



**California Coalition
for Behavioral Health**



2024 Annual Report

January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

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Executive Summary

The California Coalition for Mental Health changed its name to the California Coalition for Behavioral Health in January of 2024. 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.

Priority areas for 2024 included: housing, parity and workforce. These priorities guided state and federal legislative and policy analysis, recommendations and advocacy. Through quarterly meetings, virtual work sessions, and meetings with state leadership, CCBH members discussed/informed the following major initiatives:

- Behavioral Health Workforce (Appendices E – J)
- Behavioral Health Services Act *and the* Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act (Appendices B & C)
- Reducing Behavioral Health Disparities (Appendix D)

2024 Policy and Legislative Action

CCBH supported and/or informed the following policy items. As a broad-based organization, CCBH uses a consensus model, and is guided by the [Agenda for Fairness](#).

Crisis Care: [HR 4974: Route 988 calls based on general location instead of area code.](#)

Culture/Race/Ethnicity: [Letter Supporting Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities in CDPH projects](#)

Housing: [Advocacy Letter – Definition of Homelessness](#) (Appendix C)

Workforce: [Letter Opposing Workforce Cuts](#) (Appendix J)
[Advocacy Letter - Train New Trainers Fellowship](#), Letter to HCAI (Appendix E)

Membership

The following organizations were active members in 2024:

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 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

Executive Committee:

President (2022-24): Theresa Comstock, CA Assoc. of Local BH Boards/Commissions

Past President: Adrienne Shilton, CA Alliance of Child and Family Services

Secretary (2022-24): Chad Costello, CA Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies

Treasurer (2023-2025): Erin McIntyre, Occupational Therapy Association of CA

Members at Large:

Shanti Ezrine, CA Association of Marriage and Family Therapists

Randall Hagar, Psychiatric Physicians Alliance of CA

Stacie Hiramoto, Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition

Courtne Thomas, CA Association of Behavioral Health

Acknowledgements:

Thank you to our 2024 speakers and support staff:

Libby Abbott, Deputy Director of Health Workforce Development, Healthcare Access & Information (HCAI)

Theresa Comstock, Executive Director, CA Assoc. of Local BH Boards/Commissions

Danny Marquez, CA Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies (CASRA)

Lauren Finke, Policy Director, The Kennedy Forum

Erica Manuel, CEO & Executive Director, Institute for Local Government (ILG) & Chair, Interagency Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship (IACA)

Erin McIntyre, OTD, OTR/L, Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC)

Ed Ortiz, Cruz Consulting Partners & Carrie Landrey Healthcare Consulting

Karen Polastri, Executive Director, Occupational Therapy Association of California

Sharmil Shah, Psy.D., Assistant Deputy Director for Health Workforce Development, Healthcare Access & Information (HCAI)

Adrienne Shilton, Vice President, Public Policy & Strategy, California Alliance of Child & Family Services

