



**California Health and Human Services Agency
Community Assistance, Recovery & Empowerment (CARE)
Act**

**Services & Supports/Training & Technical Assistance
Combined Subgroup Meeting Minutes**

October 17, 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

Services & Supports:

- Jodi Nerell (co-chair)
- Al Rowlett
- Brock Kolby
- Dr. Cameron Quanbeck
- Carina Gustaffson
- Dawan Utecht
- Deb Roth
- Dr. Susan Partovi
- Jason Robison
- Nicole Cable
- Zachary Coil

Training, Technical Assistance & Communications:

- Susan Holt (co-chair)
- Dr. Ambarin Faizi
- Ellen Guevara
- Mike Phillips
- Nicole Cable
- Stacey Robbins-Podvin

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Goals of This Group

Karen Linkins, Principal, Desert Vista Consulting, opened the meeting, explained that this is a joint meeting of the Services & Supports and Training, Technical Assistance & Communications subgroups, and introduced the rest of her team. She thanked the group members and members of the public in attendance and shared virtual meeting guidelines.

Karen Linkins recapped the rules and objectives of the group, including that meetings are subject to Bagley-Keene requirements and that all materials are posted online.

All group members in attendance introduced themselves.

2. Recap Previous Meeting

Karen Linkins provided an overview of the previous meetings of both subgroups, which were held in September. At both meeting, members discussed San Diego's first CARE graduation and heard from Judicial Council staff on their activities. Members of both groups also discussed essential petition pathways and heard updates from HMA on recent and upcoming training and technical assistance. Additionally, members of the Services & Supports group were updated on the Sutter Health CARE hospital petition pilot. All meeting materials, including the meeting recordings and minutes, are available online.

3. Discussion of CARE Implementation and Q+A

HMA Overview of Recent CARE Legislation

Dari Pogach, Laura Collins, and Dr. Deborah Rose from Health Management Associates presented on recent legislative updates and their implications for ongoing CARE implementation.

- Two bills relating to CARE were recently passed by the legislature. 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.
- HMA has produced resource briefs summarizing the amendments made by both SB 42 and SB 1400 and will be co-facilitating office hours for counties with the Judicial Council.
- Implications of the new legislation for CARE services and supports include the creation of a new pathway for LPS facilities to refer individuals to county behavioral health, additional clarification on types of supporting evidence for petitions, and new allowances for communication between CARE courts and referring courts. Additional changes include changes to timeframes and notice requirements.
- 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. They are also updating existing resources to reflect changes made by SB 42 and SB 1400.

Presenters welcomed questions and comments from group members:

- Deb Roth shared that the development and passage of both bills, particularly SB 42, lacked public transparency.
- Jason Robison inquired about what types of amendments may be made to CARE plans and agreements. Dr. Rose clarified that the intention of allowing amendments is to ensure that the services included in plans and agreements reflect the needs of participants at every point in the process.
- Carina Gustaffson asked for additional clarification on if official amendments are required in order to change the services provided. Dr. Rose and Pogach clarified that this may be up to judicial discretion and discussed example scenarios.
- Robison asked if amendments may be a vehicle for participants to gain access to services that are not available in their county.
- Dr. Susan Partovi asked for clarification on requirements for ongoing notice to petitioners. Dr. Rose provided additional details.
- Nicole Cable asked for more information on the changes made to allowable evidence in SB 42. Pogach clarified that the primary change is to allow clinical petitioners to provide documentation of prior hospitalizations.

Linkins thanked group members for their questions.

- HMA representatives shared additional information on their recent and upcoming office hours. Linkins shared updates on meetings convened by CalHHS to support Cohort 2 counties.
- HMA representatives provided an overview of topic areas that Cohort 2 counties are requesting additional information and support with. Topics ranged broadly, including requests for clarification on eligibility, court processes, and data reporting requirements.

Linkins asked group members from Cohort 2 counties to provide updates on local implementation and what steps they are taking to engage system partners.

- Cable provided updates on recent and upcoming implementation activities in Sacramento County. She said they are feeling mostly confident about their readiness, have been rolling out their communication strategy, and are preparing to meet with hospitals.
- Holt shared that Fresno is also feeling ready for go-live and is grateful for all the learnings shared by Cohort 1. She said that the county team has been doing active outreach and education to system partners and the community.
- Nerell shared updates on Sutter Health's hospital-based petition pilot, which they are preparing to launch in Alameda and San Francisco counties, and Sacramento in the future. She also suggested that ECM providers could be a target for additional training.

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 asked if office hours for counties will be recorded and shared. She also asked Nicole Cable to share information about upcoming CARE public information sessions in Sacramento County. She asked Susan Holt about steps Fresno is taking to reach out to non-English speaking communities.

5. Meeting Wrap Up and Next Steps

Karen Linkins shared a list of available online resources. She shared the dates of the next CARE Act Working Group meeting in November. She also shared meeting information for the three ad hoc subgroups. She thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Appendix I: Public Zoom Chat

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:

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

From John Freeman - DVC to Everyone:

Court Self-Help Centers can be found at: <https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/care-act>

From John Freeman - DVC to Everyone:

JC email for CARE is care.act@jud.ca.gov

From John Freeman - DVC to Everyone:

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

From John Freeman - DVC to Everyone:

Petitioner page: <https://care-act.org/library/petitioners/>

From John Freeman - DVC to Everyone:

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