California Coalition for Behavioral Health

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2025 Annual Report

January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

CA Coalition for Behavioral Health
2025 Annual Report

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Executive Committee

Officers:

President (2022-26): Theresa Comstock, CA Assoc. of Local BH Boards/Commissions
President-Elect (2025-26): Shanti Ezrine, CA Association of Marriage & Family Therapists
Past President: Adrienne Shilton, CA Alliance of Child and Family Services
Secretary (2025-27): Trent Murphy, CA Assoc. of Alcohol & Drug Program Executives
Treasurer (2023-25): Erin McIntyre, Occupational Therapy Association of CA

Members at Large:

Randall Hagar, Psychiatric Physicians Alliance of CA
Stacie Hiramoto, Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition
Courtnie Thomas, CA Association of Behavioral Health

Executive Summary

The California Coalition for Behavioral Health (CCBH) is a diverse, broad-based coalition of statewide associations and organizations who seek to improve the delivery of mental health services and substance use services in California, with a focus on creating better access to care and assuring parity in the delivery of behavioral health services, on par with other health care services.

The coalition coalesced around Proposition 63 in 2004, the landmark initiative that significantly bolstered funding of mental health programs through a one-percent tax on individual income over $1 million. With the passage of Proposition 1 in March of 2024, the Mental Health Services Act became the Behavioral Health Services Act, with an increased emphasis on individuals with the most significant mental health *and* substance use conditions. CCBH remains steadfast in our core commitment to ensure adequate funding for behavioral health programs and care. In 2025, members participated in informing the Behavioral Health Services Act policy documents and planning efforts, and CCBH updated our website to include a "BHSA Tools" page that includes links to key resources and toolkits for community planning: cabehavioralhealth.org/bhsa .

Priority areas include: housing, parity and workforce. These priorities guided state and federal legislative and policy analysis, recommendations and advocacy. CCBH members discussed budget, legislation and policy issues during quarterly meetings, virtual work sessions, and meetings with state and federal leadership. Policy and legislative actions are listed on the following pages.

Communicate with CCBH through:

Email: ccbh@cabehavioralhealth.org

Website: cabehavioralhealth.org

Bluesky: @cabehavioralhealth.org

Facebook: California Coalition for Behavioral Health

X: @CCBHCoalition

2025 Policy and Legislative Action

CCBH supported and/or informed state and federal budgets, policy and legislation. As a broad-based organization, CCBH uses a consensus model, and is guided by the Agenda for Fairness.

In addition to written advocacy, CALBHB/C President, Theresa Comstock, provided in-person legislative and budget advocacy at hearings in Sacramento. In Washington DC, Comstock met with Senator Padilla's health policy advisor.

Federal Advocacy

FACT SHEET: Cuts To Behavioral Health Increase Costs to Californians, April 14, 2025

FACT SHEET: Impact of Proposed Medicaid Cuts, March 7, 2025

PRESS RELEASE: CCBH Urges Congress to Maintain Critical Behavioral Health Services, March 7, 2025

Letter to Senator Alex Padilla | Letter to Senator Adam B. Schiff, March 12, 2025

Letter to Congressman David Valadao (CA District 22), February 26, 2025

Letter to Congresswoman Young Kim (CA District 40), February 26, 2025

Letter to Congressman Ken Calvert (CA District 41), February 26, 2025

State of California | Policy Advocacy

CCBH submitted the following letters in 2025.

Behavioral Health Transformation:

Performance Outcomes Letter to DHCS | December 2, 2025

Medi-Cal:

Medi-Cal Enrollment Issue for Group Providers Letter to DHCS | May 22, 2025

State of California | Legislative Advocacy

CCBH supported the following bills in 2025.

AB 384 (Connolly) Mental Health Protection Act
- Sample Letter | Fact Sheet | **Status: 2-Year Bill**

AB 804 (Wicks) Homelessness: Medi-Cal: housing support
- Sample Letter | Fact Sheet | **Status: 2-Year Bill**

SB 100 State Budget
- California Reducing Disparities Project **- Funding Restored!**
- California Warm Line **- $4 Million Restored (Loss of $6M)**
- Mental Health Wellness Act Grants **- Funding Restored!**

SB 531 (Rubio) Student Mental Health Education
- Sample Letter | Fact Sheet
- Organizational Sign-On Letter of Support
- Status: 2-Year Bill | **Status: 2-Year Bill**

SCR 69 and HR 42 Behavioral Health Awareness Month
- Letter of Support
- Status: **Adopted 05/27/2025!**

Membership

The following organizations were active members in 2025:

California Academy of Child Adolescent Psychiatry

California Alliance of Child & Family Services

California Association for Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors

California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives

California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards & Commissions

California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists

California Association of Mental Health Patients' Rights Advocates

California Association of Mental Health Peer Run Organizations

California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies

California Behavioral Health Association

California Behavioral Health Planning Council

California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions

California Primary Care Association

California Psychological Association

Council on Criminal Justice & Behavioral Health

County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California

Disability Rights California

National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter

National Union of Healthcare Workers

Occupational Therapy Association of California, Inc.

Psychiatric Physicians Alliance of California

Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition

Acknowledgements

Thank you to our 2025 speakers:

Ruqayya Ahmad, Policy Manager for the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN)

Lydia Chwastiak, MD, MPH, SAMHSA Pacific West Hub Co-Director | Implementation Support for Grantees & CBOs

Christina N. Clayton, LICSW, SUDP SAMHSA Pacific West Hub Co-Director | Implementation Support for Grantees & CBOs

Shanti Ezrine, State Government Affairs Associate, CA Association of Marriage & Family Therapists (CAMFT)

Lauren Finke, Senior Director of Policy for the Kennedy Forum

Sarah Jean Flynn, Vice President of Warm Line Programs, Mental Health Association of San Francisco (MHASF)

Brenda Grealish, Executive Director, Commission for Behavioral Health (CBH)

Mark Hensen, Interim VP, Advocacy and Government Affairs, The Trevor Project

Will Lightbourne, Interim Executive Director, CBH

Peter Murphy, Outreach Manager, MHASF

Kendra Zoller, Deputy Director of Legislative and External Affairs, CBH

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