



California Health and Human Services Agency Community Assistance, Recovery & Empowerment (CARE) Act Data Collection, Reporting & Evaluation Subgroup Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2024 | Virtual Meeting

Meeting Materials and Recording Available on [Working Group Site](#)
Public Zoom chat from meeting is included as an Appendix to this file

For additional information and resources, please see the following sites:

- [CARE Act Resource Center \(managed by HMA for DHCS\)](#)
- [CalHHS CARE Act Site](#)
- [Judicial Council CARE Act Site](#)

Group Members in Virtual Attendance

- Alison Morantz
- Christopher Guevara
- Beau Hennemann (Co-chair)
- Dawn Williams
- Dr. Sharon Ishikawa
- Kara Taguchi
- Keris Myrick (Co-chair)
- Sean Evans

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Goals of This Group

Karen Linkins, Principal, Desert Vista Consulting, opened the meeting and introduced herself and her team. She reviewed the virtual meeting guidelines for group members and members of the public.

Linkins shared ground rules for the meeting and details of the group's approach and goals.

All group members in attendance introduced themselves, beginning with the group's co-chairs, Beau Hennemann and Keris Myrick.

2. Recap Previous Meeting

Karen Linkins provided an overview of the previous meeting of the group in April. In that meeting, RAND presented their revised evaluation logic model and evaluation plan, including the new addition of a process evaluation component. RAND evaluators solicited feedback from group members.

Linkins reminded the group that minutes from all meetings can be accessed through the CARE Act Working Group website.

3. Discussion of CARE Implementation and Q&A

San Diego Graduation Video:

Karen Linkins shared a video produced by San Diego County highlighting their first CARE graduation, which was the first in the state. After the video, she welcomed questions and comments from group members.

Questions and Discussion:

Group members expressed appreciation for the use of storytelling as a qualitative data source, the collaboration highlighted in the video, and discussed more details of the broader system of care in San Diego. Members also suggested that a range of videos should be produced to highlight the range of what success looks like in the CARE process.

Questions focused on the details of how CARE is used as a stepdown from conservatorship, the nature of court involvement, and the goals of CARE.

Judicial Council Updates:

Charlene Depner, Cassandra McTaggart, and Audrey Fancy from the Judicial Council presented updates and provided an overview of the data they collect from courts:

- The Judicial Council works collaboratively with a range of partners at both the state and county level on CARE implementation, including working closely with Cohort 1 and 2 courts.
- The Judicial Council is also responsible for developing forms, providing technical assistance, and collecting trial court data, among other responsibilities.
- Specific support that the Judicial Council provides to local courts includes trainings on the CARE process, eligibility, CARE agreements and plans, housing, and trauma-informed practices. They also provide various resources and technical assistance.
- The Judicial Council has created a variety of resources for the public that are available online, such as information on eligibility requirements.
- All 58 trial courts have a Self-Help Center that provides education and assistance to petitioners, including access to a document assembly program. The Judicial Council has provided training for Self-Help Center staff.
- The Judicial Council developed a flow chart to explain the court process.
- All 14 CARE Act forms are available at courts.ca.gov in multiple languages. Forms will be updated as needed to reflect recent legislative changes. Forms are also being modified to be more user friendly.
- The Judicial Council is responsible for facilitating trial court data collection and analyzing and reporting court data. All trial court data collected is included in DHCS data reports.

- Trial court data elements include: petitions submitted, initial appearances set and held, hearings held, CARE plans ordered, CARE agreements approved, and petitions dismissed. All trial court data is reported in the aggregate.

Questions and Discussion:

Presenters from the Judicial Council welcomed questions and feedback from the group.

Group members asked questions related to the current state of data analysis, past trainings on providing accommodations for people with psychiatric disabilities, additional data points that could be collected, and where to direct specific questions about the law.

HMA Updates on Data Collection and Reporting:

Serene Olin and **Lauren Niles** from HMA provided updates on data collection, upcoming reports, and legislative updates:

- CARE Act reporting encompasses the early implementation report, the annual report and the independent evaluation, which is the most robust.
- The early implementation report is forthcoming and covers the first nine months of data since the launch of CARE. This report will not include outcome metrics.
- The annual report will cover the same time period as the early implementation report but will contain data from additional sources and will be leveraged to identify opportunities for improving ongoing implementation. It will be published by July 1, 2025.
- SB 42 made several changes to the CARE Act and SB 1400 made changes to the Penal Code related to CARE and expands requirements for CARE Act data reporting.
- DHCS is currently finalizing updates to the Data Dictionary to reflect new legislative requirements and feedback from counties.
- Changes to the Data Dictionary will include additional data points related to outreach and engagement, services provided, dismissals, and inquiries and referrals.
- HMA will continue providing training and technical assistance on data collection and reporting for all 58 counties.

Questions and Discussion:

Linkins invited questions and feedback from the group.

Group members asked for more details on the data points related to system referrals and about the utility of the pre-petition data that was collected from Cohort 1 counties on an ad hoc basis.

Comments included a caution that additional data requirements do not guarantee better data quality, observations on prevailing media narratives, considerations on how to best assess success and impact, and the importance of this group being able to see actual data once it is released in order to have productive conversations. Olin and Linkins provided additional context for the new requirements and emphasized the need to fill in gaps to tell the full story of CARE.

4. Call for Public Comment

Karen Linkins shared instructions for how to make public comment and said that comments can also be submitted at any time via email.

- Laurel Benhamida thanked presenters and asked how the Judicial Council chose which languages to translate materials into and what languages they will be selecting for future translations.
- Katherine expressed concern that the graduate in the San Diego video did not have any statements featured. She also voiced concern that CARE may be setting up a system in which the only way people can access services is to enter a coercive process.

5. Meeting Wrap Up and Next Steps

Karen Linkins shared information on how to access various data resources. She shared the dates of the next CARE Act Working Group meeting and ad hoc meetings. She reminded the group that ad hocs do not meet on months when the CARE Act Working Group is meeting. She encouraged group members to share topic suggestions for future meetings via email. She thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Appendix I: Public Zoom Chat

From John Freeman - DVC to Everyone:

If you are an ad hoc group member who has entered as an attendee, please raise your hand to be made a panelist.

From John Freeman - DVC to Everyone:

Information about this and other meetings is available on the CARE Act Working Group Site: <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/home/committees/care-act-working-group>

Email us at CAREAct@chhs.ca.gov to join the CARE listserv to receive updates and information on future stakeholder events.

From John Freeman - DVC to Everyone:

For reference, here are a few sites to keep in mind for additional information:

Training and Technical Assistance and other resources are available on the CARE Act Resource Center <https://care-act.org/>

CARE Act Working Group Site: <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/home/committees/care-act-working-group>

Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) CARE Act Website: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Pages/CARE-ACT.aspx>

Judicial Council of California (JCC) CARE Act Website (court forms and more): <https://www.courts.ca.gov/48654.htm>

CalHHS CARE Act website: <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/care-act/>

Links to County and Court CARE sites: <https://care-act.org/library/county-website-directory/>