose Awareness Event August 25, 2025

September is Recovery Month-working with Crossroads to coordinate events

Challenges / Barriers

Having staff to cover all the different classes that have to be offered on a regular schedule if staff are out for vacation or illness and ensuring coverage for the classes after hours (after 5:00 PM).

Inyo County Behavioral Health Program Updates

August 2025

Wellness Center Updates – Vivian DeLaRiva

Services Provided

- Bishop Wellness Center: Groups, showers, laundry, clothing & food pantry, Case Management, Supportive Services and Crisis/CCMU Response.
- Lone Pine Wellness Center: Showers, laundry, food pantry, Case Management & Supportive services.

Key Data / Statistics

- Bishop Wellness Center: 285 clients,
- Lone Pine Wellness Center: 20 clients

Staffing Update

- Interim Supervisor: Vivian DeLaRiva (coverage for Vanessa Ruggio)
- Part time positions available, Interviews 8/14/25

Program Highlights

- Wellness Center Staff Engagement at c5 Studio
- 4th of July BBQ @ Bishop Wellness Center
- Pizza lunch by Olga & Pete, donation of supplies
- Government phones are available, orders being place & received for individuals
- IMAH Partnership (client clothing needs)
- Weekly fresh baked bread delivered & donated by CRUMB Club, Chris & Sydney
- Food donations from Starbucks & Great Basin
- IMACA bi-weekly food pick up and delivery to Bishop & LP Wellness Centers
- Bishop Wellness Center Groups are increasing in attendance
- On-Call Crisis Response- NIH-7, SIH-2, ICJ-1

Challenges / Barriers

- Staffing- Recruitment for open part time positions

Crisis Care Mobile Unit – Vivian DeLaRiva

Services Provided

Mobile crisis services are a community-based intervention designed to provide de-escalation and relief to individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis wherever they are, including at home, work, school, or in the community. Mobile crisis services are provided by a multidisciplinary team of trained behavioral health professionals. Mobile crisis services provide rapid response, individual assessment and community-based stabilization to Medi-Cal members who are experiencing a behavioral health crisis. Mobile crisis services are designed to provide relief to members experiencing a behavioral health crisis, including through de-escalation and stabilization techniques; reduce the immediate

Inyo County Behavioral Health Program Updates

August 2025

risk of danger and subsequent harm; and avoid unnecessary emergency department care, psychiatric inpatient hospitalizations and law enforcement involvement.

Key Data / Statistics

27 responses in the last year

- On-Call CCMU Response (July)- In field- 3

Staffing Update

- Acting Supervisor: Vivian DeLaRiva (coverage for Vanessa Ruggio)
- Part time position available

Program Highlights

Our CCMU Response team has proven to be successful thus far by providing a form of crisis response that is both unique and relatable. We strive to be progressive and intentional in our approach; ensuring the safety of our environment and gaining trust with crisis individuals. Providing de-escalation, assessment, intervention, stabilization and immediate access to BH resources and programs, as needed and/or available locally.

A Crisis Met with Compassion

Imagine finding yourself in an unfamiliar town, knowing no one, gripped by fear and paranoia—convinced someone is out to harm you. This was the reality for one individual in crisis, a situation that called for immediate and compassionate intervention.

The Bishop Police Department reached out to the CCMU team for BH response. Upon arrival, CCMU skillfully de-escalated the situation and transported the individual to the Bishop Wellness Center. There, we provided a safe, welcoming space—offering a shower, clean clothing generously donated by IMAH, and other essential items to restore dignity and comfort.

Through collaboration with St. Vincent De Paul we secured a bus pass and a room for the night, ensuring the individual had both shelter and a path forward. The next day, CCMU transported them to Mojave, where they boarded a Greyhound bus to Baker and ultimately returned home to Las Vegas.

This episode is a powerful example of CCMU's mission in action—demonstrating the protocols, partnerships, and compassion that make our team an indispensable asset to the community.

Challenges / Barriers

- Staffing- Recruitment for open part time position
Supervisor out on extended leave

Inyo County Behavioral Health Program Updates

August 2025

Progress House Updates – Kelly Nugent

Key Data / Statistics

- 6 residents currently
- Most recent resident arrived in July

Staffing Updates

- Position for the FT Residential Caregiver position recently filled; New staff member to start soon. PT Residential Caregiver position currently pending.

Program Highlights

- Our program emphasizes continuous client support for resident activities of daily living and overall well-being. Providing support and encouragement to those facing challenges as well as those working towards their independence. Engagement in Wellness Center Groups 4 days a week. Scenic Summer drives and daily outings.

