



**California Health and Human Services Agency
Community Assistance, Recovery & Empowerment (CARE) Act
Working Group Meeting Notice and Agenda**

Wednesday August 27, 2025 – 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Physical Meeting Information:

1215 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Allenby Conference Room 110

Virtual Meeting Information: [Zoom Webinar](#)

Dial In: +1 669 254-5252 (Meeting ID: 160 565 2947)

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Karen Linkins, Desert Vista Consulting
Stephanie Welch, MSW, Deputy Secretary of Behavioral Health, California Health and Human Services Agency

Annual Report Overview – Presentation and Response Panel

Representatives from Health Management Associates

Implementation and Training and Technical Assistance Updates

Representatives from Health Management Associates (HMA) and the Judicial Council of California

Lunch

Featured Topic: Role of Peers in the CARE Act

Panelists from Los Angeles County and Working Group Members

Role of Health Plans in the CARE Act and Opportunities for Coordination

Beau Hennemann, Anthem Blue Cross

Updates on CARE Subject Matter Expert Focus Groups

Stephanie Welch, MSW, Deputy Secretary of Behavioral Health, California Health and Human Services Agency

Karen Linkins, Desert Vista Consulting

Dr. Kate Warburton, State Medical Director, Department of State Hospitals

Closing Thoughts

Stephanie Welch, MSW, Deputy Secretary of Behavioral Health, California Health and Human Services Agency

Public Comment

Adjourn

Upcoming Working Group Meetings

November 19, 2025: 10:00-3:00 pm

The timing and order in which agenda items occur may be subject to change. Public comment will be taken as part of the meeting. Prior to making your comments, please state your name for the record and identify any group or organization you represent. Depending on the number of individuals wishing to address the Working Group, the facilitators may establish specific time limits on comments.

The meeting will include live captioning and ASL interpretation. Any person who wishes to request this notice or other meeting materials in an alternative format, requires translation services, or needs any disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, which would enable that person to participate at the meeting must make that request at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting date to: Austin Dickman, austin.dickman@chhs.ca.gov, California Health and Human Services Agency 1215 O Street, 11th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Public Participation: The telephone lines of members of the public who dial into the meeting will initially be muted to prevent background noise from inadvertently disrupting the meeting. Phone lines will be unmuted during public comment to allow members of the public to comment. Please see additional instructions below regarding Public Participation Procedures.

CalHHS and the Working Group are not responsible for unforeseen technical difficulties that may occur. CalHHS will endeavor to provide reliable means for members of the public to participate remotely; however, in the unlikely event that the remote means fails, the meeting may continue in person. For this reason, members of the public are advised to consider attending the meeting in person to ensure their participation during the meeting.

Public participation procedures: All members of the public shall have the right to offer comment at this public meeting. The facilitator will indicate when the meeting is open for public comment. **Any member of the public wishing to comment during public comment must do the following:**

If joining by call-in, press *9 on the phone. Pressing *9 will notify the meeting host that you wish to comment. You will be placed in line to comment in the order in which requests are received by the host. **When it is your turn to comment, the meeting host will unmute your line and announce the last three digits of your telephone number.** The facilitator reserves the right to limit the time for comment. Members of the public should be prepared to complete their comments within 3 minutes or less time if a different time allotment is needed and announced by the facilitator.

If joining by computer, press the raise hand icon on the control bar. Pressing the raise hand will notify the meeting host that you wish to comment. You will be placed in line to comment in the order in which requests are received by the host. **When it is your turn to comment, the meeting host will unmute your line and announce your name and ask if you'd like your video on.** The facilitator reserves the right to limit the time for comment. Members of the public should be prepared to complete their comments within 3 minutes or less time if a different time allotment is needed and announced by the facilitator.

Under AB 1261, by amendment to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, members of the public who use translating technology will be given **additional time** to speak during a Public Comment period. Upon request to the facilitator, they will be given at least twice the amount of time normally allotted.