



CARE Act Quarterly Implementation Update | June 2024

The first eight counties in Cohort 1 continue to work collaboratively with the state to provide integrated, holistic services for CARE respondents. CARE 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 CARE.

Cohort 2 counties and stakeholders are working together and taking the necessary steps to implement CARE by December 1, 2024. San Mateo and Kern Counties have indicated plans to implement CARE ahead of schedule, with San Mateo launching in July and Kern in October.

Across the state, respondents and county staff are developing and implementing CARE agreements, ensuring that respondents receive the services and supports needed to assist them in their recovery. Counties continue working to locate and engage respondents, investigate and file initial reports, coordinate services, and support petitioners.

Local civil courts have authority to monitor implementation of CARE components by local government entities, hear implementation concerns by either participants or local government partners, and take steps to ensure CARE plans are fully implemented. More than 500 CARE

petitions have been filed between October 2, 2023 and June 28, 2024, based on preliminary data. Many others were immediately connected to services as a result of Care Act contact – instead of going through the petition process. There will be an early implementation report due in December 2024.

Recent Success from the Field

At his first court appearance, an early CARE respondent in San Diego County described his significant delusional experiences. After extensive outreach and engagement over many months, he made his own decision to take a long-acting injectable medication. At his fourth CARE status review hearing, he shared with the court that, "This medication is helping a lot." He also described how, "Now I'm working on getting an EBT card, and I want to work on improving my house."

As one of his clinicians noted, "He was also the same gentleman who was having 911 called multiple times a week, prior to CARE becoming involved, by his neighbors. And he has not had a 911 call in almost 5 months. It might seem that's not what everybody thinks of as 'recovery,' but it is. It is significant progress for this gentleman, and I think those are the examples of success that we really are seeing, that might not seem that significant, but they truly are for this population."

Working Group and Sub-Groups

The May 1 CARE Act Working Group [meeting](#) featured detailed presentations and discussion of [BH-CONNECT](#), as well as the evidence-based Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) and Forensic ACT (FACT) Models of Care. Representatives from RAND, the Department of Health Care Services' (DHCS) Independent Evaluator of CARE, shared the recently revised logic model, and engaged with members' feedback and questions. Public comment included personal stories, concerns, and feedback regarding the CARE process from family members and other stakeholders.

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.



Cohort 1 County Site Visits

On May 3, state partners traveled to San Francisco for the final Cohort 1 county site visit. Staff heard about creative engagement of respondents via a court contract with peers employed by the Mental Health Association of San Francisco as well as other service and housing offerings. They also had the opportunity to visit a recently opened navigation center.



State partners learn from staff during a visit to a recently opened navigation center in San Francisco.

Resource Summary



[CalHHS CARE Act Site](#) and [CARE Act Overview](#)



[Judicial Council CARE Act Site](#)



[CARE Act Resource Center](#)



[DHCS CARE Act Site](#)



[CalHHS Information for CARE Act Petitioners Website](#) and [One-Page Information Flyer for CARE Act Petitioners](#)



[CARE Act Process Flow Overview](#)