Challenges Barriers

- Ongoing recruitment

Behavioral Health Services Act



BHSA

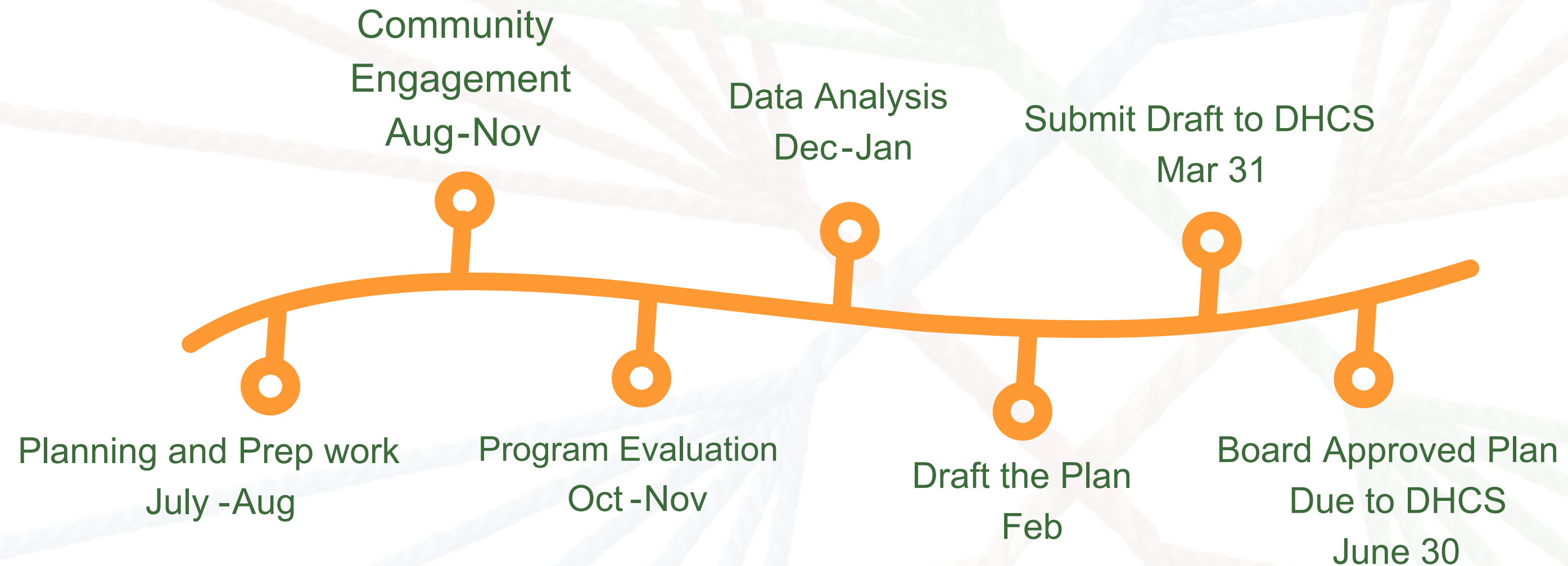
What is BHSA?

- Approved by California voters as Proposition 1 in 2024
- Integrates: Behavioral Health, SUD, Prevention and Housing Services.
- Focus will be one community -driven planning and local priorities

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Planning Timeline



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What does “The PLAN” entail?

- Community Planning
- Evidence Based Practices for Core Services
- Data, Outcomes and Evaluations
- Equity -Focused Goals
- Budget and Funding Use

