Champions for Behavioral Health Care

The County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA) is a nonprofit advocacy association representing the behavioral health directors from each of California’s 58 counties, as well as two cities (Berkeley and Tri-City).

We believe everyone should have access to quality behavioral health care. Through our advocacy, lobbying and education efforts, we promote the reduction of individual and community problems related to unaddressed behavioral health issues.

We regularly bring together behavioral health professionals to discuss ways we can inform public policy and improve the delivery of behavioral health services. And we support efforts to help the most vulnerable among us – children with serious emotional challenges, adults with serious mental disorders, and people living with substance use disorders.

Our Advocacy Areas

- We defend adequate state and federal funding for our member counties, so that they are able to provide crucial behavioral health services.
- We support workforce development investments to address a significant shortage of public behavioral health professionals in California.
- We lobby for important legislative change. We are focused on five policy areas:
  1. Substance Use Disorder Issues
  2. Children and Youth
  3. Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)
  4. Housing and Homelessness
  5. Criminal Justice
What we’ve championed

- We served as a **principle source of information** on mental health for legislators, stakeholders and the media.
- We publish an annual **Legislative Score Card** that grades assembly members, senators and the governor on their response to legislation effecting behavioral health.
- We host an annual **Behavioral Health Policy Forum** to bring together stakeholders from across California to share information, network, and help inform our advocacy direction.
- We have supported and authored policy that puts **peer support workers** at the forefront of the recovery process.
- We helped advocate for and design the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) **waiver pilot program**, which allows participating counties to offer a comprehensive, coordinated continuum of substance use disorder care.
- We led the implementation of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ **“final rule.”**

How are services funded in California?

The county behavioral health care system uses the following funds to provide care and support:

**Federal Financial Participation (FFP)** – Federal Medicaid matching funds make up the largest share of funding.

**Prop. 63 Provides a Substantial Share** – Prop. 63 of 2004 (Mental Health Services Act) created a 1% tax on personal income over $1 million to expand mental health services. Approximately 1/10 of one percent of taxpayers are impacted by the tax.

**1991 and 2011 Realignment Funds** – Together, these two funding streams provide a major source of county matching funds for Medi-Cal specialty mental health, substance use disorder services, inpatient care and involuntary psychiatric care. These funds come from sales taxes and vehicle licensing fees.

**Federal Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant** – Counties use the block grant funds for prevention, treatment, recovery support and other services to supplement Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance services.