



CARE Act Quarterly Implementation Update | July–September 2024

Every county in California will implement the CARE Act by December 1st to help the most seriously ill people with schizophrenia get connected to life-saving treatment and housing. Over 785 CARE petitions were filed between October 2023–September 2024 based on preliminary data from the eight early implementing counties.

The release of the Department of Health Care Service's [Early Implementation: First 8 County CARE Courts, First 9 Months, First 900 People](#) legislative report highlights the progress made in providing community-based behavioral health services to Californians with the most significant mental health needs.

Recent Success from the Field

In August, the first CARE Act graduation occurred in San Diego County. A video of the graduation ceremony is [available here](#). A recent news article provides additional information about CARE implementation in San Diego County – see [“Scores turn to new court to help San Diegans struggling with severe mental health issues.”](#)

Working Group and Sub-Groups

The August 1 CARE Act Working Group [meeting](#) featured a presentation from [Bethany Yeiser](#): "From Schizophrenia and Homelessness to Co-Founder of the CURESZ Foundation." San Mateo, San Diego, and Stanislaus Counties provided

implementation updates and lessons learned. Representatives from RAND, the Department of Health Care Services' (DHCS) Independent Evaluator of CARE, presented their evaluation plan and updated logic model, and each of the Ad Hoc groups shared updates on their recent activities.

To support expanded participation of key stakeholders, subject matter experts, and the public, CalHHS continues to convene three Ad Hoc Subgroups of the CARE Act Working Group, focused on 1.) Data Collection, Reporting, and Evaluation (Data and Evaluation); 2.) Services and Supports; and 3.) Training, Technical Assistance, and Communication (TTA/Comms). Each group includes perspectives from peers with lived experience, families, and providers.

Additional Information

The CARE Act is just one of [California's new innovative approaches](#) helping individuals get the care and support they need. The state is continually engaging new community partners in understanding and making referrals under the CARE Act.

For additional information about related activities, please visit the [Behavioral Health Transformation site](#), and sign up for updates by emailing BHTinfo@dhcs.ca.gov.