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Community Planning Process

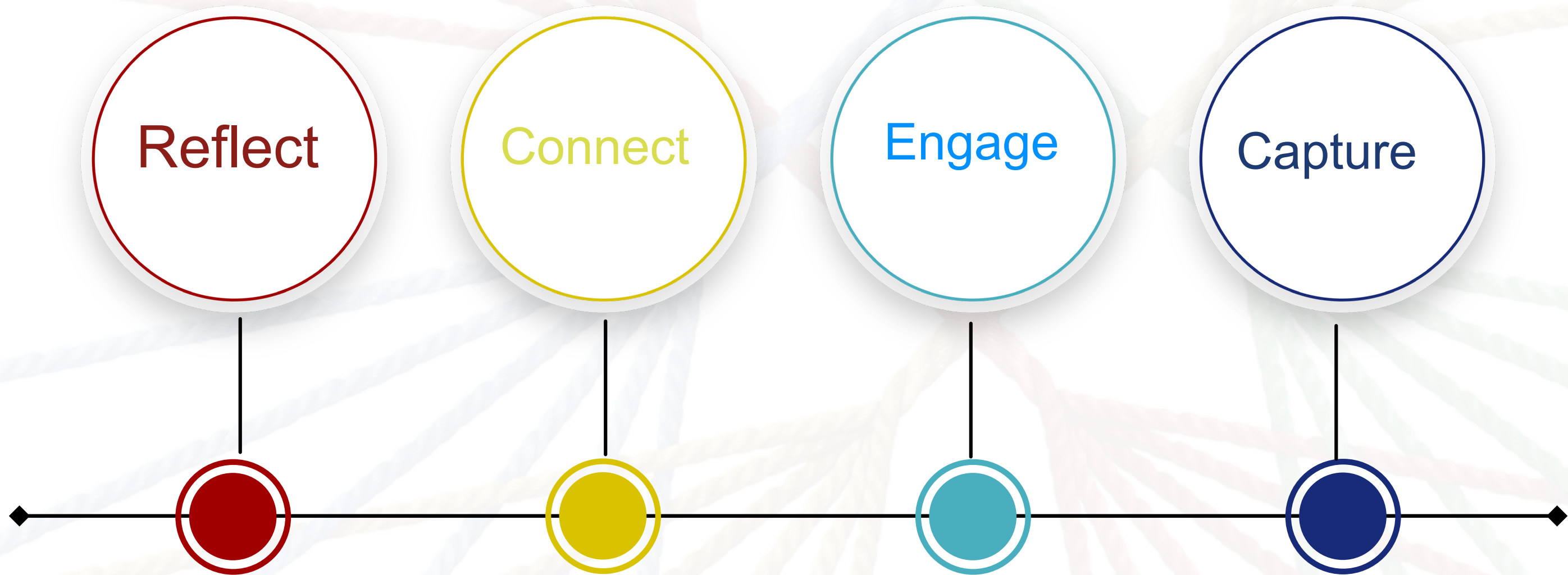
Reflect

Connect

Engage

Capture

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Engagement

- Meaningful connection with 29 stakeholder groups.
- Identified who are and are not connected with
- Plan of Action for connection

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How can you help?

- Ambassador for Engagement and Connections
- Advisor on Integrate Plan
- Help ensure transparency

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It's just the beginning...

Thoughts, questions, comments, concerns



Join at menti.com | use code **5990 1407**



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Support Services for Older Adults

Introduction

The older adult outreach program focuses on age-related challenges among older adults in Inyo County and recognizing the early signs of depression and mental illness. The primary focus being on early intervention, prevention, and education while collaborating with community partners. This covers a range of topics, including mental health, staying connected, nutrition, disaster preparedness, and local community support, all of which aids in the support of mental health and well-being.

1. Monthly Life Night Events

Monthly Family Life Night! It's an evening designed for the whole family, with a different theme focus each month. There is breakout rooms tailored for each age group. We start with fun icebreakers to match the theme of the night to help everyone feel comfortable. This provides a great opportunity for everyone to learn and connect in a meaningful way. The night will finish with free dinner for everyone in a community room setting to continue the conversations and connect with other members of the community.

2. Outreach with Community Partners

I will be working closely with our community partners across Inyo County. This includes collaborating with **Senior Centers in Lone Pine, Bishop, Tecopa, Toiyabe, Wellness Center** and other locations throughout the County. I will also join **Public Health Nurses** on their rounds to assist with events like flu shot clinics and other community health initiatives. I will also be partnering with the **Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging (ESAAA)** to deliver essential education, resources, and support to the older adult community.

3. Past topics include:

- **Suicide Warning Signs for Adults**
- **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline information & handouts**
 - 1. **Difference between 988 & 911**
- **Staying connected through Technology supports mental health**
 - 1. **How to Facetime on your mobile phone**
- **Caregiver Support Groups**
- **Friendship Line**
- **Disaster Preparedness Free Training for Older Adults**
- **Ways to eat well as you get older**
- **Cyber Scammers and How to avoid**

ESSENTIAL SUPPORT FOR OLDER ADULTS



CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Pioneer Home Health is sponsoring caregiver support group at Highland Mobile Park Community Center. Meets 3rd Tuesday each month beginning February 18 from 12 - 1pm. For additional information, please call (760) 872-4663



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

FREE Disaster Preparedness Courses for ages 55+. August 9-10 9AM-4PM, call (760) 878-0120



FRIENDSHIP LINE

For anyone who could benefit from a non-emergency friendly conversation.

(888) 670-1360



CRISIS/SUICIDE LIFELINE

988 offers 24/7 judgment free support for mental health, substance use, and more. Text, call, or chat 988.



Bishop Paiute Tribe-Tribal Opioid Program
in collaboration with
Crossroads Recovery Center
presents...

BREAK THE
STIGMA

NO JUDGMENT
ZONE

OVERDOSE AWARENESS Event

PRESENTERS

FOOD

LET'S BRING UNITY
TO OUR
COMMUNITY!

DATE/TIME/LOCATION

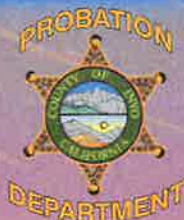
**MONDAY
AUGUST 25**

5:30-7:30PM

BARLOW LANE GYM

**NO PREREGISTRATION.
JOIN US TO ENJOY FOOD,
PRESENTERS
AND TO SUPPORT
FAMILY & FRIENDS!**

**QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT:
TAWNI LAFROMBOIS,
PROJECT COORDINATOR,
(760) 873-4414, EXT 2870**



**TOIYABE
INDIAN HEALTH PROJECT**



2nd Annual

SUN FUN & SOBRIETY

Everyone is welcome



Health & Human Services



CROSSROADS RECOVERY CENTER



THREE CREEKS
COLLECTIVE



OWENS VALLEY
INDIAN WATER COMMISSION

- Coffee & donuts meeting
- Potluck Lunch
- BBQ Dinner will be provided
- Recovery Meetings throughout the day
- Swimming
- campfire meeting w/smores
- Families welcome

AUGUST 23, 2025

9:00am-10:00pm

**Located at Three Creeks
(please call 760-872-3382
for directions)**

Please carpool, limited parking space